



# THE SANDY TEACHER

Deanne Gochanour's Newsletter; Summer Update; August 2023

## Summertime

As I head back to Ethiopia to start another year of teaching, this time as full-time with Lutheran Bible Translator, I wanted to share about the whirlwind that has been the last few months.

The last day of the school year was a busy one! The school day ended at noon, I had meetings until 3pm, and then I headed to the airport at 6:30pm. Within those three and a half hours I said goodbye to staff that are not returning for this coming academic year and finished cleaning out my classroom. The flight home from Addis directly to Chicago, with an hour stop in Dublin where I sat on the plane while it refueled, was about 18 hours. Luckily, the middle school science teacher and her husband were on the same flight! Although our built-in movie screens and outlets were not working, flying with friends made the hours pass very quickly. I landed in Chicago early on Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup>, went to a family party, then woke up for my 3 nephew's baptisms and a short presentation about my ministry in Ethiopia on Sunday. The following Friday, I was a bridesmaid in a high school friend's wedding.

Although I did not have a calm entry to the US this summer, it has been filled with many moments for family and friends. I am incredibly grateful that I could return just in time for these life events in my family and close friend group. Throughout the summer, I travelled to many places to give updates on my teaching ministry and connect with people I haven't seen over the past year.

By heading to a church in Northern Wisconsin, my mom, sister, and 3 of my nephews tagged along. We picked my grandma up and headed further north to Lake Superior to see where my mom grew up. The picture on the right has four generations represented!

Overall, I was able to visit many people in many places. The pictures on the right show a few of those places. I was at the LBT booth at the National LWML Convention in Milwaukee, and it was fun to see so many supporters! The flowers and cake are from a church group in Wisconsin that blew me away with their kindness and support for both Bible Translation and for my teaching ministry. Thank you again to everyone who prays and financially supports Lutheran Bible Translators and my teaching ministry to Bingham Academy in Ethiopia. I'm excited to return to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and begin our 2023-24 academic year at Bingham.



# From the Courts to the Classrooms

Next year at Bingham Academy, I will not be teaching KG2 (Kindergarten). I'm moving from the elementary team to the secondary school. Bingham's K-12 is all on the same campus, but my kindergarten classroom was on the opposite end of the campus compared to the high school building. I will be teaching grade 8 and grade 10 PSSHE. This stands for Physical, Spiritual, Social, and Health Education. Although this class is similar to homeroom in the States, my primary focus will be teaching Bible. The students that attend Bingham Academy represent over 30 countries, and most of them don't live in their home, or passport, country. I'm planning to incorporate processing techniques to help these students understand how they look, act, and talk differently than those from their passport countries and even those they live next to in Ethiopia. Many of our students struggle to answer questions like "Where is home." So, I hope to help these high schoolers better understand their situations and how to process them beyond graduation.

I'm very excited to teach these classes, especially since I already have a relationship with most of the students in these grades. I coached some of the 8<sup>th</sup> graders in basketball last year, and I coached most of the 10<sup>th</sup> grade girls in volleyball and basketball. These girls have been asking me tough Christian questions during practices, or in passing, and I'm glad I get to address their questions in the classroom this year!

Along with my two classes of PSSHE, I will also be the Deputy Athletics Director. I will continue to communicate with other international schools in Addis Ababa to set up games and tournaments for Bingham's sports teams. This year part of my Deputy Athletics Director job will be creating master schedules for our entire league. Our sports league in Addis has 8 international schools that participate in volleyball, basketball, and football (soccer). Bingham Academy is a pre-K through grade 12 school, and we are lucky to have enough volunteer coaches to support U12-U19 teams for boys and girls for all sports our league offers. Some schools have the students but not the coaches or facilities while other schools are only primary or middle schools. This leads to challenges when creating schedules because we must wait for schools to determine if they have enough students and coaches to create a team for the season.

Not only do we have a league in Addis, but Bingham is part of an International Christian Sports Association, ICSA, in Africa. Each year this league picks a sport and schools put together their best possible team to compete in a tournament against other Christian schools in Africa. Although ICSA hasn't had a tournament since before Covid, Bingham is happy to host this year's basketball tournament! If I'm not too busy, I hope to coach our ICSA girls' team!



**“Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches.” Galatians 6:6**



## Funding & Full-Time

Thank you so much to everyone who continues to donate to my teaching, and now sports, ministry in Ethiopia! I have officially increased to full-time with LBT which means I now receive a salary and benefits through LBT. However, I still must fund these costs through donations. 100% of your donations goes directly towards my ministry in Ethiopia. My monthly budget is about \$5,000 to cover flights, salary, insurances, and other overseas living costs. Thank you again for prayerfully and financially supporting me! You can donate online at [LBT.org](http://LBT.org) or mail a check to the LBT office below to continue supporting mission families in Addis through providing excellent education.

### Praise God:

My residence permit finally arrived in June, right before I left Addis!

### Prayers Requests:

Safe travel for all staff and students returning to BA and the school year to start well

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Deanne's Details  
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