

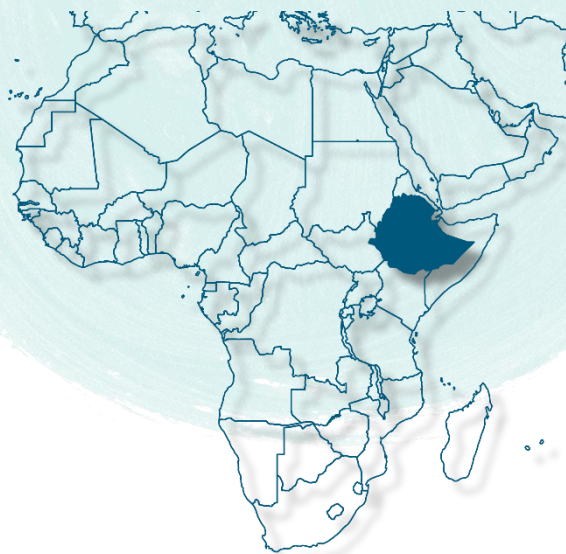


ETHIOPIA EXPERIENCES

Ethiopia, located in what is called the Horn of Africa, is a diverse country with 80 plus languages. It has been through multiple forms of government and currently is officially called the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, a federal parliamentary republic. They have a prime minister who is head of the government along with his cabinet and two houses of Parliament. A president serves as head of state with a largely ceremonial role.

Ethiopia is approximately twice the size of Texas. Compared to Liberia, Ethiopia's land mass is 10 times bigger and has a population 25 times bigger with approximately 139 million people. The population is largely Christian. Ethiopia and Liberia share the commonality that they were not colonized. Except for the Italian occupation during WWII, Ethiopia has maintained its independence and has one of the world's oldest continuous civilizations. Christianity was adopted as early as the 4th century. The largest Lutheran church in the world is the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) with 10 million plus members and roughly 15,000 congregations. The church was founded in 1959, and the seminary in 1960.

The campus is quite large with several school buildings. Other buildings are rented out to



businesses for income generation to help fund the seminary and the translation program. There is a library, dormitories, and a health center complete with workout rooms, pool and spa where I enjoyed very inexpensive massages. They have programs in theology, music, and media with close to 200 students enrolled in theology related programs and another 3-400 in the music and media programs. Dormitories on campus can house around 500 students. Other students commute or are long distance students. Programs are offered at BA, MA, DMin and PhD levels.



*Rev. Dr. Misgana Mathewos, seminary president;
Dr. Becky; Dr. Haile Sadins, Dean of the Graduate and
Undergraduate Studies; Ephrem Tariku, translation
studies supervisor*



Yohannes, oral project supervisor; Galu, consultant; Alem, project coordinator for Bible Society Ethiopia

I met the president, various deans and other professors while at the seminary. I met the consultant from the seminary and the program coordinator of the Bible Society. There are several translation entities working in Ethiopia to tackle the translation challenges here.

I was in Ethiopia all of July teaching basic Bible translation principles to a blended class of MA and BA students at the seminary run by the EECMY. The four-week intensive covered many topics ranging from what makes a good translation to the nitty gritty of recognizing things like genitive clauses, figures of speech, and unknown ideas. Eight students are already involved directly in a translation project. These students were invaluable in sharing their experiences with those who are just starting out. They completed translating the book of Ruth in teams of four as their final project.

TRANSLATION TIDBITS

Here are some Ethiopian proverbs and figurative phrases. Africans in general have a wealth of proverbs and love letting people think about their meaning rather than just declaring the obvious. Answers in my next letter.

“One donkey cannot drink all the water.”

“a person with a strong heart”

“a person with a smooth heart”

“a person with a red eye”

“My wife is on the top of a tree.”

“He walks in the shadows.”

“He is laughing with his wisdom teeth.”



The students represented 12 different languages. Of the languages in Ethiopia, 16 have a complete Bible, 23 have a NT and 47 translation projects are in progress. During one week, the deaf community from several countries was on campus celebrating the 5th edition of scriptures in Ethiopian Sign Language.

One of our discussions in class was about community involvement. A question arose about having nonbelievers in the review committee. Several of the students translating for their language have seen people come to Christ as they have worked directly on the project review committee.

Thank you for sending me to Ethiopia. Thank you for extending your mission effort through these students as they take written and oral scriptures to their language communities

Becky

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for the Dan team to make the necessary corrections swiftly so their typesetting can be completed. It is more cost effective to ship the Maan Bibles and Dan Bibles together.
- Praise for students in Ethiopia. They all passed. They all have passion for their people groups.
- Pray for upcoming online checking in Themne and Bandi covering the rest of Numbers and 2 Samuel.

CONTACT

Becky.Grossmann@LBT.org
Cell: 269-267-6248
Google Voice: 269-628-5520
28210 12th Ave, Gobles, MI 49055
Give at LBT.org/Grossmann