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## Update From The Brants

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Do your missionaries always tell the good stories -- and leave out the bad? If so, how would you know to pray for them and the work they represent?

If you get this letter, it is because we owe you a huge "Thank you" for helping us financially over the past few months. We were at a church recently that has supported us faithfully over our entire missionary career! Can you imagine? Long ago we learned to look to the Lord for His provision -- but we know he uses human instruments like you -- and so we thank you in Jesus Name.

We are fine. Actually we are thriving. This spring we have had so much fun working on our yard. The lady who sold us this house was an amazing gardener and planted dozens of flowering bushes. We have added blueberries, roses, and a raised garden with all kinds of vegetables. We love it.

Now to the news about Gurage ... the people we serve in Ethiopia. As you know we visited there this past Feb/March. We heard a few whispers of problems in the local church and in the leadership of the church at large. But after we got back here we started getting letters from various sources indicating that there are some serious problems going on. Some of the leaders have taken on secular jobs, which is not bad in itself, but it seems that they are getting more and more entangled with their business and leave the church matters unattended. For this reason giving in the church has dropped off and salaries of church workers (and some teachers) have not been paid. Accusations are flying... there is trouble in the church.

As you have prayed for us now for many years, would you ask God to restore peace to the Gurage church leaders. Things have been so positive up until now, but it is an old tactic of the devil, if he cannot discourage them from the outside through persecution and hostility, to turn brother against brother... and to use money and position to divide leadership.

On a more positive note, a church in Port Orchard, WA just sent over a young couple. Daniel Hageman had been there before when we were there and loved the people (and vice versa). He got married not too long ago and took his new bride with him to have a look --- with the possibility that they might be called to go and work among the Gurage people on a more permanent basis. Pray for the Lord's leading in their lives.

Thank you for standing with us in the battle for the souls of men and women far away -- half way around the world. Many of you have your own burdens so thank you for standing with the Gurage church as well at this time.

Sincerely,  
*Howie and Jo-Ann Brant*