



Heart of Compassion Missionary Ministries Newsletter

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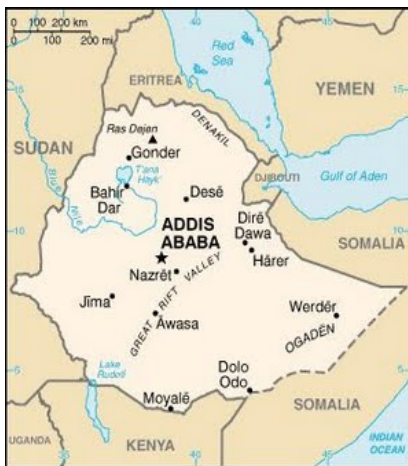
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Our Mission to Ethiopia

We completed our mission to Ethiopia in October 2009. Ethiopia is located in the 10/40 Window and has a population of over 81,520,000 with 50% of the population being children.



The large population of children in proportion to adults is a result of the high number of HIV/AIDS related deaths. Although it was a short-term mission trip, we did not take anything for granted. We thank everyone for keeping us in their prayers.

Thanks for your Clothing Donations!

We would like to thank everyone for donating their clothing for the children of Ethiopia. We packed everything very tightly so that we could get as much as possible in our luggage. The airlines changed the rules so many times concerning how much you can carry that we decided to just pay the additional cost ourselves for being over the allowable weight limit. Although clothes are available in Ethiopia, the quality isn't as good as what we could purchase in the United States. Nevertheless, on our next trip, we may opt to buy the clothes in Ethiopia because we can purchase more for our money. Most of all, the children were very happy to have the clothes; it was a blessing to see their smiling faces.

Our first days in Ethiopia

We arrived safely to Ethiopia; unfortunately our luggage was still in Germany!



Thank God that it only took 2 days before we finally received our luggage. In any case, Ethiopia is a wonderful place and the people are beautiful. The organization we were with provided us with an opportunity to visit with many people. We met people who were hungry; not just spiritually but literally--for food. There are so many people in Ethiopia who just don't have the ability to earn an income because of so few opportunities compared to what we have in the United States. In fact, as I spoke with some of the people in Ethiopia, I realized that it's a

shame how people in the United States complain so much about their circumstances and situations without knowing that there are people in a country around the world who have so much less but still can smile and are so willing to share what little food that they have not knowing how they will get the money to pay for their next meal to feed their family.

Surprising Facts about Ethiopia

The Ethiopian calendar has 13 months! Each month has 30 days and the last month has only 5 or 6 days. New Year's is celebrated in September and there is a 7 year difference with the western calendar. For example, in 2009 it is actually 2002 in Ethiopia--they already had their New Year celebration in September.

The Clock/Time of Day

The Ethiopian clock begins & changes time at first light or at 6am rather than at

midnight. When you ask an Ethiopian what time it is, although, it's 12 noon because the sun is right above your head, they would tell you that it's 6:00 o'clock (in the morning) which is also when the date changes; at 6am rather than 12 midnight. It can be very confusing!

Ethiopian food has a lot of flavor with a wonderful blend of spices. The basic meal usually includes "injera" and "wot". The injera is like our bread and looks like French crepes or pancakes. The "wot" is like a stew that may use all types of ingredients like beef, lamb, chicken, lentils, split peas, potatoes, carrots, spinach, cabbage, and green beans. The injera is used in the place of a fork to pick up the stew and then eat it all together. The key to the flavor of the stew is the spiced butter and berbere powder. There are plenty of dishes for vegetarians and vegans, but the main traditional dish is "doro wot", or chicken stew.

Transportation not what we expected!

Transportation can be difficult in many countries and Ethiopia is no different! In some cases a horse and carriage or a three-wheeled "bajaj" scooter are the best means of transportation.



