

Lynne & Steve Ethiopia Kenya March 30 - April 18 2018

Mar 30, 2018 Ethiopian Airlines 501 11 am Dulles (IAD) 13h 15m duration  
31 7:15 am Addis Ababa (ADD) get visa when arrive the best rates are at the airport.  
Jupiter Hotel Bole <http://www.jupiterinternationalhotel.com/hotel-bole.html>  
1 9:30 Worship Addis  
Tour Grand Holidays Ethiopia Travel  
7 eve Easter worship  
8 Axum tour  
10 start Malaria  
11 fly to Nairobi  
11:20 am Terminal 2 Ethiopian Airlines 304  
1:30 pm Nairobi (NBO)  
Lazizi Premiere Hotel <http://www.thelazizihotels.com>  
12-14 <http://www.naturaltoursandsafaris.com> Masai Mara Safari  
15 Worship Nairobi ELCK church <http://www.uhlc.org>  
16 11:35 am Terminal 1C Ethiopian Airlines 303  
1:35 pm Addis Ababa Terminal 2  
Jupiter Hotel Bole-Addis Ababa. with Dr Burke and Wondimu  
17 10:45 pm Terminal 2 Ethiopian Airlines ET500 Dublin 1 hour stop  
18 8:40 am Dulles (IAD) Total Duration 17h 20m

Greetings from our Ethiopian airplane!

11:35 a.m.

Officially our plane took off 5 minutes ago, but we're still on the ground and loading. We didn't even get on the bus to come to the plane until almost 11:20 and our plane was to take off at 11:30. Oh, well! We're in the very, very last row of the plane, seats 33A and 33B. It's a full plane! We are flying to Nairobi, Kenya, for a 3 day safari. There was a mother and daughter (about 3), both dressed alike in matching long white and gold dresses with white trousers underneath.

Yesterday our plane departure was moved an hour and a half later. Our 25 minute flight was uneventful. We didn't land until almost 8 p.m. My one suitcase, which was supposed to be a carry-on was checked, we waited and waited and waited for it - afraid it was lost - but it finally showed up (it had our meds in it). Bayuh took off with our suitcases instead of going through the x-ray machine, and found the driver waiting for us.

He took us to Ethiopian Cultural Experience "Yod Abyssinia Traditional Restaurant" - it was very loud! We had reserved spots just inside the door. A band was playing, ladies and men dancing on the stage. This was our farewell celebratory dinner. Bayuh ordered honey wine (but it was very smoky, not as tasty as we had at the Four Sisters). Then he ordered a special national dinner combination of national fasting and non fasting dishes plus gomen besega ("local cabbage with chopped meat cooked with garlic, onions and seasoned butter, comes on fire" - the description of the meal) - it came in a pot with a heater under it. Bayuh told me which foods were not spicy and I had plenty to eat. A man came with a dispenser to put soap on our hands, then had a fancy pitcher from which he poured water on our hands - he had a fancy bowl held under our hands as he washed the soap off. We ate with injera (bread), so were eating with our hands. After we were finished, he came back and washed our hands again. There were several children present, all dressed up - it's Easter week, so they are doing special things. One of the boys, about 6, was dressed like his father, all in white with an embroidered red belt.

Several different groups performed on stage, including a group of older male teens. We heard flute, stringed instruments, drums, saw several dances. The women all had floor length dresses on, very pretty. It was very interesting.

We finally got to our hotel (Jupiter Bole) where we stayed before while in Addis. We were welcomed back. We were one floor up in the same room. When Steve looked over the construction site this morning, he noticed 5 women working on it (in skirts), doing construction work.

More random thoughts: Neither military or police carry weapons. The fire truck came to meet each incoming flight in Axum and stayed until we departed. If our daughter Stephanie's fire truck met every flight at Reagan Airport (where she is a paramedic/fireman), the fire truck would never be in station! The Chinese are building a major expansion to the airport in Addis. There are direct flights to 5 Chinese cities from Addis. However, we saw very few Chinese, compared to the hordes of Chinese travelers in other countries we've visited (for example: St. Petersburg, Russia, Sweden, Finland last fall).

Someone asked: Steve plans our trips, including hotels, flights, etc. This was the easiest trip he planned because he used a couple of companies which offered tours. Except for our trip to China where we had tours, we usually venture on our own. Since China and Ethiopia and Kenya are so different from our culture, we are using tours for them. We used the Grand Holidays Ethiopia Travel & Tours [www.holiday-to-ethiopia.com](http://www.holiday-to-ethiopia.com) and were very satisfied with them - they went out of their way for us, meeting us at the airport when we arrived a day early, taking us to the airport to leave, taking good care of us in the meantime. Tomorrow we go on a 3 day Safari. Steve is scheduled to preach here Sunday. We met the General Secretary at a conference in Birmingham last summer and he is meeting us at the airport. We will return to Addis on Monday, fly back Tues. evening, arriving Wed. 8:45 a.m. at Dulles Airport with an 18 hour flight. All our flights are on Ethiopian Airlines.

Hello, again!

It's now 8:30 p.m. Our flight was uneventful. Since we were in the last row, we were the last ones off the plane. We got on the bus, then went to the terminal. Many of the people were stopped at one point to check their passports but we were motioned on. We had only about a minute's wait to get our visa to enter the country. Our suitcases came in a few minutes.

