

THE SANDY TEACHER

Deanne Gochanour's Newsletter; A Summer of Transitions; August 2022

Welcome to Ethiopia

I flew 14 hours directly from Chicago to Addis Ababa and landed on Friday, July 29th! Although I spent the first few days sick, I finally settled in and am starting to make a little home here. I live on Bingham's campus with 2 roommates. Rebekka is from Switzerland and is teaching elementary art for grades KG1-3rd. HP is from Singapore and provides learning support for grades 7-10. We have quite the multicultural apartment! I landed on Friday and joined a few Bingham people for dinner my first night, met my roommates the next day, and met most the other staff on Sunday during Church. Monday started new staff orientation which I thought would be ice breakers and more getting to know people, but it was filled with cultural lessons, Cambridge Curriculum overviews, and Bingham procedures.

The first week was new staff orientation where we bonded over making cultural mistakes, learning to grocery shop, and sitting through curriculum meetings. The second week was All Staff Orientation. I thought I had a good grasp on people's names, but we knew almost no one! It was great to worship together as a staff and discuss all the tough topics before the students returned on August 17th.

The last picture on the right is from a cultural experience new staff had together. We ate injera, the local staple, and the women dressed us in traditional scarves. We also observed the cooking of a traditional bread accompanied by a traditional coffee ceremony. The coffee in Ethiopia is incredible!

The second picture is from a trip to Entoto park. The park continues to grow every year, but its location is on top of a mountain. We parked at the bottom and hiked to the top! About every ¼ mile there's an activity such as a botanical garden, a trampoline park, ropes course, zip line, and of course restaurants and coffee shops! Although it's not a traditional way, we ate lunch on a bed with a small round table in the middle.



Welcome to Kindergarten

I am excited to announce my official placement at Bingham Academy... **I am their KG2 teacher!** The KG classroom is split into KG1 and KG2, which is similar to pre-K and Kindergarten. My students are 5 turning 6 and I have about 12 students. I am blessed to have a small and well-behaved class! The students come from a variety of backgrounds. About one third of Bingham's students are kids of missionaries in Addis, another third are diplomatic and NGO children, while the final third are local Ethiopians that send their kids to Bingham for the excellent education. Although Bingham has housed international students in the past, they currently do not. KG2 is structured for full days Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. We have half days Tuesdays and Thursdays.

“Start children off
on the way they
should go, and even
when they are old
they will not turn
from it.”

Proverbs 22:6



Accra, Ghana to
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia!

Recap of My Time with LBT

I graduated from Concordia University in Irvine, California a year ago with a degree in Lutheran Elementary Education. In August 2021, I signed on with Lutheran Bible Translators to nanny for a mission family in Tanzania; however, due to health concerns the missionary family returned to the states. In February 2022, I went to Ghana, West Africa to homeschool for Paul and Ali Federwitz. I lived alongside the Federwitzes for about 4 months homeschooling their two middle schoolers while their oldest attended an international high school. I lived on the same compound, one property with several housing units, with the Federwitzes but in my own apartment. As a homeschool teacher I had the ability to adapt lessons directly to the strengths and weaknesses of Levi and Eden as opposed to creating lessons for a room of 20 students. Although I loved living alongside the Federwitz family in Accra, Ghana, their time in Ghana came to an end and I returned to the U.S. in late May/June. My summer in the U.S. was fruitful but incredibly quick! I moved to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in late July. I spent 2 weeks training with Bingham and a week and a half teaching Kindergarten. I have been in Addis for one month already!

My Summer in the States

I was in the U.S. from late May through July. It was wonderful getting to know many of you and visiting various places. Although I call Southern Wisconsin home, I started the summer off in the Chicago area. I spoke at the Iowa East LWML event and the Southern WI LWML event in Grafton. I also ended up in Indiana and California! My final stop of the summer was at the LBT office in Concordia, MO for our annual mission conference.

Although my summer was packed getting to know people and gaining support to head to Ethiopia, I made it home in time for my youngest nephew's baptism, wedding dress shopping for a great friend, a few family gatherings, and countless hours with friends and family!

Funds & Followings

My budget for a financial year, January-December, is \$24,000. The current plan is that I return between the school years to continue creating relationships and gathering funding. So far, I have reached my monthly budget of \$2,000 through one-time gifts. To make my ministry sustainable, I am still looking for support on a regular basis. I am beyond grateful to all those who have supported my ministry thus far! To give to my teaching ministry go to LBT.org/Deanne-Gochanour or you can **mail a check with my name on the memo** to the LBT office in Concordia, MO.

To stay updated on my KG2 classroom, my life here in Addis, and LBT's presence here in Ethiopia, continue to watch out for these newsletters. Subscribe to my fun **email updates** at LBT.org/Deanne-Gochanour. **Join my Facebook group** where I post frequent updates and pictures!

Praise God:

I have mostly transitioned to the time zone and life at Bingham Academy!

Everyone has been incredibly sweet and helpful to the New Staff adjusting to life in Addis Ababa!

Prayers Requests:

For all the students and staff entering Addis and preparing for school to start.

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