As we traveled throughout Debre Zeyit, Ethiopia, we realized that the best way to travel once you leave off the primary and only paved road is by horse and carriage or by using a three-wheeled "bajaj" scooter. Since many of the people whom we visited lived off the main road, we either walked or used these alternate modes of transportation to get to their homes.



We also found that walking was a form of relaxation in that we

could really slow down and think about our experiences and how sad that it was to see children and mothers who didn't know where their next meal would come from or whether they would have enough money to pay for shoes for their child. God has really blessed the people of the United States and we have a lot to be grateful for by living in such a great country.

Vitamins are Essential!

Vitamins are an essential element of a diet, especially when a child is not receiving nutritious meals every day. Children in Ethiopia often lack the basic nutrients needed for their bodies. Many mothers don't have money to buy food for their children, the water may not be adequately filtered, and many children don't have access to health care. But a daily vitamin can make a world of difference! We purchased twenty large bottles of children's vitamins

from the United States to give to widows caring for children. Although it was a drop in the bucket, it's better than not having anything at all.



Baptized not by water but by....!

On the last day before departing Debre Zeyit, Ethiopia, I was baptized by a child. Not in the same way that you may think! On the day of our scheduled departure, we accepted an invitation to eat lunch with a family that we met in Ethiopia. The taxi was scheduled to pick us up that afternoon, so there was enough time to have lunch before leaving to the airport. Linda and I both put on our cleanest clothes that morning because we knew that we would be in the airplane for over 18 hours, and we didn't want to offend anyone sitting next us on the

airplane or the person picking us up from the airport once we arrived in the United States.



In any case, our friend picked us up from the mission house to eat lunch with his family at his house. His wife prepared the national meal that all Ethiopians eat; injera with stew. Everything was going well until my friend's son decided that he wanted to sit on my lap. I thought that was nice gesture because on the previous day that I met him, he didn't want to have anything to do with me because I was a new face to him. Anyway, I felt pretty good that he wanted to be close to me. I picked him up and placed him on my leg. I told my wife that "this little boy really likes me!" As I ate lunch with one hand, I balanced my friend's son with the other hand as he sat on my leg. Over a period of time, my leg, where the boy was sitting, began to feel a little warm. I thought...hmmm... it's

probably because he has been on my leg awhile. I continued eating. Again, I began to notice that underneath my leg was feeling a little warm. I still didn't think anything of it. Finally, I noticed that between my legs began to feel warm and also in the chair that I was sitting felt unusual. I lifted the boy up and there it was. I was baptized by pee! Yep, he peed on my cleanest clothes! All we could do was laugh... and we did. I was baptized not by water but by pee!

Our Mission is to Teach People how to Fish!

There is an old proverb that says, "Give a man a 4fish; you have fed him for today. Teach a man to fish; and you have fed him for a lifetime." Our mission is to teach single mothers, widows, and men basic ways that they can earn an income and care for their



families by selling simple items or providing a service. These items may be as basic as selling chicken eggs or as intricate as sewing traditional clothing that could be sold to people living in the United States. Everyone has a gift or skill that could benefit someone else and ultimately



help their family produce an income, but in many cases people just need a little help to get them started. Unlike in the United States, people don't have the availability of receiving small business loans for a business idea. Our goal is to work with people whom God has led us to help by providing microfinancing.

Microfinancing will be in the form of a donation, as little as

\$150.00, to help finance a business idea that someone may have in a developing country. We will assess their skills, help them develop their ideas, teach them some basic business concepts and then help them finance their ideas into income producing businesses. As we plan our next mission trip to Ethiopia, through your donations, we can help people by teaching them how to earn an income and ultimately feed their families for a lifetime-- Amen!

Please Pray for the people of Ethiopia. Pray for the new relationships that we established while in Ethiopia.

Also, continue to pray for the people of Zimbabwe and Haiti. Continue to pray that all spiritual strongholds be lifted. Pray for better living conditions for children throughout the world. Amen!

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

Matthew 9:36

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