



THE SANDY TEACHER

Deanne Gochanour's Newsletter; End of 1st Year of Teaching!; April 2023

What I've Been Up To...

At the end of January, Bingham hosted Field Day which is a fun community building event for students and their families. Students compete against each other in track events, such as 100m dash, long jump, and javelin throw, but they also compete in fun events such as an obstacle course and various family fun-runs. During the days, I helped my KG2 students get lined up for their events and I became a DJ for a few hours! Field Day took place on a Friday and Saturday in January which was the middle of dry season, and the days were the perfect weather for a family track meet. I had the opportunity to chat with my students' parents and even met some for the first time. I loved getting to know my fellow teaching staff much better and hang out with the high school sports kids that I don't get to interact with much anymore. Each family is placed in a house for their time at Bingham, and the houses compete against each other throughout the year. We have several opportunities to earn points, but the Field Day is the largest event. Overall, this was a great experience!

In my KG2 classroom we have been hard at work trying to prepare the students to enter grade 1. By the grace of God my students have learned to love reading! Although it is beyond incredible that my students love to be challenged, they become quite bored with our regular KG2 objectives, so we have started working toward some grade 1 objectives; my students absolutely love these challenges and are grasping the material really well! They still love to adapt stories in their own ways, and they beg to do this activity often. After our Bible story/religion class, I have them write about what they learn and draw some pictures; they also beg to do this! I am constantly amazed by each and every one of them.

Finally, our athletic director left unexpectedly in January, and we could not find a replacement on short notice. Because I love coaching some of the students, I volunteered to fill a few of these gaps by organizing games for all our sports teams. I love connecting with the other international schools in Addis Ababa and getting to know their athletic directors. I've learned a lot about communicating cross culturally. Although I love doing both these jobs, sometimes it is quite hard to manage!



Field Days: A few staff members and I in our house shirts ready to cheer on students!



Community Outreach: I started volunteering a bit and became close to the two girls in this picture. We are celebrating the birth of their nephew here!



Crazy Weather: We had an awful hailstorm on campus. Some apartments started leaking and one classroom's ceiling collapsed. We went around checking campus, but Haley and I made the best of this by building a hail-man!

Visa troubles means visa travels... hopefully for the last time!

When I came to Ethiopia in August, we knew getting all the paperwork done for a residence permit would be complicated. LBT started the process to get my undergrad degree authenticated, a four-step process in the US, in May. It was finally completed and arrived in Ethiopia in November. Unfortunately, the Ministry of Education, MoE, in Ethiopia had some concerns as my degree officially states “Liberal Studies” and determined it’s more aligned with Biblical studies than education. So, upon reevaluation, we had to get my ACSI certificate authenticated. ACSI is an internationally recognized Christian education organization.

I knew in December I’d have to make a final trip out of the country to renew my Ethiopian visa. Praise Jesus, my ACSI certificate was placed in an expedited pile, became authenticated in less than 3 months, and arrived just in time for spring break when I left to renew my visa. Bingham is currently working with immigration to approve all my documents and finally grant me a residence permit! Please pray that this is the final step.

“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.”
Psalms 32:8



Summer in the US!

The Bingham school year ends at the beginning of June, and just like most parochial schools in the States, we have off until August. I will be based in Southern Wisconsin for the summer. Although I have a few trips planned, such as the Concordia Mission Institute (CMI) conference that Lutheran Bible Translators missionaries attend in Concordia, MO, I plan to be in Wisconsin for most of the summer.

Because I’ll be home for most of the summer, I would love to come visit you! If you have a congregation, LWML group, Bible study, or any other event that you would like me to attend, please let me know! I am in the process of planning visits along with various family events, so please let me know some dates you or your congregation are available for, and I’ll try my best to visit.

Although I’ve been living in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia for almost a year now, I need to continue to raise funds to keep living and teaching here at Bingham. I live on campus, and Bingham provides many utilities. Thankfully, this keeps my budget lower than others that must expense all housing costs. I plan to continue working with Lutheran Bible Translators, but for that to be possible I need monthly donations for my ministry to be sustainable. I am beyond grateful to everyone who has both financially and prayerfully contributed to my teaching here in Ethiopia.



Happy Easter from Naomi and I! She is an LCMS missionary kid that I coach for a few sports.

Praise God:

For the relationships being built with students of all ages both on and off campus

Prayers Requests:

For my residence ID to be finalized and for my upcoming summer in the US

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