Then we waited outside for a long time to meet the man who was picking us up. He was at Terminal 2, we were at Terminal 1-A, it took a long time for him to check his messages and to realize he was at the wrong place. He and his son picked us up and drove us to the hotel. He is the Secretary General of the Lutheran Church in Kenya. Steve visited with them for the rest of the afternoon and we treated them to dinner. Those three had the buffet, but I wasn't very hungry, so ordered off the menu (chicken/pasta dish). It took them at least 45 minutes to prepare it - not very happy about waiting so long!

It was sunny, probably close to 80 when we landed around 2 p.m. There was an afternoon shower - it poured for several minutes, maybe a half hour. I don't know what the temp is like now, since we haven't been out. Most of the days for the last several, we have had a shower, but it's been in the upper 70s.

This is a luxury hotel. You must use your room key to make the elevator go up. You must use your room key to open the doors to your corridor. Of course you need the key to enter the room. You must put the key in a special device next to the door to turn the electricity on. Our tv was set for English and turned on with a welcome message to Funck. Outside each doorway are 2 narrow mirrors.

Tomorrow at 7 a.m. we leave on safari for 3 days. Don't know what the wifi situation will be there.

Thank you for your prayers. I appreciate hearing your comments and questions.

God bless you.  
Lynne and Steve



Kenya from the plane



Steve and Lynne and Gary

April 12

Greetings from Osero Camp

2:30 pm.

This morning we were up at 6:15 a.m., ate some rolls (didn't want to spend \$25 each on breakfast buffet), dressed, finished packing, and were ready to be picked up at 7 a.m.

Patrick, our driver, for safari, drove us for 6 hours, the last hour plus on very bumpy, mud/gravel roads. Does being shaken for over an hour make you lose weight???? (Hopefully!)

We stopped on the way to observe the Great Rift Valley (which is visible from space). It runs from Mozambique to the Red Sea, 9600 km. We drove down into the valley. We passed over a crack in the ground - Steve said he read about it this week when it happened - the ground separated about 10', not caused by an earthquake. They had filled the crack with stone where the road was. Eventually we went up the steep other side (they even had a passing lane for going up) and continued on.

The fields here in Kenya are much greener than the ones in Ethiopia. We've seen an occasional tractor. Ethiopia was after harvest. Here wheat is 6 " out of the ground.

We came finally to Maasai Mara National Reserve. While Patrick paid to get us in, we had about a half dozen locals mobbing the van to get us to buy something (we didn't buy anything). Shortly after we started on the rutted roads of the reserve, we saw warthogs crossing the road in front of us. Then we saw zebras, eland, impala, and elephants. Finally he brought us to our "hotel" here, Oserocamp.

We were greeted with warm washcloths to wipe our hands (and face), then a glass of juice. We were led for 5 minutes down a path to our tent where we will sleep. It is quite elegant, with a huge bathroom. We are the only guests at this resort. We learned how to unlock our tent, shown how to turn on the water. Electricity is generator from 6:30 - 10:30, then they said on solar power until 6:30 a.m.

We returned to the dining room where we had their lunch: avocado and tomato salad, ginger soup, pork chops, rice with carrot and green bean pieces, zucchini, carrots, coffee mousse, vanilla ice cream. All was delicious. We will leave in 20 minutes to see more animals.

Back to our plane ride: sunset was at 6:40 and the horizon still had orange color when we went down into the clouds at 7:25 p.m. We are now south of the equator, and day is about 12 hours and night 12 hours here.

Toyota was the most popular car in Ethiopia. There are many Toyotas here, but there are also other cars (Honda, Nissan,)

In Ethiopia there are no foreign restaurants (we've seen Burger King, McDonalds, Starbucks, etc., in China and other countries) but I did see a Ramada Hotel. In Nairobi, I've seen a KFC and several of our U.S. hotel brands near the airport. We bought Shell gasoline. Most everything is written in English here - English is one of their two major languages.

### Yod Abyssinia Traditional Restaurant

As we drove through Nairobi this morning there were hundreds of people walking. The women's skirts are around knee length (in Ethiopia they were closer to the ankle).

In Ethiopia, after a building's first floor was finished, stores were opened on the first floor, even though the upper floors have not been completed.

Hello!

7:45 p.m.

I'm still shaking - we came back so fast because it was getting dark, and so the bumps were even worse!

We went off, this time "on safari" - we saw so many animals: elephants, wildebeests, giraffes, baboons, helmeted guinea fowl, buffalo on a far hill, taupi (can't remember how it's spelled - it's legs are striped brown and black). There was a lot of chatter between the drivers, and suddenly our driver turned around and headed back quickly - someone had found two cheetahs lying together near the road. There was a herd of wildebeests across the road, the cheetahs must have been full!

We went on further, then turned around again, a lioness and 3 cubs were lying near the road. After watching them for a while we went on, taking trails through the grass. Our driver said there was a lion in the tree - sure enough, he had spotted a lioness in a sausage tree (used to make wine) - she was lying on a branch with her feet hanging down, sleeping. The driver can watch the road for bumps and still see the animals in the distance!

We went on a short distance when Patrick reported that we were going to help a colleague in trouble. He sure was - buried up to his hubcaps in mud!



