



**Ebenezer International Ministries, Inc**

**P.O. Box 606**

**Milan, TN 38358**

**info@ebenezerim.org**

**http://www.ebenezerim.org**

---

Ethiopia Update: When one door closes, another door opens. Ministry opportunities in the Hawassa area of Ethiopia are no longer available, but doors have opened in the areas of Sodo and Arba Minch. After many months of preparation, both in Ethiopia and stateside, teams will be arriving to participate in ministry to these areas, next week. Please pray for these teams. Ministries will include evangelism, pastor's conferences, women's ministry, church dedication and women's prison ministry. It will also give us an opportunity to visit Cross Pointe Christian Academy and the print shop to check on the status of that part of EIM's ministry. This year is lining up to be one of the busiest yet, with other teams being scheduled for July, September, and November.

From the Chairman: Full disclosure. It's something we don't always get, or if you get it you find it somewhere in the small print. Even then the wording may be so sufficiently vague that, even if you can find it, you're not really sure you understand it. So often when we sign some type of contract we're not completely sure what we're buying in to. Fortunately for us the Lord wasn't in to double-talk. He wanted us to fully understand exactly what we are buying in to when we commit to follow him.

In Luke 14:25-35, we find what, at first glance, seems to be some extreme and contradictory demands that Jesus places on those who would be His disciples. Jesus told some people that if they wanted to be His disciples they had to hate those closest to them, bear their cross, and renounce all of their possessions. If a person isn't willing to do these things they can't be Jesus' disciple. Wow, that sounds really harsh. What happened to, "love your neighbor," "honor your parents," and "love your enemies?"

If we take the time to really dig into what Jesus was saying here we find that he wasn't being harsh. He was showing love by voluntarily giving full disclosure. Jesus was telling folks what was expected of a disciple so that those considering a life of discipleship would know exactly what would be required. Jesus wanted potential disciples to know that He would accept nothing less than first place in their lives. Nothing less than complete and total devotion is acceptable. No relationship, no possession, no activity, and no cause is exempt. Jesus will not accept second place in our lives. In addition, we must be willing to take on whatever it is that He has planned for us (bear our cross). So what does it require to be a disciple? It requires a life that is completely subordinated to the will of Jesus Christ. Now for a little full disclosure on your part, how is it going with that commitment you made to discipleship? Does He really have first place?

Blessings,

Bill

**(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.)**

Ebenezer International Ministries, Inc. is a 501©3 corporation. All contributions are tax deductible. For information, or to make contributions see our website at [ebenezerim.org](http://ebenezerim.org), or email us at [info@ebenezerim.org](mailto:info@ebenezerim.org), or send mail to Ebenezer International Ministries, P.O. Box 606, Milan, TN 38358