

The distraught mom grabbed my hand to show me that her six month old son couldn't move his neck. The diagnosis, which had eluded us two hours ago in this rural Ethiopian clinic, was now clear. Meningitis. Without prompt treatment, the infection around his brain would kill him. Though we lacked the equipment, lab tests, and medications we were accustomed to, we used our small supply of antibiotics to treat the most common types of meningitis. We waited and prayed for him to recover; each time we checked on him we weren't sure if he would be alive. Twenty four hours later he began to turn the corner, and two days later he was well enough to travel home with liquid antibiotics.



Kristi examining a sick patient



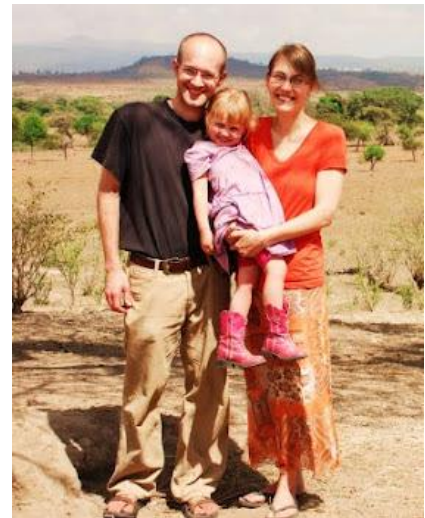
Typical homes in Langanu

Experiences like this during a trip to Ethiopia in April 2011 confirmed that we feel called to live and serve overseas. Now, after years of thinking about it, we're finally moving to Ethiopia, East Africa! Together with SIM, an international mission organization, we will share the love of Jesus, encourage and teach people who want to learn more about God, and provide medical care in an extremely underserved area. We plan to serve in Ethiopia long-term, but our initial commitment with SIM is for two years.

We will live in Langanu, a rural subsistence farming community near a lake in south central Ethiopia. The clinic we'll work at is staffed by two nurse practitioners from the USA and five Ethiopian nurses. When we join the team we will be the first doctors to work there, which is pretty intimidating!

The adventure in Langanu begins sometime between January and July of 2013. Our departure timing depends mostly on Ethiopian government paperwork and raising financial support. In the meantime, Matt is working as a Family Medicine doctor at a clinic in Owatonna, MN while Kristi works at home caring for Charlotte and our new baby, Mercy (born August 14)!

We will keep you updated with regular newsletters, but check out our website at www.FloreksInEthiopia.weebly.com for more frequent stories and other exciting stuff! Click on the tabs along the top of the website to read all about Langanu, see pictures from the clinic, follow our blog and see pictures of baby Mercy! Please let us know if you have any questions; we'd love to talk to you in person or on the phone!



Our family in Langanu, 2011