Patrick attached his chain to the safari van and tried to pull it out, but instead, we also got stuck! Eventually 3 other safari vehicles showed up and they worked and worked on freeing the first vehicle. One vehicle pulled our offroad Toyota out and we drove further away, away from the mud to dry ground. After having many trying to push the stuck vehicle while a vehicle pulled it, and that didn't work, eventually they fastened 2 vehicles to the stuck one, and after several tries, it was pulled free! By then it was after 6:30, so we started back.

We saw the 3 ostriches closer up, paused for a quick photo, then headed back to our home for the night. The sunset was pretty, but it got dark too soon. Patrick was flying down the rutted, stone-filled road, so we were really shaking! We had to stop to let gazelles go across the road. Then there was an elephant blocking half the road, so we had to wait for him to amble off. But we eventually arrived. The Maasai man opened the gate - there's an electric fence around the compound to keep us safe from the animals. All night a Maasai walks around as a guard - he just walked past us.

We ate supper in the dining room which is partially screened, so there must not be many bugs, hopefully no mosquitoes. I can hear bugs/frogs/birds singing in the dark. For dinner we had 2 vegetable fritters, spinach soup, pepper steak, potatoes, green beans, a mango smoothie (thicker than I think a smoothie is). All was delicious. A man just brought us a charcoal burner to keep us warm - we're sitting in the tv "room" which has a wall around half of the circumference (it's a round room) and no screens on the large windows on the other half. Yes, it's much cooler than it was earlier in the day. We are in the Great Rift Valley county.

Not sure if you will get this today or any photos, wifi is not working well.

Hope you are all doing well.

God bless you.  
Lynne and Steve



Great Rift Valley, 9600 km from Mozambique to the Red Sea



more of Great Rift Valley



Great Rift Valley



Lynne and Patrick and our safari vehicle





crack in the earth which occurred a few days ago



eland - Maasai Mara National Park



warthog





elephant and baby



avocado and tomato salad



Osero Camp view from bar toward tv room





on safari now: elephant herd





2 of the baboons





eland, largest of the antelope



Thomson's gazelles - smallest of the antelope





giraffe





zebras



cheetahs





cub and lioness, 2 more cubs were in grass out of photo



impala, larger than Thomson's gazelle





big lioness enjoying a snooze in a sausage tree - it looked like strings with white sausages hanging from the tree - they are used to make wine



male ostrich and 2 females



stuck van in front (note it's rear wheels are stuck to the hubcap, our van behind, also stuck





pretty clouds





sunset as they worked on freeing the first van - ours was already pulled out of mud



sunset



dinner after 7:30 p.m. - pepper steak, potatoes, green beans with cilantro

April 13

Greetings again from the tv room at Osero Camp!

<http://osero lodge.com>

It was quite chilly last night, maybe 56. Two men (guards) walked us to our tent. The stars were bright, but we didn't have time to enjoy them with our escorts hurrying us. When we returned to our room, the lights were already on, the mosquito netting in place, the bed turned down. When I touched the duvet, it was hot! There were 2 hot water bottles in the bed to warm it up and they were hot - at 3 a.m. there was still some warmth in them! (but no chocolate on the pillow!).

At 6 a.m. it was dark out. By 6:05 we could see the trees outside our bathroom screen. One of the Maasai employees was waiting to walk us to breakfast this morning at 7 (pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs (Lynne)), then left about 7:35 for safari. Today we went to a different part of this park. We had to go through a gate to get there. As usual we saw lots of animals: mongoose (no photo, they moved too fast), hart, impala, buffalo, topi (misspelled taupi yesterday), stork, helmeted guinea hens with chicks, Thomson's gazelles, Grant's gazelle.

At one point Patrick put the 4-wheel drive on, and then we went through streams, through mud puddles, over steep rocks, etc. We didn't get stuck (though someone got stuck early this morning, guess they weren't in the area we were in because we didn't go to help them).

We saw a cheetah under a bush, hippos swimming in the river (they stayed under the water most of the time, occasionally surfaced for a few seconds, sometimes left their noses out), a pride of lions (lioness and her offspring of various ages, 10 of them, lying in the shade), hartebeest, ostrich, waterbucks, secretary bird.

We went to a different place on the river, could see about a half dozen hippos. The hippo makes a loud sound like a "whoosh" - we thought the van was making the noise. They also grunt. Some of the hippos swam to a rapid in the river and stayed below it where the water is not moving so fast. There was a great heron near the riverbank.

We then drove to Lookout Point to have lunch. We could see a valley in the Great Rift Valley. Our camp had packed us a lunch - we have enough leftover for another meal! Ham on a roll, chips, watermelon, hardboiled egg, brownie, banana, water, juice. I watched yellow butterflies and white butterflies flying nearby.

We rode on, followed directions to a leopard in a tree - leopards aren't many in number, so they aren't always seen on a safari. There were 5 vans of people looking at the leopard. We can't figure out how Patrick can find these places when another driver announces the animal - there are paths all over the place and there are no signs, paths cross paths, we'd never find our way!

Next we came to 4 giraffes near the road - we watched them grazing in the trees. We saw 2 Cape buffalo, then 6 hart, then 2 waterbucks. There were 2 male lions in bushes, about 6 vans of people watching them.

