

## Karen Salmon

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Dear Friends,



I trust this finds you in good shape. Thank you to all who were in touch before I left for Ethiopia. It is always encouraging to hear from you. Teaching MA students at the Mekelle Theological College has been wonderful. I have received the first students' assignments to grade, and exams are in July. These months in Mekelle provided the opportunity to say proper goodbyes to teammates, friends, and my first Mekelle Bible study group - pictured here. *I am grateful for your prayers as I grade assignments, mark exams and say a final goodbye to these lovely people.*

In April I was able to be with the Gambella team, Grant, Wendy, Rosemary, Johann and Louise (pictured below), at the new Anglican Theological College. The team gave me a warm welcome, perhaps because my Mum sent them cheddar cheese and chocolate? Sharing our experiences in theological education, both as students and as lecturers was encouraging. I know I will learn a lot from the team. My household things are still in storage here in Mekelle, so as well as administering the MA examination in July I will put all my gear on a truck, load my Toyota with fragile things, and drive south. Classes are due to start in Gambella in August. Getachew at Operation Rescue is helping me find a reliable truck and driver. *Please pray for the safe transfer of my things to Gambella - four days drive South of Mekelle. Pray too for the final selection of students for the College.*

It is pretty hot in Gambella, so I was encouraged when a friend reminded me of Jeremiah 17:7-8. I have taken *'..do not fear when heat comes'* as a personal promise from God that I do not need to be afraid of ministry in Gambella's 40° heat! He will keep my leaves green and keep me fruitful - when I am trusting and confident in him. You too in whatever 'heat' you are experiencing!

I continue to feel burdened for refugees in Northern and Southern Ethiopia; how unbearably hard for them to walk away from all that is familiar. *Please*



*continue to ask God to bring a team of able people together to reach Eritrean refugees in the North, and South Sudan refugees in the South of Ethiopia.*

Rev Andy Lines, Crosslinks Mission Director's trip to Mekelle in May was a huge encouragement to me, and those with whom he met. Andy met with key Ethiopian partners investigating effective mission in Ethiopia. We even met over meal times to fit in as many discussions as possible in the time available. Andy will present his findings and recommendations at the residential council in England in July. *Do pray for all those involved in making decisions on Crosslinks' Ethiopian mission strategy.*

Last time I shared of new opportunities for ministry here. This time I need to add that I received permission from Crosslinks' council on 17 March to undertake this new ministry for two thirds of the year and to spend one third of each year in Ireland. I'm sorry I wasn't able to share this idea with you before I left, as I was awaiting official confirmation! I am grateful to Crosslinks' leadership for allowing me this opportunity for a trial period until January 2016. The Gambella teaching schedule fits into this plan, as the college closes for a number of months each year, and during those times I will be in Ireland, so you may see me for part of June and a bit of July. *Please pray with me as I transition into this new way of working.*

Those of you who know me well know I never talk about money and that since I left my team leader's position in Belfast in 1991, God has been faithful to take care of every need. Now, however, I think it is important to be open about finances. I will not be paid for my four months in Ireland. Rather eight months' allowance will be spread over twelve months. This should be sufficient for my needs, but if not, my registration and Royal College membership are up-to-date, and I will do agency work as needs arise.

Crosslinks' leadership encouraged me to form an accountability group for my times in Ireland. I am grateful for this precious group's prayers throughout this transition. When in Ireland I will volunteer with Prison Fellowship, as well as assisting in church as needed. I was able to volunteer at Prison Fellowship during February and March, and really enjoyed those times with small groups of women. I do want to be involved in a church plant and ministry in Ireland too. *Praise God with me for the accountability group's willingness to continue to walk forward with me. Do pray that God would lead us in his purposes and according to his perfect plan.*

In Christ's love,

Karen

**Pictured on this page** (top to bottom):

*My new home: a converted store!*

*Local Gambella houses across the road from my new place.*

*Some Gambella children: I hope that soon I will do some bible ministry with them and others like them!*



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