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NEWSLETTER

Last week, we studied the story of the “Feeding of the 5,000” found in Mark, chapter 6. This is the only miracle recorded in all four of the Gospels, so I have to think that there must be some really important lessons that God wanted us to learn from this story. Indeed, there are several life lessons to be found here, but as I was reading the text, I noted something in verse 34 that sort of jumped out at me. Verse 34 says that Jesus saw the crowd of people that had gathered and “he was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things.” Did you catch that? In this instance Jesus was not moved because the people were poor, or hungry, or sick, or naked. He was moved because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So, who were the shepherds of these people and, where were they? The shepherds of the Israelites were supposed to be the religious leaders, but they had become so arrogant, self-indulgent, and self-centered that they neglected the flock and, at times, actually abused them. The flock suffered because the shepherds had been unfaithful to their God-ordained call to minister to the flock. The people obviously were hungry for God’s word, because when Jesus saw their need, he met the need by teaching them many things.

Reading this passage brought to memory something that occurred in Ethiopia. One day, when one of our evangelism teams was out sharing the Gospel in a small village with dusty streets and numerous poor, and sick, and hungry people, two older ladies came to one of our team members and told them, “we have waited all of our lives for someone to tell us this.” My heart aches every time I recall that incident. These ladies were like sheep without a shepherd, hungry to hear the Word of God.

Sometimes, we are tired, we become complacent and inward focused, and since Ethiopia is so far away it becomes easy for that sense of urgency to wane. Then, I am reminded that, although Ebenezer International Ministries is involved in many important and worthwhile ministries in Ethiopia, it really all boils down to the fact that, we have been given the ministry of shepherds because many of these people have none. Please pray for us that we never lose sight of our calling and that we never lose the shepherds’ heart. Especially pray for Haile, and his family, and staff, because they are on the front line everyday trying to minister to an ever-growing flock.

Bill Anderson, Chairman

Greetings, supporters of Ebenezer International Ministries (EIM),

I am secretary of EIM and truly consider it an honor to be part of an organization whose primary mission is to share the love of God through evangelism and meeting health and living needs as well. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit and seeking God’s will and wisdom, I am leading the medical team for 2018 clinics to be held in Ethiopia this summer. Recruitment has begun. I am praying for God to form a team of medical and non-medical volunteers. There are many jobs to be filled, for example, doctors, all nurses (RNs, Practitioners), Physicians Assistants, nurse assistants; persons to assist in the pharmacy; persons to do paper work; persons to teach about health; and persons to simply talk and pray with both children and adults. Even if it is not possible for you to be a part of the team this summer, please help with getting the word out by speaking with friends, your church congregations, and any other creative ways that come to mind. For now, tentatively, the date is the middle of June. It is important to begin now for planning, as volunteers will need to raise their funds for airfare. All other expenses will be low. Please call, text, or email me with any questions or to tell me you would like to volunteer. Many blessings to you and your family!

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To contact EIM or contribute to EIM (tax-deductible donation): Ebenezer International Ministries, Inc., PO Box 606, Milan, TN, 731-225-4145, <http://www.ebenezerim.org> PayPal available on website.

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