Now we were in a rainstorm - it poured for at least 20 minutes. Patrick drove us to a different lodge so I could use the rest room - it was more than 7 hours since my last rest room stop - not a great idea, especially since the roads were very bumpy! I got wet running into the lodge.

A few minutes later we drove out of the storm. We decided to continue back to our camp, even though the rain stopped. We passed a machine rolling the road flat (though not doing a very good job since the dirt was so hard). There was also a machine working on the road - the roads aren't well maintained. We saw a herd of elephants not far from our camp, at least 40 of them.

It was sunny when we arrived back here, about 75. We just had a rainstorm for about 15 minutes, which cooled it down considerably, maybe to 65. Lydia, the greeter, waitress, girl Friday, whatever needs to be-done-person (she put the hot water bottles in our bed) brought us coffee and tea, popcorn, and peanuts when we arrived back here. One of the Maasi who work here just brought 2 charcoal burners for us.

Hopefully the wifi is working better to send you photos and blog. We had to request that the electricity be turned on so that we could put energy in our

cameras. Lydia just pointed out an elephant, just outside the electric fence (less than a hundred yards away), I can see it from where I'm sitting!

Jambo! Hello!                      8:15 p.m.

"Jambo" is the standard greeting in Kenya, "Salam" (peace) was the standard greeting in Ethiopia.

We had supper - coleslaw salad, mixed vegetable soup, rolls, beef kebabs, carrots, potatoes, mixed vegetables, mango triple (mango, white chocolate, chocolate) - all was delicious, presentation is always outstanding, proportions are European, not too much to eat! Steve thought the chief was a professionally trained in Nairobi. He is a self taught Maasi, he learned at area hotels.

As we finished, the entertainment came in - 7 Maasi men did 3 dances, the first was a welcome one, the second was a competition which involved each one jumping as high as possible from a standing position (the higher the jump, the more women he will have), not sure what the third dance was - they were good! We are the only guests, so this was done only for us!

Hopefully you've received 3 sets of photos for today. Several asked for photos of our tent, those were on the third set.

Tomorrow we have a short safari, then drive back to Nairobi.

Have a good weekend!

God bless you.  
Lynne





breakfast - sausage, pancakes, scrambled eggs, juice - Steve's nephew who lives in Japan started us on taking food photos - he says that's what they do in Japan







impala





hartbeest











hippos in river - they look like dark brown rocks



Lynne at Lookout Point - we had boxed lunches from our camp (ham on roll, watermelon, hardboiled egg, brownie, banana, juice, water



Cape buffalo





velvet monkey





herd of elephants near our camp



our tent



our bedroom



our bathroom, including large tub with a seat, walk-in shower, toilet, 2 sinks





it's dark in our room at night - mosquito netting, bed turned back



Lynne in tv room



grounds of our camp, swimming pool at end of pathway





tv room on left, dining hall on right





dinner: carrots, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, beef kebab - presentation is excellent - hollowed out radish on top of potato "mountain", parsley in radish



elephant





giraffe



male lion





male and female ostriches are huge compared to Thomson's gazelles!





lioness (laying down against trunk of tree) her 9 offspring of different ages



elephants on a beautiful day





leopard in tree - few leopards in the park, so seeing one is not common - he's in center of photo





giraffes

April 14

Greetings from the Lazizi Premier Hotel in Nairobi!

Except for all of the bumps and ruts, etc., I enjoyed the first two days of our safari very much. Steve didn't complain about the bumps but we both were impressed with the safari and the accommodations - we found it very enjoyable. However, Day 3, today, was a disappointment. The bumpy road made me slide left in my seat, then the next bump made me hit the left back of my head on the hard edge of the back of the seat, I bet if you moved my hair out of the way you would see that my head is black and blue there! It is tender to the touch.

Last night our two guards walked us to the tent. It rained during the night. I heard the night guard walk past our tent 6 times in less than 15 minutes - I

didn't hear him at any other point, so don't know why he was there so often in the middle of the night.

This morning we had breakfast, same as yesterday, pancakes and sausage for Steve, pancakes and scrambled eggs for me. We packed and said our goodbyes to the staff at Osera Camp - if you ever go on a safari to Massai Mara National Park, we highly recommend staying there, and having Patrick as your guide from Natural World Safaris! [www.naturaltoursand safaris.com](http://www.naturaltoursand safaris.com)

We started out, found a very few animals: zebras, elephants, impala, Thomson gazelles. As we went under the trees they showered us (the top was open). He finally shut the top down. We didn't see any animals for a while, maybe Patrick got frustrated, but he took us past the other camps, some primitive (you get a mattress, bring your own sleeping bag, toilet some place else, shower in another place) to luxurious, at least one was for Chinese. We drove past some Maasai villages - about what the villages in Ethiopia looked like, houses were cinderblock or corrugated metal, streets of mud. There was a lot of fenced off property near the Maasai villages. Many sheep, cattle, and goats are raised by the Maasai.

It started raining. We did briefly see some wildebeest. The road wasn't great - it's a numbered road on the Google Maps - it was muddy in places. At one point the road threw us off and we were stuck for a few minutes. Glad he had 4-wheel drive because that got us out of there. At another place the road was just mud - we could see a truck stuck in it. Patrick paid a man and they opened a gate for us to drive around the muddy spot, not that the detour was that great! (The ruts in the road had thrown the van off the road yesterday, fortunately into a grassy spot, and it was easy to return to the road.)

