

# HOWe THINGS ARE...

Hi! Trust all is well!

First, our April 2 disaster simulation deal: fabulous. Not fabulous because it went smoothly. Fabulous because we learned a lot --- things we wouldn't have known except by doing a real, live test. It was a much longer day than we planned but we're feeling all pleased with ourselves. Thanks for praying.

✈ Second, I get to go away again: To Ethiopia this time. Yay! It's just a couple countries over from Uganda. They're having various and sundry email server problems. I've worked some on the problems long distance. I'm way excited to go and just fix it (well, hopefully just fix it --- one never knows... the plan is to go and fix the email server issues and also provide some general computer support.)



I don't have travel dates yet --- it'll be sometime next month. It would've been sooner but my department is a little depleted at the moment. Some are in Indonesia helping MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) provide satellite web services (web phone and internet access) for relief workers in the tsunami areas. (MAF is amazing by the way --- they have less staff than we do and they've staffed two mobile web cafes in Indonesia since January). And others are in Thailand for Wycliffe's triennial (or however you say every three years) conference. And my boss is away doing partnership development (connecting with supporters). He's going to claim I set this up to happen while he's gone --- he missed our disaster scenario and the ensuing fallout (we changed a lot of stuff while he's been gone --- not BECAUSE he's been gone --- it just happened that we ran into things that needed fixing...).

## Stuff you could pray about:

- Details for my trip; for wisdom and luggage and health and whatnot.
- Safety and good working relationships for my teammates in Indonesia and Thailand and grace for the ones staying in Waxhaw to hold down the fort.
- A buyer for my old car
- Praise God for cool opportunities to serve --- I have the best job ever.

## Fun Ethiopia Facts: (source: Operation World)

The capital where I'll be: **Addis Ababa** (is that not fun to say?)

Population of Addis Ababa: **2.65 million**

Annual per person income: **\$100** (compare to US: \$31,380)

Number of languages: **86**

Number of languages with Scripture: **22\***

Most Ethiopians speak: **Amharic**; 65% of the population able to speak it

North Ethiopia was one of the first Christian nations -- from the 4<sup>th</sup> century. The Ethiopian Orthodox Church became the State Church from 1270 until the 1974 revolution (a Marxist revolution which ruled the country from 1974 until its collapse in 1991). Apparently, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church has a unique culture and theology due to centuries of isolation from the rest of the Christian world as a Christian island in a sea of Islam. It has 21.3 million members, about a third of the population of Ethiopia.

Ethiopia landlocked since the secession of Eritrea; borders Eritrea, Sudan, Kenya and Somalia

Average temp in Addis Ababa in May: **65° F** (I know, I thought Ethiopia = Hot as well. And May is the hottest month with a record high: 97° and average high: 72° !)

\*6 Entire Bible, 12 New Testament, 4 Scripture portions

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