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We wish you a blessed time of Christmas 2025 and New Year of 2026!
With warm greetings the “Palmus of Ethiopia”, Anna-Kaarina and Matti



The Lucia-Choir of the nearby Public School presented a beautiful programme at Helsinki Mikael Agricola Church in December 2025

Vantaa, Finland, December 23, 2025

Dear friends,

Warm greetings from Southern Finland. There is no White Christmas in the Southern part of Finland this year. Sadly, we have had rains in these days, thus even the slight signs of the snow have disappeared.

In country travels

In Finland we have travelled very little. We have visited our youngest son's family in Tampere (180 km. from here). Also we have visited our second youngest son's family in Kuopio (400 km. north from here). At the end of August, we participated the annual Felm Seniors' Gathering at the Felm centre Päiväkumpu in Orivesi (north from Tampere). In July we participated in the FLM Annual Conference in Ryttylä (75 km. from here). Otherwise, our travels have been in or around Helsinki.

Family

Our firstborn is **Outi** (Osaye in Hadiya language in Ethiopia), the Psychiatric nurse. She is living at Espoo, near Helsinki, and working in various places around Helsinki. She is living alone.

Lauri (Fasika in Amharic), the Missionary Pastor, has been serving with his family in Japan since 2005. They started their present working period in August 2023. Two of the Japan family's grown-up children study now at the University in Finland.

Our second youngest, the Electrical Engineer, is **Jouni** (Senbetu in Amharic). Jouni's family at Kuopio has grown smaller, too, since two of their grown-up children have already started their university studies. - The youngest daughters of both Lauri and Jouni are now High School students, one in Japan, the other one in Kuopio.

Sauli (Tamiru) is our youngest child, the Paediatrician at Tampere University. Sauli's family lives in Tampere. The two boys are at grades 10 (i.e. High School grade 1) and grade 8, active in sports.

We the old ones are settled here at Vantaa, 15 km. from Helsinki City Centre. During this Christmas we are hoping to see all the in-Finland family members here at our home. The Japan-family students will spend the Christmas Eve, December 24, with us at home and our local Congregation. All the other family members are coming to us for the Family Gathering at Boxing Day, December 26.

Cycling, exercise, health

Anna-Kaarina has been regularly **water-running** (in the swimming hall) after the summertime. In 2025 **Matti has cycled** 6.300 kilometres.

Anna-Kaarina had a knee operation in May, 2024. She got an artificial knee-joint then, and the result has been good. But presently she is suffering from spinal stenosis, which is not reparable with surgery. This makes her life quite painful.

- Since 2009 we have had a small Allotment Garden Cottage nearby, about two kilometres from our home. We spent again the summer (June-July-August) there.

Congregation

Our **Local Church is Vantaa-Myyrmäki** (part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland). Our main Church building was thoroughly renovated 2019-2024. The church is now very actively used for various activities.

During the covid pandemic all the local congregations learned to stream online their Sunday Services to the internet. Many local churches, including ours, have continued the streaming on Sundays, but in many places not every week. This kind of hybrid-system is one of the positive outcomes of the past covid pandemic. This is what we hear also from Nepal, how they went online with Family Ministry trainings. Thus, there the covid became partly a blessing!

In our local Church we have a **monthly Friendship Mass in Finnish&English**. There are many nationalities present there, approximately speakers of at least 10 languages monthly. There is also a Bible Study for immigrants after each Friendship Mass.

Meeting missionaries

We have two kinds of monthly meetings of missionaries here. **In the beginning of each month the Ethiopia-missionaries gather in an Ethiopian Restaurant for a meal** in Helsinki. God willing, next time we gather on Saturday, January 10, 2026, right at the end of the Ethiopian Christmas day week.

The other monthly one is the **gathering of any-country-missionaries living within our local congregation area** here in Western Vantaa.

We wish you a peaceful Christmas season of 2025 and a really blessed New Year 2026. Thank you for the friendship – let us stay connected!

Yours in Christ, *Anna-Kaarina and Matti*, the “Palmus of Ethiopia”



Ethiopia Missionaries at Palmus, from left Anna-Kaarina Palmu, Elsa Sysser, Kaisa Huttunen, Kirsti Viitasaari, Elisa Blomberg, Tuula Sysimies, Maija Hakulinen, Mirja Saksa, Eeva and Ernst-August Gutt (and behind him Eeva) and Seppo Vehko



Other Missionaries visiting the Palmus in December 2024. Work countries (from left) 3xAngola, Japan, Russia, 2x Angola and Ethiopia,