

## From...Carolyn Ford, Missionary

From her February 2023 Letter...

*"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich,*

*yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich."* 2 Cor. 8:9

Five of us in SIM Sebring Retirement Village are named "Carol" or "Carolyn." At Christmas, we call ourselves the "Caroling Carols" and do a Mime during the village carol sing. This year, I was the "Monotone Angel" trying to qualify to sing in the heavenly Christmas Choir. I never got the tune "quite right," but in the end, they admitted me to the choir and gave me a halo.

It was a fun evening, but more special to me were the times of worship, contemplating the marvelous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who left His glorious, comfortable home in heaven to become a human being and live among us in order to take the judgment for our sin, conquer death, and offer us His righteousness. It is hard to get my mind around what that cost Him, but it is that love that compels me to live my life for Him and with Him. Thanks to all who sent Christmas cards and greetings. I read every one of them with deep appreciation.

On January 4, several friends joined me to celebrate the 50th anniversary of my first arrival in Ethiopia to minister with SIM. In early February, others joined me to praise the Lord Jesus for carrying me through three quarters of a century. And He has promised to keep on carrying me even to my old age and gray hairs (Isaiah 46:4). I am so grateful!

I am inserting cross-references into the text for display at the bottom of the page in the Tsara New Testament. Because I have done it for several other translations, it is not difficult for me and will save time for the translation team.

Matt has continued checking translation with them. Praise God that they have completed most of the New Testament books. He also checked most of Matthew's Gospel in Inor and Zay with those translation teams and participated in editing a draft of Matthew's Gospel in a new Amharic translation.

Praise God for good progress on renovations of the property that Wycliffe Ethiopia bought to use for offices, training, consulting, and guest accommodations. Please continue to pray for smooth completion of the legal process involved in the purchase.

Praise God that the peace agreement, signed between the Ethiopian government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front in early November, is gradually being implemented. Please continue to pray for reconciliation and peace between the various ethnic groups throughout the country. It seems that genuine peace is still quite tenuous.

On a personal level, I am deeply grateful for God's provision of a friend here in the village who began helping me with house cleaning and decluttering in December. She charges a very reasonable rate and is gifted in that ministry. While I still feel overwhelmed at times, my stress level has decreased considerably. My eyesight is deteriorating more quickly than I would like, and the cost of treatment has increased significantly. I know that the LORD has all this under His control and that He cares for me and keeps my heart at rest. I am encouraged by Jesus' assertion in John 9:3 about the man born blind: "... this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life." I want God's work to be displayed in my life. That is more important than my physical sight.

Thank you so much for continuing to journey with me by your prayers, friendship, and financial support

Rejoicing in His Grace,

Carolyn Ford