

October 2014

Dear Friends,

I trust you have enjoyed a blessed summer and are ready for a new church year. Last month we began new calendar year in Ethiopia - 2007! So I wish you a Happy Ethiopian New Year too. I also celebrated 21 years' service in Ethiopia. "...being confident of this very thing that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:6) - It is good to know that it is the Lord who both

begins the good work in us when we put our faith in him, and who is faithful to complete that good work over the course of our lives. He is the beginning, the end, and everything in between!

I love beginning new things. The excitement and challenge really energize me! Keeping going when it is tough or when things are routine and less exciting or even boring, is much harder. This past year brought several new beginnings with the GAP, Summer and Ballinderry teams' presence. Teams always come with such enthusiasm and in different ways each team gave me courage and strength to keep moving forward during this past year. *Do pray for each team member as they transition to university and into ministry in their home churches. Ask God to use all they learnt through their Ethiopian experience to build them up personally, and to build his Kingdom too. Please pray that God will change lives through the sharing of his word with ORE children and staff.*



Top: Adwa team

Middle: Summer Team

Bottom: Sudanese church Sumer Team

In life and ministry I begin with much conviction, enthusiasm and faith, but as the hard work of discipling, mentoring, coaching, meeting with people, speaking a foreign language, seeking to understand different perspectives, working through conflict, and preparing and teaching lessons for theology students bombard my life, I can sometimes feel in need of someone else to finish the work for me. Thank you so much for praying for the various ministries I am involved in. I thank God for His faithfulness in giving these opportunities, as well as for sustaining me in the challenges. *Ask Him to bring fruit from Bible study, listening group and discipleship relationships.*

That desire for someone else to finish things spilled over into my packing as I end this three-year period in Ethiopia. I really struggled to get everything packed and into three trunks and three barrels for storage until my return at the end of March next year. I started well, but the finishing has been hard. Not least as I am praying about my future. Last time I was in the UK for mission education I shared my desire to work in Eritrean refugee camps. At that time I communicated with an English ESL teacher, an English Sports teacher, an Irish/Ethiopian couple and a Canadian couple. Both couples have experience working with Sudanese refugees. I so wanted to form a team to work in the refugee camps, but none of the doors I pushed opened.



Now again I am leaving Ethiopia and praying about the refugee camps. This time the Crosslinks' leadership team and I are discussing the possibility of my leading short term Summer, Gap, or church teams working in the refugee camps. *Please pray that God would lead us in his purposes and according to his perfect plan – I am confident he has the best plan.*



I thank him for you, and for the courage I gain from your prayers. *Please keep praying for the ministries that the Lord entrusted me with, which Els (Tearfund Belgium), and Elizabeth (SIM Canada) will now lead. Pray that I will have confidence that "He who has begun a good work... will complete it"! I pray the same for you. Val in the Belfast office has been working hard arranging church, conference, and small group visits. I am very much looking forward to catching up with many of you soon.*



In Christ's love,

Karen

*Top: Holiday Bible Club
Middle: Rural women's Bible listening group
Bottom: Els takes on my Bible group*

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