It was raining and muddy - the clean van was covered once again with lots of mud from all the puddles we drove through. The rain stopped for a while. Finally we reached the new paved road and it was wonderfully free of bumps. But that didn't last long - we got to the old section of the road, which while still paved, had potholes to miss. We finally got to the souvenir shop where we stopped for a bathroom break on our way there. As soon as we got under the roof, it started pouring! We looked around and picked

up some souvenirs (they took VISA credit cards). It had stopped raining by the time we left.

We stopped in a town for Steve to get some cash from an ATM - it was raining when we stopped. We drove to the next town and stopped for lunch. It was a buffet, but the food was cold: beef chunks with carrots and gravy, cabbage and carrots, peas, rice, potatoes, roti, not very tasteful.

There was a lot of mud on the roads, not sure where it came from since the shoulders were lower than the road. We drove slowly up the escarpment at the other end of the Great Rift Valley - some broken down vehicles, a dump truck off the road on its side, no passing lanes, so you had to wait for a break in the traffic heading the other way before you could pass the heavy trucks. Did I tell you that the Kenyans drive on the wrong side of the road? Their driver sits on the right side of the vehicle.

As we drove along, a shepherd and goat were standing by the side of the road. Just as we got there the goat ran into the road and hit our van, there was no way to avoid it. Patrick drove us past a tea plantation - we must have driven for 25 minutes with tea plants on each side of us, miles of them. Then we drove past a coffee plantation but the coffee bushes weren't as numerous (maybe 5 minute drive).

We drove on, eventually arriving in Nairobi. We stopped at the safari headquarters to finish paying for it. I saw a Domino's downtown. There were 2 herds of cattle on the sidewalk, walking away from town - the Maasai bring their cattle to eat grass next to the road during the day and then drive (walk) them home at night.

Then Patrick delivered us to this hotel, where our suitcase we had left here was returned to us. I ordered a sheet - I can't sleep under the heavy duvet (I overheat), so housekeeping came and put a sheet on and removed the duvet.

It was about 70, cloudy/rainy all day.

We ate some supper, leftovers, have been eating too much on this trip! I reorganized the suitcases, dirty clothes in one, clean in the other. Now



we're relaxing, and Steve is working on his sermon for tomorrow - he will preach at a church here.

Random observations: many of the Maasai men wear a above knee length red skirt with a red shirt and a blanket around their shoulders. In fact most Maasai wear a blanket over their shoulders. The men have such skinny legs!

Not many photos today!

Have a good Lord's Day!

God bless you.  
Lynne and Steve



another view of our tent - bathroom is off to the left, sleeping room behind the porch



zebra line-up



Lynne and Steve and our safari van





market day in a town we passed through - the clouds are threatening!



another view of the town



Patrick bought some vegetables at a stand on the side of the road - it's cheaper than in town - cabbages were huge





another town - I think those are houses on the side street (blue doors)



another view of town



Great Rift Valley





No guard rails at the edge of the roads on Kikuyu Escarpment, looking down into the Great Rift Valley



Springs of Life Lutheran Church





school buildings



basketball court



Looking toward the church. Houses (with wash on the line) to right of church





the teens practicing their anthem



getting water from the spring/stream - it's out of focus, sorry!



Pastor and Steve





congregation from Steve's point of view



Uhuru Highway Lutheran Church



Oromo service inside Uhuru Highway Lutheran Church

April 15  
Hello!

Last night, about 11:30, just after we got in bed, there was an announcement: “This is an emergency. Leave the hotel by the closest exit.” It was repeated twice. So we got up, got shoes on, etc., I looked out and it was raining, so put my raincoat on, but didn’t see anyone outside. When we left our room, we noticed that housekeeping was down the hall, so asked them what was going on, and they said it was a false alarm. It would have been nice if they had announced that! So back to bed we went.

This morning we had breakfast in our room (rolls we had been given on airplanes which we hadn’t eaten then). We were downstairs just after 8,



but Gary didn't come to pick us up. Eventually we got a message that they were stuck in traffic. So they showed up about a half hour late.

George, Gary's son, drove us to Springs of Life Lutheran Church. There are frequent speed bumps on the roads. The road near the church was very deteriorated, the worst road we saw in Nairobi. There was a traffic jam a block from the church - buses going each way stopped in the middle of the deteriorated section to let people off, and no one could move. When we drove into the compound, there were houses on the right side. I saw many people bring a bowl or pitcher and get water from a spring (?), stream (?) at the top of a hill. It wasn't a well.

First Gary took us to the toilet - this was a ceramic bowl with a hole in it, in the floor, simple Chinese toilet, no toilet as we know one. Yuk! It's what the school children and church members use. We looked at the outside of the school (kindergarten thru primary), the basketball court had a puddle that covered 3/4 of it. Everywhere there was mud and more mud! (A truck was stuck in the mud and they were working to free it - they did succeed after a while.)

The government had given the land to the church. The people built the church, then the pastor's house. There was a building there but the roof had fallen in. A prior Pastor - American - had badly damaged the congregation. It is making a great recovery. The church paid for fixing the building which became the beginning of the school. Eventually they added another building which became the primary school - it now goes up to 8th grade. The government supplies the teachers. On Friday there is religious education.

