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Ethiopia Update: Last month we informed you about the great things God has done this year in Ethiopia. Unfortunately, our report is not so positive this time. Since our last newsletter there has been a coup attempt in Ethiopia. As a matter of fact, problems were beginning as our last mission team departed Ethiopia in June. There were some violent clashes in and around the capital city of Addis Abba and the situation was volatile several days. Due to the unstable political situation the medical/dental team that was supposed to arrive in Ethiopia in early July was forced to cancel their trip. Teams scheduled for this Fall are still evaluating whether they will be able to undertake their planned missions. Haile reports that the situation is under control and peace and stability has been restored. Please pray for peace in Ethiopia and pray for wisdom for those who are considering trips for the remainder of the year.

From the Chairman: While reading about Joseph, I noticed in Genesis 39:2 the Bible says, “ and the Lord was with Joseph.” The reason this caught my attention is that, at the time, Joseph had become a slave and was serving in the house of Potiphar. Later, in verse 21, we see the statement, again. At this point Joseph had been falsely accused by Potiphar’s wife and had been placed in prison. So, Joseph’s life was seemingly a disaster. He had been betrayed and sold into slavery by his own brothers, and then he was unjustly put into prison, and the “Lord was with him”. This contradicts what many of us have been taught to believe about God’s presence in our lives. Many of us have the mistaken idea that, as long as God is with us nothing bad will ever happen. Try telling that to Joseph. In fact, if we stop reading here it would be easy to get the idea that having the Lord with us might not be a good thing.

Later, in Genesis 41:38, Pharaoh is quoted as saying, “Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the spirit of God is?” (KJV). At this point Joseph was about to be made ruler of all of Egypt, second only to Pharaoh himself. So, “the Lord was with Joseph” when his life took a drastic turn and he was about to realize one of his greatest triumphs. What can we glean from this? First, just because God’s hand is on our lives, doesn’t mean that we won’t face trials and difficulty. Second, God is not bound by our circumstances. He can take a life that seems to be on a collision course with disaster and, in the blink of an eye, place it on a meteoric course for success. Finally, whether our circumstances are good, or bad God is always there to walk with us through those circumstances. Ministry is so uncertain. There are many setbacks woven through the victories we experience. There is great strength and comfort in the knowledge that the Lord is with us regardless of our circumstances. Regardless of our circumstances He is still Lord.

Blessings,

Bill

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