

## Sheryl Howe

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**From:** "Sheryl Howe" <sahowe@wbt.org>  
**To:** <sahowe@wbt.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 07, 2005 9:21 PM  
**Subject:** Thanks...

I'm back (home in the US).

I had the best trip back. It didn't start out so well Friday night at the airport in Addis, waiting outside for over an hour to get through security to enter the airport. This caused me some concern about missing my flight --- because once inside there was a long line to check in and there was paying the departure tax and getting through immigration between me and the plane still. So, my new friend I met in line had this brilliant idea that we could pay the departure tax before checking in, since the departure tax line appeared to be moving faster than the check in line. So paid that --- it's \$20 US. I gave the departure tax man a \$20 bill, he put a sticker on my ticket and stamped it, I walked away and he yelled at me to come back where he attempted to give me \$80 change (like I'd paid with a \$100 bill --- although the idea that Ethiopia would pay me \$80 US to leave their country is nice, you'll be glad to know I was honest and didn't take it). So back in the check in line, my new friend had discovered while I was in the departure tax line that the nice Luftansa man wouldn't let our flight leave until all of us had made it past immigration. (Luftansa now scoring some points after losing many points on the trip out).

After the Addis airport, the rest of the trip was fabulous. We were just a little late getting in to Frankfurt, which was fine, since I had a 12 hour layover. I took the train to the city center. Wandered around, visited some cool huge churches, took a bus tour, managed to buy lunch and get a fork using pantomime because they didn't speak English at the place I picked for lunch (the place I selected because food items were displayed so I could point rather than trying to decipher a menu in German). And I went to some skyscraper where they had an observation deck. Frankfurt is very cool, contrary to what my second new friend (from the Addis airport line) said. She's from Frankfurt and she said it's very small and it's all fake anyway (because it was bombed during World War II so they rebuilt stuff to look old, but it's not really old). She was right about the being small part --- I ran into her again while I was wandering around. I took lots of pictures in Frankfurt --- which was cracking me up because I was in Addis for 3 weeks, took very few pictures; in Frankfurt for 12 hours, took a ton of pictures.

THEN, the best part of the trip, on the flight from Frankfurt to Boston, I got upgraded to Business Class. (Luftansa now practically my favorite airline). Not only do they have more leg room, with a foot rest thing, and better food in Business Class, they have MORE THAN ONE MOVIE.

In Boston, I had 12 hour layover #2. This one at night. My new friend on the plane who could work all of the Business class gadgets told me that I should go to little Italy in Boston to get food. While this was a nice idea, I was more than 24 hours into my trip upon arrival into Boston. I saw nothing of Boston other than the inside of a cab and my hotel room. I briefly considered not getting a hotel and hanging out in the airport for 12 hours... because hotels are ridiculously expensive in Boston. However, the hotel --the hot shower and bed portions of the hotel-- was so very nice, even though I was on the 3rd floor and there was no elevator and I had luggage with me because even though it was supposedly checked all the way through to Charlotte, the baggage transfer people wouldn't take it at the airport (12 hours is too long for them to hold it they told me and they told me I should go to some other terminal and talk to the US Airways people --- another nice plan that wasn't going to happen after 24 hours of traveling).

So I arrived back in Charlotte Sunday morning relatively rested and clean. And I went to church straight from the airport. The guest speaker was a guy who had served in Ethiopia in some way connected with the International Church in Addis I attended when I was there... small world...

Thank you so much for praying, particularly that travel would go smoothly. That worked out great. And also thank you for praying for this project and for Bible translation in Ethiopia. It's exciting that we have a part to play in the work that's happening: people who don't have the Bible in a language they understand will have a Bible someday sooner rather than later because we worked on their computer network and rewired the office and prayed...

Sheryl