

"You have the Words of eternal life." (Jn 6:68)



WORDS of LIFE

Mar 28
2025

The Prayer Letter of Glenn & Susan Fluegge

Glenn & Susan Fluegge are missionaries with Lutheran Bible Translators, currently serving in Ethiopia. As LBT's seminary program coordinator, Glenn cultivates partnerships with seminaries and churches worldwide to train and equip local Bible translators and Scripture engagement specialists. Learn more: www.LBT.org/Fluegge

ADJUSTING TO LIFE IN ETHIOPIA

Sorry for not writing earlier! We've been quite busy over the last few months, moving halfway across the world and getting used to our new life! Let me bring you up to date.

By 9:00 AM on Jan 16, we were ready to go, with our five bags packed to the brim, each weighing exactly 50 lbs. I remarked to my wife how easy it is to move across the world without five rowdy kids running in different directions and fifteen overstuffed bags! This was easy-peasy by comparison! (Though we dearly miss our kids!)



By 2:00 PM, we boarded the plane...and after a very looonnnngggggg flight...we finally landed in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 24 hours later...on Jan 18 at 2:00 AM.

To be honest, the next two weeks are a bit of a blur. I don't remember much, as our minds and bodies slowly recovered from jet lag and the 11-hour time difference.

But by week three, we were settled into our new home for the next few months – the "Blue House" on the church compound.



Our new home...at least for the next few months

LEARNING AMHARIC

We began Amharic lessons almost immediately with our language teacher, Selamawit. She's a great teacher!

Although about 85 languages are spoken across Ethiopia, Amharic is the common language. Most Ethiopians don't speak English very well, if at all. If they do, it's often their third or fourth language. This makes sense because English is a relatively new and foreign language. In contrast, Amharic is an ancient Semitic language with roots going back to the 1st millennium B.C.

Language learning has a way of humbling you. At times, it feels like becoming a small child all over again—listening, repeating, fumbling, and stumbling. We use simple picture books and even play with plastic toys and dolls! Still, each new word or phrase is a doorway into Ethiopian life, relationships, and ministry.



In Amharic, the same word may change depending on the gender, age, and respect of the person you're addressing. Here I am practicing Amharic greetings with "dolls."

As LBT's seminary program coordinator, I'll be teaching at and getting to know various institutions across Africa and around the world, so Ethiopia isn't our permanent place of ministry. This means our goal isn't to become fluent in Amharic. That would require full-time language study for over a year. Still, as they say, "learn a language, learn a culture." So, I dedicate a few hours each week to it. It's both fascinating and humbling.

TEACHING AT MYS

One of the great joys of being here has been stepping into the classroom at Mekane Yesus Seminary. This semester, I am teaching two courses: Mission in the OT and NT for missiology students in the MA program, and Lutheran Confessions in the BTh program.



I have twelve MA students in my Mission course from all over Ethiopia. They struggle a bit with the English, but they're hearts are so eager to learn. They are teaching me even as I teach them.

I love my students. Although many of them struggle with English, they have a strong desire to learn. For all you teachers reading this, you know what a joy that is! When students come with the right heart, it makes overcoming other barriers so much easier. These students have heart!

Recently, I had my MA students take their mid-term exam first individually, then in groups. In part, this was to help some of the students who struggle more with English. But it was also because they tend to thrive in collaborative learning in ways that differ from many of my classes in the U.S. They may hesitate to speak up in class, but will deeply engage in groups. So, I am using a version of team-based learning for both of my classes.

Ethiopian societies, like many cultures throughout Africa, tend to be more collectivistic than the highly individualistic societies in America. I am learning to adjust my teaching accordingly. I'll surely miss these students when the semester ends!



I use a version of team-based learning for all my classes.

PLEASE JOIN US!

Please consider partnering with us to get God's Word into the many languages in Ethiopia and throughout the world. Use this QR code to partner with us in the following ways:



- 1) **PRAY REGULARLY** – Please pray for us regularly (see below). Share this prayer letter with others and encourage them to sign up for our prayer letter.
- 2) **GIVE A GIFT** – Please consider giving a gift to support our ministry with LBT. You can also set it up to support us on a regular basis. *Recurring gifts are especially helpful.*
 - To give online: visit www.LBT.org/Fluegge.
 - To give by check: Make out check to “Lutheran Bible Translators” AND write “Fluegge Ministry” on the memo line. Send it to: Lutheran Bible Translators, P.O. Box 789, Concordia, MO 64020
- 3) **LEARN MORE** – Find out more about Lutheran Bible Translators (www.LBT.org). Host a Bible Translation Sunday (if you're interested, let's talk!).

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for us as we continue to settle into Ethiopia. Pray God would grant us good relationships with the church's leadership and the seminary staff & faculty.
- Thank God for my students and their strong desire to learn. Pray for a great rapport with my students.
- Pray for wisdom and guidance as I work with LBT's leadership to clarify my future role and responsibilities.
- Pray for Susan as she carries out her current position with Concordia remotely (admin assistant to the School of Arts and Sciences).

CONTACT

Glenn & Susan Fluegge
Phone: 949-214-3405
Cell: 949-244-6096
Whatsapp: 949-244-6096
glenn.fluegge@lbt.org

Give at LBT.org/Fluegge

