



FEBRUARY 2012



Karen Salmon

PO Box 1727

Mekelle, Ethiopia

00 251344-410406

kesalmonethiopia@yahoo.co.uk

Thank you for all who prayed for the process of obtaining my Work Permit and ID Card when I returned to Ethiopia at the end of September. I completed all the paperwork in a record four days and on the fifth day was finger printed by the federal police – process complete; amazing! *Praise God my transition into Ethiopian life and work has been uncomplicated over these past four months. Pray for stamina and for God to give me wisdom in the stresses and challenges of daily life and work in Mek'ele.*

I'm blessed to be teaching full-time at the Orthodox Theological College, and continue to build friendships with the College's female staff, who I'm longing to be in Bible study with. I am missing my Bible studies with young women, but over Christmas I had the opportunity to lead one of my old groups while Esther was home in the UK for a couple of weeks. *Please pray that God would open a door for me to study the Bible with the female College staff.*

Preparing and teaching three new courses - Community Health Evangelism, Christian Leadership and Development Studies - has been both challenging and enjoyable. This month I will teach another new (ish) course to MA students -



Research Methods and Project Writing. This isn't totally new to me, as I previously taught this course in Jimma University. I have been quite discouraged by the response of several students to the Community Health Evangelism course. A number have asked is this really 'Orthodox'? This has caused me to rethink the practical aspect of the course. I had hoped we would begin our own Community Health Evangelism project near the college, but this seems unwise now. Instead in small groups we will visit projects that the MA students have started locally. This way the students can see how 'orthodox' the projects which their seniors are running truly are and will have the

opportunity to teach health and Bible courses to the local Health Committee and Community Health Evangelists at various projects in the town. *Ask God to give me strong, fruitful relationships with colleagues and students. I often feel a sense of opposition and this is sad in such a theological setting. Also, pray for the College leadership and teaching team for wisdom and commitment.*

One exciting development has been an invitation to teach on a Community Health Evangelism project recently started with blind teenagers. So far I have taught HIV/AIDS awareness to the Health Committee and Community Health Evangelists, all of whom are blind. It was easy to link these classes to Scripture and give them Bible lessons to share with the small groups of 10 they will each teach. The Health and Hygiene classes have also been encouraging with this small group, but I was very 'creative' with a corresponding Bible message. More challenging is the Microfinance course and Bible class I am currently working on I have no skills in this area;. *Please pray I can find a willing helper to teach this microfinance course with me; I'm currently pushing a door with a friend at Operation Rescue.*

Our Wednesday Bible study at the prison has had a steady attendance of around 20 each week. I was welcomed back by prisoners and staff like a long absent family member; quite an emotional experience! We are studying the Gospel of John together and are blessed by all that God is teaching us. The prisoners often have thought provoking questions, but evidence little Bible knowledge. Rufael and I, however, are encouraged by their growth in understanding.



Please pray that this group would commit their lives to God and come into a relationship with Him.

Each Friday morning we meet as a team of Ethiopians and Expatriates at Mek'ele youth centre, to chat, catch up on news and deal with problems. I am acting as the local team leader until Jon and Kristi return from the USA in the middle of August. *Do ask God for energy and motivation for the youth centre team; it can be exhausting working with children and youth!*



I started 2012 at a Spiritual Life Conference with a couple of hundred Ethiopian missionaries in attendance. It was a wonderful Bible focused week studying the 'Good Kings of Judah' (there were no good kings in Israel). These kings were 'good' as long as they sought after God. The studies were a serious reminder that it is not how well we have done or are doing spiritually that counts, but rather that we finish doing well - something Scripture indicates is hard to do. Our text for the week was Psalm 86:11 "Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name." *Please pray for our small team in Mek'ele that we would be completely committed to God and His truth in all we do here.* Finally, I hope you enjoy the various photos I've included of students, the Christmas parties for orphans, as well as the January conference.

With love in Christ,

Karen

Please contact your local Crosslinks office to change your contact details

Crosslinks, 251 Lewisham Way, London SE4 1XF Tel: 020 8691 6111 pletters@crosslinks.org
Crosslinks, 32 Montgomery Road, Belfast BT6 9HL Northern Ireland Tel: +44 (0) 28 9079 6028
Crosslinks 28, Bachelor's Walk, Dublin 1, Republic of Ireland. Tel: 00 353 (1) 8729508