We then went into the church. The jalousie windows in the church are open, so birds have built their nests high up by the ceiling. They flew in and out during the service. A woman was wiping the altar, then added the paraments. The choir was practicing. At one point I went outside and saw the teenagers standing in a circle outside, practicing a song, didn't see any adult directing them.

<http://www.springsoflifelutheranchurchkib.insideke.com>

For more information you may contact the Pastor in Charge/Elders

Pastor Bakari Keya  
Development / Web Fund-raising : Richard O.Ngare  
Email:springslutheranchurch@gmail.com

<http://solutheran-kibera.blogspot.co.ke>

Springs of Life Lutheran Church - Kibera

The service started at least a half hour late. The congregation sang with enthusiasm. I lost track of how many different groups sang - the youth was one, the choir another, 5 women another, a couple of groups from the congregation, at least 2 soloists. They all sang and moved their bodies with much emotion (Africans like to move their bodies when they sing.) The Coptic people are very staid. At one point I was called to the front of the church and asked to say a few words - that was unexpected! After a couple of more songs, Steve preached. The pastor translated it into Swahili - though English is also a spoken language here. I guess the service was about 3 hours long. It was standing room only, I guess about 200 there. Most everyone took an envelope and brought it forward with an offering. At the end, everyone went outside and stood in a circle for a final benediction.

It was a beautiful day (despite predictions of overcast skies), about 75°. We met with Gary and the pastor of the church and the head of the church afterwards in the shade of some trees. Eventually 2 women came out. One had a pitcher of water and a large bowl - she poured water on our hands (over the bowl) and then gave us a towel - they believe in washing hands before eating. The other woman had a plate with a loaf of wheat bread slices, she offered them to us. She also had a soda for each of us. I don't know if this was supposed to be a snack or a meal, but just bread and soda, no butter, jelly, etc. - different than what we are accustomed to!

After chatting for over an hour, we left. George drove us to Uhuru Highway Lutheran Church (the cathedral of ELCK Lutheran churches here). There

was a service going on - it was in the Oromo language. Earlier there was a service in English and a service in Swahili. The choir was practicing in one of the rooms of the building there. Gary's other 2 sons came out and we met them.

George drove us back to the hotel which is on the grounds of the airport. There is a gate far out from the terminals. Everyone but the driver must exit the car, walk through a building, put everything in your hand (purse) through the x-ray machine, walk back out, wait for the car and driver to be checked by a guard before we can get back into the car. You must take a ticket to then enter the grounds. So you have to pay for driving on the airport roads, even if you don't park.

We relaxed, read the Baltimore Sun newspaper online, I did some cross stitching. We went to one of the restaurants to eat dinner - shared an order of roasted lamb with vegetables and French fries and rolls.

We fly back to Addis Ababa tomorrow.

Thank you to all who are praying for us. We are praying for you.

God bless you.  
Lynne and Steve

April 16

Greetings from the Jupiter Bole Hotel in Addis Ababa!

4 p.m.

It's our third time here, they welcome us back each time. We had room 303 our first time here, 403 last time, now in 103, always next to the elevator. This room seems a bit smaller, don't know why that is, and the bathroom is certainly smaller. They have added the next ceiling to the building under construction behind us while we were in Kenya, so they're making progress.

This morning we ate some leftover rolls for breakfast, packed. The limousine shuttle from the hotel took us to the airport. We checked in, then sat in the corridor rather than going to our gate - we couldn't get out from



the gate to use the restroom or see the shops. I looked for souvenirs in several shops, the farther I went, the cheaper the same merchandise (a magnet was \$8 in the first shop, \$5.50 in the farther one). I bought a few more souvenirs (had to use up that Kenyan money! - actually we still have some left).

We went through security again to get to our gate. (You need to go through security to enter the airport.) Our plane was at Gate 9 though it was listed as Gate 8. We walked down the steps outside, then up the steps into the plane. But I couldn't find my boarding pass, searched through my purse, pulled out the boarding pass from our last flight from one jeans' pocket, finally found it in the other pocket, so I could fly. We again had the last seats in the plane, row 33. They served us airplane lunch: beef chunks, rice with carrot chunks, bean salad with a mustard dressing, roll, crackers, butter, cream cheese, cranberry granola bar.

We finally got off, waited for a bus to take us to the terminal. Then there was confusion as to where we were supposed to go, waited in line, he said we needed a visa, so had to go to another place, got that (\$100 for 2 of us), back to same guy (fortunately the group ahead of us moved quickly through so didn't have to wait long). Then we went to baggage claim, but our suitcase never came. We finally asked someone, he said our suitcase was being sent international. We had specifically said that we wanted it in Addis, even though she gave us our tickets for tomorrow's flight.

So the guy tracked down our suitcase, had it delivered to Terminal 1 where we were (it was at Terminal 2). We wanted to get the shuttle to our hotel, but knew it was at Terminal 2, so we dragged our suitcases there (several detours for construction). Steve went up the steps to ask if he could go in to have the hotel shuttle called while I stayed at the bottom with our suitcases. I turned around, and there was Bayuh, our Ethiopian guide! He had been waiting 2 hours for us, was frustrated when we didn't show up! We didn't expect him. He brought us to the hotel.

