



# Merry Christmas !

*"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."*

*Matt. 1:21*



**The Sturgeons - December 2015**

Jose, Jessica, Audri, Isaiah and Isabelle

Check Out Our Blog: [AddisAddventures.weebly.com](http://AddisAddventures.weebly.com)



*Our Favorites.....*

José – Driving in Addis Ababa traffic

Jesi – All the new relationships that have been made and built.

Audri – Injera, Shiro, Tibbs, Bulgoggi, Kimbap, Macchiatos

Isaiah – Less Homework!

Isabelle – Playing outside!

The Sturgeons would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New year from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia! Our lives have been very different since September; different in a blessed and exciting way. We are excited to say that we are now currently residents of Ethiopia and official staff/teachers at Bingham Academy! It has been a roller coaster of emotions for each one of us as we are continuing to adapt to the newness of our ministry, the culture, the food and just living in Addis Ababa.

José is keeping himself busy here at Bingham with supervising 2 advance math classes for Junior and Senior students in High School. He has also taken over the Events Coordinator position which keeps him busy with the many events planned, some of which are the Joseph Musical, Track and Field and Homeschool Events. He supplements his time by helping out with small projects for fellow staff members, being a substitute in various classrooms, sports activities and spending time in the city.

Jessica not only teaches Math, Social Studies, Art, Library and P.E. for Grade 1 but she is also teaches various Art and Library classes for KG1, KG2, Grade 2 and Grade 3. This is her first official full-time teaching position since her Student-Teaching days. Jessica enjoys spending her time exploring Addis and seeing new places.

Audri is enjoying being at school here at Bingham. She has made many friends and really enjoyed her class trip to Northern Ethiopia. She was able to apply her dancing skills in the school's production of Joseph. Isaiah is adjusting well to his new class and is making friends. He enjoys the freedom that living on the Bingham Academy campus affords him. Isabelle turned 8 while here in Ethiopia, the first Sturgeon birthday celebrated overseas. She enjoys playing outside in the beautiful Addis weather.



### *Our Challenges.....*

José – Successfully balancing so much social time with family time

Jesi – Seeing the poverty and struggles that many people here in Addis face on a daily basis

Audri – Having a 3-week Christmas Break away from friends

Isaiah – Ethiopian Food

Isabelle – Missing good gluten-free food



*We were blessed to be able to join with the Gerards, another family serving here at Bingham, to celebrate Thanksgiving this year. It was a good time of fellowship with chicken, potatoes, salad, green bean casserole, stuffing, cranberries, pumpkin pie and apple crisp!*

*HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING!*

## *Our Experiences so far.....*

We have had the distinct pleasure to experience so many different cultural and social blessings in the past 3 short months. There is so much we would like to share with you and look forward to doing so when we have a chance to see you, talk with you or Skype. Here are some of the most notable observations and experiences.

We love working here at Bingham Academy and all the ministries and opportunities it provides. We have gotten to know so many fellow staff members and their families. It has been a great opportunity to be able to live in a community with others who have heard and followed God's calling to Bingham.

Horizon Boys is a ministry that reaches boys and young men in the community of Kolfe. This program provides an opportunity for these boys to play games/sports, receive occasional meals and clothing (when available) and most of all hear about the life changing message of the Gospel and how far he was willing to go to rescue us. Specific support and clothing donations are welcomed and appreciated by both the staff and the kids who receive them.

Each day we are able to see God at work in the lives of the students we encounter. There is chapel that happens each week and we are blessed to be able to work at a school where the name of Jesus is mentioned and emphasized in all areas of sports and education. We hear many stories and have personally witnessed the hunger that many of the kids have to the Gospel. This openness is the reason why we are here! We have a time during staff devotions each morning where we hear about specific students, understand where they are in their spiritual journey and pray for them as a staff.

Jose made a special connection with an 11<sup>th</sup> Grade student while subbing for a Bible Class. While the lesson itself was meant to stimulate discussion and learning, the student inquired about the possibility of starting a weekly Bible Study during the lunch period. He said that the Bible became clear and interesting to him in an entirely different way.

Jessica has been able to bring the lessons learned in chapel into the classroom lessons and to how each student can apply what they learn to their own lives in a practical way. She is blessed to be part of a woman's group on Thursdays where there are devotions, prayer and fellowship.

## *Support our Ministry!*

We want to thank our current supporters; those of you who have richly blessed us with financial support and annual gifts over the past 3 years of our journey. Without your continued support we would not be able to be here in Addis. Thank you also to those of you who have blessed us with special gifts over the years as well. These gifts always seem to show up when they have been needed the most and are a blessing and encouragement to all of us here in Ethiopia.

We are currently in need of monthly supporters to help us stay a second year at Bingham. While we currently have funds to support our time here this year, we will have to plan to return to the United States to secure funding for the second year, cutting into the funds that we have set aside for travel and emergencies. We currently have a deficit of 45% (\$1,400/month) for next year. Right now Bingham Academy is experiencing a severe shortage of teachers and staff for next year. We hope to be able to confirm our commitment before the end of this school year.

## *How do I become a financial supporter?*

A link to begin your support is posted below. Thank you so much for your prayers and support! We want to wish you a Merry Christmas and pray that this New Year will bless you in new and amazing ways!

-The Sturgeon Family

<https://give.teachbeyond.org/support/sturgeons>