

HABESHA HAPPENINGS

The official newsletter of the Coleman Family



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COUNTDOWN

As I (Richard) write this, Amanda is in the Pacific NW for her brother David's funeral. Fortunately, Amanda was able to spend time with her brother back in March when his health was in limbo. She even returned to Addis with a glimmer of hope that he would recover. However, it was not to be. Please pray for Amanda and her family as they grieve the loss of David. The funeral is scheduled for June 4th. If you would like to contribute toward Amanda's plane ticket (\$1,800) or stateside expenses, you can send something through CashApp (\$ROC2ADD) or PayPal (africarcc@yahoo.com), since this is considered a personal trip.

On July 5th, four weeks after her return, Amanda and the whole fam will return to the US for a 5-month "home ministry" trip. I dread being away from Ethiopia for so long, but we have a debriefing, a family reunion, various ministry visits to 1/3 of the 50 states, and of course, rest time. This will be our first visit to the States as a family in nearly 2 1/2 years. The kids are counting down the days. Pray for us as we arrange the details of this future trip and as we tie up some loose ends here. There's still much to be done, including conference planning, drought relief in the Somali region, training, mentoring, fundraising, and more.

Speaking of fundraising, I've been able to work with EvaSUE's general secretary and our media team to develop a fundraising video and contribute to EvaSUE's overall advancement strategy. So, now I can add scriptwriting, voiceovers, and donor development to my resume. Who would've imagined that I'd be needed in these ways? The time for this work is crucial, as Ethiopia has faced more than 40% inflation. One study also listed Addis Ababa as the most expensive city in Africa in terms of cost of living. The EvaSUE community desperately needs to raise resources to support our 85 staff, our building project, and the myriad of events we host throughout the country. It's been my joy to be a part of the process.

Despite her tendency to shy away from new projects given her homeschool regimen, Amanda has also been called upon for new tasks. She reads for a podcast called Charlotte Mason's Volumes and sometimes does recordings for homeschool conferences. This is in addition to the ministry she has here in Ethiopia. Her gifts are indeed making room for her.

The kids, Amanda, and I look forward to seeing you and sharing even more examples and stories of how God has been using us as a family. Thank you for making it possible!





SWEET 16

Bahir Dar (3x), Dire Dawa, Harar, Jijiga, Jimma, Lalibela (2x), Wuchale (Somaliland), Ziway: I've had lots of trips over the past 2 months. Not including drives, I took 16 flight segments. Fortunately, almost all of the trips were for 1-2 nights, so my time away from home was minimal. The increased travel was due to EvaSUE conferences and hosting visitors from the US. I was able to take Amanda, the boys, and the girls on at least one of the trips. We were all able to witness with our own eyes what God is doing in this great land. Most of our time was spent with EvaSUE students and leaders. The resilience, ingenuity, and passion of these students is inspirational. I love every moment I get to spend with them and consider it a privilege to serve them. It's also a privilege to be trusted with their struggles. My hope is to work with the leadership team to find ways to help students in their places of brokenness. For example, I'm making plans to return to Addis this August with my brother-in-law so that he can teach a workshop on sexual brokenness at our National Leadership Summit.



DONOR FATIGUE

We try to live with an open hand and show the same generosity toward others that we ourselves receive. That said, the months of April and May were particularly difficult. We had about 5-7 people come to our door each day during Ramadan asking for food or donations. Various friends and ministries throughout the country were also reaching out to us asking for financial help. The country's high inflation has played a role in that. Things are hard for most people here, so it pains us that we can't help everyone. But, to keep our sanity we've had to redefine some of our financial boundaries. For now, our financial focus is on EvaSUE, a bedridden mother from Lalibela, the students we scholarship, people affected by the epic drought in the Somali region, Bibles, and a few other projects. As the Lord blesses us with more funds, we hope to do even more through our existing partners. If you are one of our donors, you are a HUGE part of all of this. We can't wait to tell you all about it.



COLEMAN KIDS

"Homeschool kids are weird and unsocialized." Ha! Whoever said that hasn't met the Coleman kids. These 5 are practically the coolest kids on the block. Our house and courtyard are often full of kids on Saturdays, Sundays, and some weekday evenings. If they're not here, they're on the side street playing soccer and other games. Amanda and I love to see our kids having fun with their friends. In addition to their neighborhood fun, our kids attend a weekly circus class. Yeah, I know it's not Little League, but they have a blast as they tumble, balance, and learn a few tricks. Saniya also leads activities twice a week for energetic preschoolers. As soon as she enters the school compound, kids excitedly call out, "Saniya!" They absolutely love her.



MEET A FRIEND

I met Sara Kedir on my very first visit to Ethiopia in December 2016. I remember being impressed with her from day one. She has an excellent command of the English language and is a brilliant thinker. First impressions are often the lasting ones, and so I was thrilled to know she was returning to the EvaSUE staff after a 6-year hiatus. A computer science and electrical engineering graduate, Sara went on to the U. of St. Andrews in Scotland to study analytic and exegetical theology. Now she will be spearheading EvaSUE's social transformation institute. Sara and her husband--a pastor--have one, soon to be two children.

JOIN OUR TEAM

If you'd like to be a part of our support team, go to www.tms-global.org/give. Using ID 3104 you can give both one-time and recurring gifts. You can also choose to designate your donation toward one of our projects using ID 6002 (Vehicle) or 6003 (EvaSUE). For questions or just to say 'hi,' email us at ethiopia4610@gmail.com or send snail mail to "The Colemans, P.O. Box 4534, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia."

