

THE LYNN FAMILY

Feb. & March '17



MISSIONARIES IN ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

Going for the Goal!

If you spend any amount of time in Ethiopia, you will find that football (i.e. soccer) is a very important game. As you drive down various roads, you will see matches being played to your right, left, or maybe even right in front of you—yes, in the middle of a busy road. Rarely do the playing fields have any grass. The goals are usually two rocks on the ground or skinny trees attached to make a square. Age doesn't seem to stop the men from playing either. Simply, football is enjoyed by almost everyone, whether they are watching or playing.

Fortunately, Jakob and I share this enjoyment of playing the game. It is not only fun, but also has given us the opportunity to share the gospel with many boys. We play every Thursday night at our church in Ayat and every Friday night at a school in Bishoftu. The ultimate goal is to end each night with a message from God's Word.

We have continued this for many months now and a few guys from our church go with us. One of these is a 16-year-old orphan who lived on the street until a family from Australia gave him a place to live. He has been attending our church and playing football on both nights. After going with us for a couple of months, Biniyam asked a very interesting question on a Friday night after football. He said, "Why do foreigners (referring to missionary families) love people? The Abesha (another word for Ethiopian people) don't love me." Of course, there is a lot of background story here, but the question was still powerful. The answer, I believe, is rooted in the gospel, and that is exactly what I shared.

Although Biniyam had heard the gospel many times, and I was able to share it with him again, the language barrier made it difficult to know if he believed he was saved. Two days later, before our Sunday service, Biniyam seemed to be struggling with something. I was able to take him aside and, with the help of another young man from our church, ask him what was going on. He said he was saved but has not been living for God. After he prayed for forgiveness, we began to talk about baptism. Though he has not followed Jesus in baptism yet, God is definitely working on his heart. Please join us in praying for Biniyam and the next steps he will take.



Ethiopia: Did You Know?

On March 11th, 2017, Ethiopia saw a horrible disaster. This occurred when a landslide happened at a trash dumpsite called Koshe. The death toll reached as high as 118 people, which was said to be mostly women and children. The reason so many people were caught in the debris is that they lived there. Many families make this place their home because they find items that they can resell in order to make a living. Beside are pictures found online that show the result.



Prayer Request & Praises

- Pray for the church members that are being discipled at Bethel Bible Baptist Church. Many of them are facing difficulties. Pray that God gives them the strength to stay faithful regardless of their families' pressure to return back to what they used to follow. (Pawlos in the picture above has experienced tremendous pressure but has continued to be faithful to Jesus.)
- Please pray for the family as we learn Amharic. (Language has been a lot of work, but we are beginning to put short sentences together.)
- Pray that our kids will be able to retain what is studied in class as they acclimate to life here. (School is going well!)
- Pray that many doors will be open to share the gospel as we try to communicate as best as we can while learning the language. (We have been able to teach discipleship classes in English and share the gospel through interpreters.)