



Ebenezer International Ministries, Inc

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Ethiopia: Earlier this month the Don Whitt Evangelistic Association sponsor an evangelism team which worked in the Sodo and Arba Minch areas of Ethiopia. The team consisted of six team members. Despite their small numbers there were able to provide pastors conferences for about 225 pastors, and they saw 37,900 saved. This brings the total saved in Ethiopia in 2018 to 353,000! It is truly amazing what God can do when His Spirit visits a place. Also, thanks to some generous donations of money and materials, the print shop is substantially completed. With so many people being saved, the print shop is a vital part of what we do because it allows us to provide written material to assist these new Christians as they grow in Christ. Work on the multi-purpose building continues.

From the Chairman: We find ourselves in constant spiritual warfare as Satan tries to thwart God's plans for the salvation of Ethiopia. As a wise strategist, he fights on many fronts. That includes the battle for our minds. Sometimes, after considering the multitudes of people who have been saved and the many other things we have experienced in Ethiopia, Satan whispers this nagging question of doubt... "That's all well and good, but what did you really accomplish? Are the people still hungry? Are they still sick? Don't many of them still live in poverty? Did you change their circumstances at all?" And the answer is, "No, we didn't." With few exceptions, when we leave, the poor are still in need, the physically sick are not healed, and the hungry still need food. Admittedly, for most of the Ethiopians that we have encountered, we did not change the circumstances of their lives. Left at that are our efforts are minimized, and we are somewhat demoralized and maybe feeling a little defeated.

But then we are reminded of the truth found in God's word. While humanitarian aid is certainly a worthy endeavor that we should pursue at every opportunity, it is not the focus of our calling. Just like it was not the focus of Jesus' calling. Jesus described His purpose in Luke 4:18. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted; to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed." Did Jesus meet physical needs? Sometimes, but that wasn't his stated purpose. So, the answer to Satan's subterfuge is, "No, we haven't changed the life circumstances of most of the Ethiopians that we minister to. We did something much better. Since we are limited in our abilities and our resources we could accomplish a very limited amount in the way of changing their life circumstances. Instead, we introduced them to the One who knows no limits and is not bound by circumstances. He can provide everything we cannot, and much, much more." Thank you, Lord for the truth of your Word that sustains us. Get behind me, Satan.

Mission Opportunity: As this newsletter is going out I am in the process of writing a proposal for the medical/evangelistic project, 2019, to be held at Crosspointe School in Dukem, Ethiopia, beginning July 9, 2019. The clinic will see children and adults in the community, while at the same time providing teaching from God's Word in a vacation Bible school setting. This year's clinic service will also include dental care. We are praying for a leader for the VBS. Tsedale Tefera, Vicki Waters, and I will work with the leader of the VBS in planning, as we will be operating simultaneously. In thinking and seeking God for a theological statement for the proposal for the clinic and VBS project, the Holy Spirit immediately brought to my mind the Great Commandment (Matt 22:37-40) and the Great Commission (Matt 28:16-20). There could be no greater words and concepts upon which to base the mission and goal of this project. Please contact me by Jan 1, 2019, if you feel God's calling to be a part of the clinic or the VBS. Thank you! Many blessings, Joan Appleton, Secretary of EIM and medical mission leader.

(If you have a change of address please notify us so that we can continue to send our newsletter. The post office will not forward bulk mail.) -over-

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