I'm glad I choose to wear one of Steve's shirts today - he packed more than I did. I only had one short sleeved shirt left and I want to wear it on the plane tomorrow. I have 2 long sleeved shirts but they would have been too heavy. It was 75 and sunny, hot in the airplane!

So now we have to wait until 10:30 p.m. (3:30 p.m. Eastern time) tomorrow for our flight to Dulles. We will land in Dublin to refuel around 7 a.m. (their time) and in D.C. at 8:45 a.m. Wed. Please continue to pray for a safe trip for us. We will meet the President, Mekane Yesus Seminary for lunch tomorrow here.

It's now 9 p.m. We've relaxed in our room, ate some leftover rolls for supper. Steve napped, I worked on cross stitch.

Hope you are all well!

God bless you.  
Lynne and Steve



Sunday dinner: lamb chops, vegetables, French fries, roll





Kenya, from the air 4/16



approaching Addis Ababa - all harvested farmland so looks brown

April 17 Addis Ababa

Greetings!

8:30 a.m.

I awoke at 5 a.m. - smells are coming from something cooking in the kitchen, people walking down the steps (in Europe and Africa, the ground floor is what we call the first floor, so being in room 103 means we're on the second floor here).

We went down for our complimentary breakfast: crepes, omelet (cooked to order), moussaka, 3 kinds of rice (green, white, yellow), lots of fresh fruit (which may contain bacteria which our bodies can't deal with), rolls, beans, mushrooms, etc. Now we're trying to pack, deciding what we may need on the plane (meds), etc.

We've walked a lot less on this trip than we normally walk, so wondering how much weight we've gained. We ate better also! When we were at Osero Camp, it was about 500', to our tent, but aside from walking on rocks at Lalibela and to the monastery churches in Lake Tana, we really haven't done much exercise.

Hi!

4 p.m.

We stayed in our hotel room until check-out time. Then we came and sat in the lobby. Professor Bruk, president of the seminary here, came and ate lunch (buffet) with us - Steve wanted to talk with him - he's a friend of a man we know in the U.S. The buffet was mostly cold, not real great. The electricity went off and on several times while we ate, it's back on now.

I've been working on cross stitch. I also walked up and down the steps (twice now) and down the halls (only 8 rooms on each floor so not very long halls) just to get some exercise. I figure I've walked about 1500 steps so far, not very many!

It's been raining a bit, still about 70, sun is out again.

We leave for the airport about 6 p.m.

Hello again,

8 p.m.

We're at the airport, waiting to board our plane. The only planes in Ethiopia are Ethiopian Airlines - in Kenya there were planes from other countries.

We took the hotel shuttle to the airport. It took a while to get thru the lines (check-in, customs). We're now in the waiting area. We leave in 2 1/2 hours.

I was hungry so insisted that we eat - that was a mistake. There was a buffet for \$25 each, but nothing looked good to me. We found another restaurant which also had a menu, ordered one order of noodles and beef, had just enough Ethiopian cash to pay for it (couldn't afford coffee to go



with it). We're out of money! They didn't take credit cards. The noodles and beef were full of black pepper, much more than I can eat, so Steve ended up eating the whole thing. I got some crackers out of my bag, added cream cheese to them, and I finally felt better. I'm looking forward to being home tomorrow and eating American food which agrees with my stomach!

Sorry, no photos today - the hotel wasn't interesting enough to take photos!

Oh, how blessed we are in America! We take so much for granted! Some blessings I've thought of:

- \*water: we don't have to walk a couple of miles to the well to wait in line to pump water into our container and then carry 25+ pounds of water home every day, or more than once a day! And our water is pure, no diseases in it. Here we had to carry bottled water everywhere, could not use water from a faucet.

- \*bathrooms: our toilets, showers are only a room away. No having to go to public toilets or using a hole in the ground. We can take showers whenever we want.

- \*no mud: I can't figure out how the people stay so clean when there is mud everywhere, especially in the slums. But the people and their clothing appear clean. The people at the last church all were nicely dressed, though I'm guessing most live in the slum. Springs of Water Church is located in the largest slum in Africa!

- \*houses: our roofs are not corrugated metal which makes the house hot or thatched so rain can make its way in after a while. We have large homes (I'm guessing 8+ families could live in our house, judging by how large their houses are and there are only 2 of us!).

- \*diseases: we don't risk getting malaria or water-borne diseases.

- \*food: we don't have to slaughter an animal and dress it in order to eat. We have so many choices of food to eat.

- \*schools: we don't have to pay to send our children to (public) school. Our children wear shoes (Patrick, our last guide, said he didn't wear shoes to school until he had gone to school for 7 years!) and don't have to go barefoot and risk injuring their feet. Many people go barefoot here (of course, it is warm year round here).

- \*cars: there are very few privately owned vehicles, so we would all be jammed into public buses/vans and waiting for them to come.

\*food: it was not as spicy as we expected. Most of the restaurants where we ate cater to European tastes, so there was little Ethiopian food offered. But we couldn't eat any of the fresh fruit or vegetables (which looked delicious) because they may have bacteria which would upset our stomach.

This was a very interesting trip, much different than most of our vacations, which have been to Europe, New Zealand, Tahiti, Russia, China. The best part of the vacation was being with Steve. Seeing the animals wandering free, rather in cages as in zoos, was exciting. Seeing the ancient churches of Lalabela was interesting. We are blessed that we can travel.

