



Ebenezer International Ministries, Inc

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Ethiopia Update: The time is quickly drawing near for the teams to arrive in Ethiopia. In just a few weeks back-to-back teams will sojourn to the areas of Sodo and Arba Minch. Teams will participate in evangelism, pastors 'conferences, ladies ministries, and prison ministry. We will also dedicate a new church, which was funded by a ladies Bible study group in Milan, TN. This will probably be our largest evangelism effort for the year. Please pray that God will once again bless our efforts with a great harvest of souls. So far this year we have seen over 45,000 Ethiopians receive Christ.

The building supplies that were donated are in transit and should arrive in port in early May. What a tremendous blessing it will be to finally have these materials available to help complete our building projects.

From the Chairman: By the time you receive this Easter will have passed. We buried my father a few days before the writing of this article. His first Sunday in Heaven will be Easter Sunday. Due to the timing of these events, death has been on my mind a lot lately. Although death is a fact of life, and something we will all face, it is a great mystery to us. Let's face it, none of us know anyone (other than Jesus, of course) who ever died and lived to tell about it. So, there is no one to tell us what it is like. At least partly because death is the great unknown, we may experience a myriad of emotions when we deal with it. Sometimes we even experience multiple emotions at the same time. Depending on the circumstances surrounding the death, and the relationship with the deceased we may experience sadness, anger, fear, bitterness, loneliness, disgust, loss, rejection, or resentment. Occasionally, we may experience joy or celebration, but most of the emotions connected with death are negative.

With this in mind the story of the resurrection of Lazarus, as found in John Chapter 11, takes on deeper meaning. In this text Jesus talks about resurrection and eternal life, but there is something else there. In verses 33-38 we see where Jesus experienced deep emotion due to what was taking place, and he even wept. Even though Jesus knew from the beginning that Lazarus would be resurrected, he experienced all of the emotions connected with the passing of a loved one. Wow. Think about it. We have a Lord and Savior that loved us so much that he not only died for us, but he submitted himself to the entire human experience. He can completely identify with us. He knows how we feel. When he asks us to do something that we think is really hard, he knows what he is asking of us. Jesus knows what it's like to be us. Just think, the Lord of the universe can completely identify with men who don't amount to a dust spec in the cosmos. What a wonderful Savior!

Blessings,

Bill

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