

Addis Ababa Bible Training Institute Report

Culture, Christmas, and School Break Timing



The Students of AABTI are on a 3-week break. Here in the US, we would call it “Christmas Break,” yet their break is from January 1-27 and is roughly eight months early for their “New Years” (Enkutatash) celebrations. And they celebrate Christmas on our January 7th based on our “Gregorian” calendar and adjusting for their “Julian” calendar it is, January 7, 2020. Culture can be confusing!

The picture above is of one of our students with part of his family in the Jajura area of Southern Ethiopia. We’ll report more on their break time after they have returned.

My wife Deborah and I are busy emptying our house as the closing for its sale is January 31st. We will be transitioning to a very downsized dwelling behind our daughter’s family’s house in Columbia, TN. That will then become “home base” for us. As things

are developing it will be mid-March before we will be back in Ethiopia.
I am very much looking forward to being back.

This will be a “short” report from my perspective, but I am going to copy and paste an AI generated poem about “Enkutatash” (Ethiopian New Year) to surprise both you and me at the result of melding an ancient culture with a very modern AI effort at Poetic expression – fashioned for Western minds.

Blessings to all,

Jim Wilson

****Enkutatash Blossoms****

In the highlands of Ethiopia,

Where the sun kisses the earth gently,

And the hills echo with ancient
whispers,

Enkutatash arrives like a golden dawn.

The fields, once parched and weary,

Now blush with tender green shoots,

As if the earth herself dons a new robe,

Woven from hope and dew-kissed
dreams.

Children dance in circles, their laughter

Rising like incense to the heavens,

Their eyes wide with wonder,

As they weave garlands of marigolds.

The air carries the scent of roasted
grains,

And injera, the spongy bread, graces
tables,

Shared among family and friends,

A communion of love and gratitude.

And when the sun dips below the
horizon,

Casting shadows on the ancient stones,

The people raise their voices in song,

Welcoming the New Year with open
arms.

Enkutatash—where time bends,

And history intertwines with the
present,

May your days be as fresh as morning
dew,

And your heart bloom like the
wildflowers.

Happy New Year, Ethiopia!