



Member Care Mania

Ali has had quite a number of opportunities to serve in a member care capacity here in Ethiopia. It has indeed been a busy season for her.

At the beginning of November, Ali, along with her friend and fellow member care provider from another organization, Hannele Secchia, facilitated a session for Ethiopian missionaries during their pre-field training. In this session, they discussed the Biblical basis for member care. Participants read Bible verses and shared how they can care for themselves and fellow missionaries on the field. Although the training was done in Amharic (through

translators), it was encouraging to hear what participants learned during this short session.

Hannele and Ali teamed up again in early December to talk to the grades 11 and 12 students at Bingham Academy, where our kids attend. This time the topic was Third Culture Kids (TCKs) and transition. Many of these students are planning to attend university outside of Ethiopia and we wanted to be able to share with them some of the things they may experience when leaving the country that they have called home, some of them for their entire lives. Ali was pleasantly surprised how quickly students engaged with the information. Even more so, it was exciting to hear from a few parents that their children were impacted by the session and were talking about it at home.

Sharpening Your Interpersonal Skills

The Sharpening Your Interpersonal Skills (SYIS) Workshop was held in Debre Zeit, Ethiopia about an hour outside of Addis Ababa. Ali wasn't originally planning to be part of the workshop team, but two facilitators were unable to participate due to illness and Ali was asked to step in. Paul had only returned from an extended trip to the US 36 hours before Ali headed out for this workshop. Although the timing wasn't ideal, Ali was reminded how much she loves being part of this workshop. This was a unique setup in that there were two sessions running simultaneously! Fifty participants, divided between two conference rooms with four facilitators for each session, made for quite a full venue. Even though it had been several years since Ali had facilitated an SYIS, she quickly found her way and was glad she could help out when this need arose.

Ali was invited to speak to the Pastoral Care and Trauma Healing class at the Mekane Yesus Seminary. She used her knowledge of trauma together with the sessions she created for the Concordia Mission Institute last summer to present to the class. Ali shared about the basics of what trauma is, what happens to your body when you experience trauma, how to recognize the lasting impact of trauma, and how to care for yourself and others after trauma. It was interesting to hear what happens in different cultures as they respond to difficult circumstances. For some students, they were hearing this information for the first time. Others were either knowledgeable on the topic or had experienced the importance of caring for people post-trauma and not just trying to carry on with life as if nothing different had occurred.



Paul & Ali FEDERWITZ

Hannah, Levi & Eden

ABOUT US

Paul's role is two-fold: He provides strategic leadership internationally as LBT's Director for Field Programs while serving locally as Director of Programs in Ethiopia.

Ali is the Member Care Facilitator for LBT.

Paul and Ali's ministry is funded solely through donations from individuals and groups.

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Please make checks payable to Lutheran Bible Translators and designate *P/A Federwitz Ministry*

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Certified Professional Coach

Just before Christmas, Ali completed the coursework and requirements needed to become a certified professional coach. She plans to mainly use her coaching skills in the context of her role in member care with Lutheran Bible Translators. However, she is also able to use her training to coach others and has an interest in working with women who are experiencing transitions internationally. It will be interesting to see how her interest in and knowledge of trauma can also inform her coaching. Her next goal is to log 100 hours of coaching so that she can apply for certification through the International Coaching Federation (ICF).

Lots of Visits to the Doctor

Levi was innocently playing tag at school one day and as he fell, his thumb is what caught him. Although it looked a little gnarly at first, the school nurse didn't think it was a major injury but suggested an x-ray to be safe. Guess what? It was broken and needed a procedure to set it. We were truly blessed by the missionary community through this process. A pediatric orthopedic surgeon at a hospital that specializes in caring for cleft palates, clubfoot, and the like, had heard about Levi's injury through some mutual friends and asked to see him. Upon his evaluation, he asked us to bring Levi to the hospital to have the bone set and they added a wire to make sure it was stable as it healed. All of this was done free of charge, as is all of the medical care at that facility. Levi had a cast for 3 weeks and was not allowed to participate in any sports until just before Christmas. It was hard for him to miss out on events at school as he was hoping to join the track team this year, but he persevered!



The week of Thanksgiving, Eden had complained of stomach pains that were similar to what she had experienced a few times in Ghana when she had to be admitted to hospital for treatments. Although we never got clear answers then, we knew it couldn't be treated at home, so we took her straight to the pediatrician. After a few tests, he arranged for us to go to a trusted hospital for further evaluation. For the first time, we really felt as if the doctors listened to us as we shared what Eden had experienced in the past and how it was treated. We told of our concerns that no previous solution was really clear and that these illnesses are painful and traumatic for Eden. They treated Eden with kindness and gentleness and spoke to us about a plan that would require surgery but hopefully put an end to these issues. Paul and Ali were able to take turns being with Eden in the hospital, even staying in her room overnight. She did have surgery and it went very well. Although she is now functioning normally, her physical activity will continue to be restricted until early in the new year. We hope and pray that this is the end of these problems for Eden.

