



# Heart of Compassion Missionary Ministries Newsletter

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## Through the Middle East to Africa

On our journey to Ethiopia, we had the opportunity to stop over in Dubai; one of the seven emirates of the United Arab Emirates in the Middle East.



It is strategically positioned in the middle of the 10/40 Window; an area where the predominant religion is Islam. Since it's against the law to proselytize or attempt to convert anyone to another religion in Dubai, we were cautious as we walked throughout the area. Even so, God can use the smallest acts of kindness as seed to show people His love. The Bible says, *"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow."* Amen.

## If you're not called to go, Serve as a Sender

After our short layover in Dubai, we were on our way to Ethiopia. As we travelled to Ethiopia, I was reminded of one of my favorite Bible verses. In Romans 10:14-15, the Bible says, *"How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent?"*

The Bodi Tribe lives in the Omo Valley; the southern part of Ethiopia. This area is considered one of the most diverse regions in the world. Each bordering tribe speaks their own language and practices their own customs and beliefs. When a member of the Bodi tribe dies, the men perform a ceremonial death procession and will keep the body safe for three days. After this, the tribe will gather together and *consume the body* as a sign of respect and to ensure passing into the next world.

After reading this, you probably can understand why Christians are called to go into *all* the world to preach the gospel and this is also why we need to support those who go.



There are many people who have yet to hear the gospel. The Bodi tribe is one of them, and it's up to us to do something about it. *If you are not called to go, are you serving as a sender?*

## Helping People, Help Themselves

People in different parts of the world earn a living similarly to how you and I may earn a living in the United States. Some are salesmen, contractors, laborers, farmers, businessmen, doctors, and so on. In almost every occupation, you will find members within these occupations helping each other. As members of the body of Christ, we too must help each other. Currently, we are in the process of helping a ministry in

Ethiopia to help a member of their church by financing the cost of a Bajaj. A Bajaj is a three-wheeled taxi.



The cost to purchase a Bajaj is about \$4,500. This vehicle will help a person in Ethiopia earn an income in the taxi business. The average income that a driver would earn is about \$10.00 a day. Although \$10.00 a day may not seem like much to a person living in the United States, in Ethiopia, the increase is significant, especially when the average wage paid is about \$2.50 a day.

Also, the person earning this income would not only be able to help increase the kingdom of God through their giving in tithes and offerings but would be in a better position to care for their family. We are asking that anyone who is interested in helping a *“disciplined follower of Christ”* to please make their tax deductible donation to Heart of Compassion Missionary Ministries. As we receive your donations, we will continue to provide updates of the progress of this new business venture.

## What’s for Dinner... Raw Meat!

The Ethiopian people are very friendly and hospitable. In fact, each time that we visited a person's home, we were asked to eat *their most favorite* traditional food; injera. In an effort to turn the tables around, we decided to take two orphaned children and their social worker out to dinner.



We thought the two young girls would ask for pizza, chicken, or something other than Ethiopian food. They could have chosen anything they wanted from the menu, since we were paying the bill. Although to our surprise, they wanted something even more traditional than injera--**Kitfo**. What is Kitfo? Raw meat!



Yes, Ethiopians are notoriously passionate about raw meat. Kitfo comes minced with spiced butter, curd cheese, and wedges of a type of banana. Oh, don't forget the injera; no meal is complete without injera!

The two children showed their affection by feeding us some of their food. This is typical for many Ethiopians to do and it is a display of friendship.

## A Donkey Named Gift

During our time in Ethiopia, we ministered at several villages. One place in particular was Garbicha, a village located about thirty minutes from Debre Zeit by truck.

During the service, as we were praising and worshipping the Lord, I noticed a particular young lady whose voice was heard above everyone else's.

After Tracy's message, we asked the people questions concerning their spiritual, physical, and financial needs. While one man was speaking, the same lady whose voice I heard earlier was weeping. When she was given the opportunity to share what was on her heart, her story touched everyone's heart. We learned that she was very poor and her husband was blind. As a result of the problems that her husband was facing, she was now responsible for caring for their baby and taking care of her husband.

To earn an income for her family, she walks two hours, with a large sack of dried cow manure on her back to sell to people in the city of Debre Zeit. For her effort, she earns about 3 Birr, which is less than 30 cents. The *unbelievers* in her village call her “donkey” because she carries her load on her back like a donkey. When people in the village made the comment to her, she said, *“I know that my God will answer my prayers and*

*deliver me from the burden that I bear.”* And God did!

Because of **YOUR** donations to Heart of Compassion Missionary Ministries, we were able to purchase a donkey for this young lady. After we gave her the donkey, she immediately began praising and thanking God for hearing her prayers.



I asked her what she was going to name the donkey, she said, “Sitotha”, which means Gift. I told her we all carried a big burden on our backs, but God saw that we needed help and that is why He sent His Son, Jesus, to take the burden of sin off our backs. Jesus is our *Gift* that lifted all of our burdens! Amen.