Looking forward to being home tomorrow! Not looking forward to 18 hours in an airplane!

God bless you.  
Lynne and Steve

April 18 Trip End

Greetings from HOME!

Finally!

We waited for 3+ hours at the airport in Addis Ababa last night. 11 minutes before the plane was scheduled to leave, the first group was sent down the runway towards the plane. At 10:35, the sign board said "Departed" - no one was on the plane yet! We finally were able to get on, the plane left an hour late.

We were assigned to the bulkhead seats by the door. In an emergency we were to be the ones to open the door. We thank God there was no emergency! But that meant that we had no one directly in front of us, we could stretch out our legs, we could get up whenever we wanted without bothering the person in the aisle seat! It also meant that we had broken tray tables, so it wasn't always easy to balance our food. But the extra space made up for the inconvenience.

We received a dinner at 1 a.m., breakfast at 5 a.m. (I had just gotten to sleep when I awoke to that), a small sandwich at 8 a.m., a small snack (something like large cheerios, a vegan food made with oil) at 1 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m. I really slept very little (have now been awake for 46 hours). We stopped to refuel and get new crew members at Dublin as dawn was breaking. Otherwise our flight was uneventful.

We arrived at Dulles Airport about 20 minutes early, then it took almost an hour to deplane and ride the bus to the terminal. Customs and passport check took barely any time. Our checked suitcase finally arrived and we went out to wait for a shuttle to Hertz. It was much cooler than we've been used to!

We had rented a car to go home (about the same expense as using public transportation without all the hassle and waiting for the next one (subway, different subway, train, bus). We tried 3 cars before we got one to drive away (the first one we couldn't open the back doors to put our suitcases in, the second one wouldn't start, the third one was the charm!)

We drove to our daughter Stephanie's home in Brunswick (south of Frederick) to visit her husband Greg and granddaughter Joanna for a little while. I hate the D.C. beltway, and Brunswick isn't far out of the way and it means we skip the D.C. beltway. We had a nice visit with them (Stephanie was at work.). Then we drove home, arriving at 2 p.m.

We've done a little of this, a little of that, I washed a load of clothes, unpacked one suitcase, went through the mail, paid the bills, returned the rented car, went to the bank. Hopefully we will sleep well tonight.

We thank God for a safe and enjoyable trip. We thank God for you who came along with us. Hope you enjoyed the trip, saved some money in your travel budgets, learned a few things. Thank you especially to those who sent encouraging words and comments about our trip.

May God bless you.  
Lynne and Steve





Dublin Airport 7 a.m.



snow in Canada



Joanna, our favorite (and only) granddaughter



I enjoyed seeing the flowering trees, redbud, white cherry, pink cherry, magnolia, as we drove home.



our magnolia tree was cut down 2 years ago, this is a shoot from it in our backyard.



one section of our pretty backyard







one of our souvenirs (most expensive one we ever purchased) - a solid piece of wood -  
I thought it interesting that the Holy Spirit is shown above the manger

April 11

1120 am Terminal 2 Ethiopian Airlines 304

Seat: 33B, 33A | Confirm or change seats with the airline\* 2h 10m duration

1:30 pm Nairobi (NBO) meet w Ngare and hopeful for dinner

Lazizi Premiere Hotel <http://www.thelazizihotels.com>

April 12

Safari <http://www.naturaltoursandsafaris.com> Masai Mara Safari The 3 day wildlife tour is rich in diversity and includes game viewing drives in search of the Big 5, awesome landscape of the Masai plains and cultural encounters of the Masai tribes-people

Tour transport including game viewing drives is in shared pop up top customized safari minivan

April 13 on Safari

April 14 Lazizi Premiere Hotel <http://www.thelazizihotels.com>

April 15 Sunday ELCK church <http://www.uhlc.org> Record and transcript Sermon  
dinner with iPhone Laptop Record and transcript conversation because of LCMS  
accusations ask Lynne to open prayer take KofK booklets other tracts agenda

1 what should I know @ your church

2 tell about Okwir before Public letter

April 16 11:35 am Terminal 1C Ethiopian Airlines 303

Seat: 33B, 33A | Confirm or change seats with the airline\* 2h duration

1:35 pm Addis Ababa Terminal 2

long days mail public letter

Mailing SED Email list form Esther in Email lists folder if there are kick back not able to  
deliver go to file and remove

April 17 10:35 pm Terminal 2 Ethiopian Airlines 500

Dublin 1 hour stop

April 18 8:40 am Dulles (IAD) Total Duration 17h 20m

Hertz Confirmation H60628960B2 IT # 7337461927955

Drop-off Apr 18, 12:00pm 1777 East Joppa Rd, Towson, Maryland ELCK



EECMY Church & Sem [https://www.google.com/maps/place/Ethiopian+Evangelical+Church+Mekane+Yesus+\(EECMY\)/@8.9659974,38.7305349,16.62z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0xf270ad55cd3a4d6a!8m2!3d8.966644!4d38.7329332?hl=en-US](https://www.google.com/maps/place/Ethiopian+Evangelical+Church+Mekane+Yesus+(EECMY)/@8.9659974,38.7305349,16.62z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0xf270ad55cd3a4d6a!8m2!3d8.966644!4d38.7329332?hl=en-US)

