

October 20, 2001

Dear Friend,

Greetings, from our new home in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. We arrived here four weeks ago today and—especially to those of you not receiving our e-mail newsletters—a letter to you is far past due. (If you have e-mail and would like to hear more often from us, please e-mail us at the address below and request to be put on our e-mail distribution list.)

Our July drive from Charlotte to Yakima, Washington via Denver and San Diego went well. Visiting family, friends, and supporters packed our Pacific Northwest time very full. **Praise** the Lord we sold our van to friends who let us use it until we left Yakima. On September 11, we flew from Yakima to Seattle only to have the rest of our flights canceled by the tragic events that day. We stayed several days with Harold's uncle and aunt near Seattle.

Then, when flights continued to be indefinite, we rented a car and drove across the States back to Charlotte in four days. On September 21, we flew out of Charlotte for Ethiopia. We were only allowed to bring 6 of the 20 pieces of luggage that we had expected to bring. **Praise** the Lord with us for safety in all our travels the last few months. **Pray** that the rest of our stuff will arrive in God's time.

Apart from the rest of our stuff that we are still waiting for, we are nicely settled into our apartment in the Guest House at the SIM HQ compound in downtown Addis Ababa. We have four 14' by 14' foot rooms. One is our living room, one is our kitchen and dining room, one is our bedroom with a small bathroom attached, and one is a spare room we are using for a study. If ever the guesthouse is full, we will need to let someone use our study for a room to stay in.

In some ways we feel like we are home: the beautiful climate, the street sounds, Ethiopian food, the wonderful Ethiopian people and friends from before. But some experiences are different. Living here in the middle of the city in a much smaller compound the life around us is much closer and louder. The loud speakers from the mosques and Ethiopian Orthodox churches are closer and more numerous. Mosques sound their first call to prayer at 5:00 a.m. and at least one Orthodox church begins its chanting at 4:30 each Sunday morning. Also, we are directly across the street from the largest hospital in the city. Sounds of people wailing for deaths are closer and more frequent than we heard before.

**Pray** for us also as we go through some experiences we have not had in the past few years: being far from family whom we may not see for quite a while, computer wiped out by a virus, e-mail not working, city driving with different rules, hundreds more pedestrians, and many surprises.



The beginning of October, we started our Amharic language refresher course. We are grateful to discover that most of what we knew before still seems to be "on file." However, we do need to learn more. **Pray** for us as we try to force our brains to take in more than they seem to be capable of handling. We will be in language school until November 16. **Pray** for us as we start our new jobs the following week.

Thank you so much for your part in furthering God's kingdom in Ethiopia.

In His service,

*Harold & Becky Jongeward*

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