### **We have a Rod but We Need a Reel!**

**T**here is an old proverb that says, “Give a man a fish; you have fed him for today. Teach a man to fish; and you have fed him for a lifetime.” This is true when the resources are available. There are many Christian men and women crying out for help throughout the world. They have a desire to start a business but need just a little outside help to get their ideas moving in the right direction. This reminds me of when Apostle Paul saw a vision of a man from

Macedonia that cried out, *“Come over into Macedonia and help us.”* Paul followed the call of God by going to Macedonia rather than to Asia. As a result of his obedience, the gospel is preached throughout Europe to this day! As believers, we must follow God by being sensitive to our inward voice, Holy Spirit, and then obeying Him by going where He says to go and doing what He says to do.

As we heard the cry in our spirit that someone needed our help, it wasn’t long before we realized that the cry was for us to “come over into Ethiopia to help them” and that’s what we did.



Through your donations, we helped purchase a refrigerator, a stove, and an espresso machine to help members of a church generate an income by selling food and coffee to people living in the area. When we return to Ethiopia, we expect to see fruit from the seed that *you* helped sow!

### **The Prayer Covering**

**T**he Bible says, in James 5:16, *“the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”* We thank you for praying for us while we were in Dubai and Ethiopia. Your prayers were effective. How so? Well, there were many situations that we faced that we could write about but the one that stood out the most

occurred on Easter Sunday. *Let me explain.*

The typical hotel in Debre Zeit provides you with a door key that must be given back to the front desk clerk every time that you leave the hotel. Additionally, in many hotels, running water and electricity is very sporadic. Because of this, in many instances, you are unable to shower or flush the toilet...but we made the best of it!

The first hotel that we resided in made it very clear that they’ve already had several robberies and anything that we left behind was subject to be stolen. After one night without lights, we decided to move to another hotel.

The second hotel was somewhat unique because our room had two outside doors that entered into one room. We kept one door locked at all times and used the other door to come in and go out. On Easter Sunday, Linda felt lead to check the door that we never used. To our surprise, someone from the hotel must have unlocked the door because it was unlocked. After relocking the door, we left for the day to celebrate Easter with the pastor, whom was also our host, and his family.

At the time, we didn’t realize that the pastor had informed the hotel workers that we would be staying the night with him and his family, so we wouldn’t have to pay for the hotel room that night. While at the pastor’s home that afternoon, he mentioned that he and his family wanted us to stay overnight. Since we were not prepared, we decided that we would make plans for another day. However, that night, when we returned back to the hotel, the

clerk seemed surprised to see us. She gave us our key and we went up to our room. At 3:30 in the morning, we heard a group of people coming up the stairs talking loudly, in a language that we obviously didn't understand. Suddenly, we heard someone say "room zero", which was our room. Then someone tried to open the door that we earlier discovered had been unlocked. Since we had already locked the door, they then tried the second door, and then back to the first door. After a few minutes of discussion in the hallway, they departed. I went down stairs to report the incident to security but no one was at the reception desk and the front door was locked.

This was clearly a planned robbery by someone who worked at the hotel. God protected us and our property by making sure that our door was locked and by leading us to return back to the hotel that night, rather than the next morning. Whoever it was could have stolen everything, if we had not checked and then relocked the door. Only God knows what could have happened to us, or more so *to them!* After the incident, we moved on to a third hotel which had security around the clock. We thank you for your prayers and for covering us on every trip. We are not afraid of going and doing what God has called us to do, but we do need your prayers.

## **Our Return to the U.S. was Like Night and Day**

**A**fter a two day long flight from Ethiopia to Dubai and then to San Francisco, it took us almost a week to recuperate from the layovers, delays, and extended flight time. Once we arrived home, we thought we were dreaming when we went to the bathroom to see that the pit toilet turned to porcelain! We obviously were not dreaming; we were home.

We thank God for all the conveniences that we have in the United States. Our computers are wireless and are connected to the Internet 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. When we turn on the television, we can see the latest news updates from CNN, BBC, and a variety of other news networks. We have fresh, clean drinking water at the turn of a handle and electricity at the flip of a switch. Unfortunately, for the average person living in Ethiopia, these conveniences are still a distant dream.

During our stay, we dealt with, on and off again, "cold" water for bathing and with having to drink bottled water every day. We had days when electricity was powered by a generator and in many cases no generator at all. There were times that we had the opportunity to use the Internet or telephone, but it was hit or miss whether the connection would last long enough to talk or send a message.

Despite these and many more inconveniences, we are looking forward to going back to Ethiopia *and possibly India*

in October 2010, if the Lord wills.

We know that it's better to be in the will of God and have inconveniences in our life than have all the conveniences that the world has to offer and live in disobedience!

## **Reaching People and Touching Lives Around the World**

**F**inally, we would like to thank everyone for donating to Heart of Compassion Missionary Ministries. Through Christ, we are making a difference, not only in the lives of the *unsaved* but the *saved*, by Reaching People and Touching Lives in Ethiopia, Haiti, *India*, Zimbabwe, and Around the World! Amen.



**"But when He saw the  
multitudes, He was moved with  
compassion for them....."**

**Matthew 9:36**

**Heart of Compassion  
Missionary Ministries, Inc.  
Dr. Tracy and Linda Sharpe  
2401 Waterman Blvd.,  
Ste. A4-142  
Fairfield, California 94534**

**E-mail: [hocmm@hotmail.com](mailto:hocmm@hotmail.com)  
Website: [www.hocmm.org](http://www.hocmm.org)  
Phone: (707) 290-8998**