



Ebenezer International Ministries, Inc

P.O. Box 606

Milan, TN 38358

info@ebenezerim.org

http://www.ebenezerim.org

Ethiopia Update: The team from Franklinville, NC will soon be leaving for their mission in the Sodo area. They will participate in evangelism and pastor training. Due to the recent unrest in Ethiopia a major focus of their ministry will include preaching/teaching reconciliation and dispute resolution. Unfortunately, the recent tribal unrest made its way into the local churches and caused disunity within the body. Pray that this team will be an agent of the Holy Spirit to bring healing and unity to the Body of Christ. When this team returns to the States in early February, Haile will be returning with them. January 25, 2019, a medical clinic will be held at Cross Pointe Christian Academy, for in the locals in the town of Dukem, where the school is located. Local Ethiopian nurses will staff the medical team.

Needs: In the December newsletter, we reported that we were about \$1,200 short of the necessary funds to complete construction of the new addition at Cross Pointe Academy so that the Ethiopian government will allow us to begin teaching high school students. We are happy to tell you that the Lord has provided, and this need has been met. We still have a need for funds to ship the ceramic tile that was donated. The projected cost is about \$20,000. This need has been partially met, so we should be able to begin shipping at least part of the tile within the next several weeks.

From the Chairman: As I monitor the daily news regarding the current political situation in our country I am frequently disturbed at the lack of genuineness on the part of many of our governmental leaders. So often they claim to have in mind only the best intentions of the American people, when it is obvious they are really only concerned with promoting themselves and their personal agendas. It's not just politicians. Every time you turn on the television you see numerous ads where companies tell you the main reason they want to sell you their goods or services is because it's in your best interest. They fail to mention they're in business to make money, and the more goods and services you buy, the more money they make.

Today we might call it "being real", but disingenuousness, insincerity, hypocrisy, or whatever synonym you want to use, is not a product of our time, nor is it peculiar to politics and business. It's a character flaw that's been around for a long time, and it's sometimes found in the church. So, what does God think about disingenuousness, especially when applied to spiritual things?

In Acts Chapter 5, the Bible tells us that, in the early days of the church, there was a man named Ananias, and his wife, Sapphira. They had seen how some church members gave sacrificially to meet the needs of church members who were struggling. Their giving was done with sincerity and humility. It brought glory to the Lord and strengthened the church. An unintentional by-product of their sacrificial giving, and their Godly lifestyle, was that they became highly esteemed in the Christian community. Ananias and Sapphira coveted the accolades received by their fellow church members, so they conspired to sell some property and donate part of the funds to the church, but made it appear that they had donated all of the proceeds, thus making it appear that their sacrifice was much greater than it actually was. They were disingenuous in their giving because their real concern was how their giving would benefit them, not how it would build the Kingdom, or benefit their fellow church members in need.

(Over)

They were using God, and His church, to promote their personal agenda, which was to promote themselves. The Bible records that their actions costs them their lives. I think God wants our motives to be genuine. Don't you?

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, or email us at info@ebenezerim.org, or send mail to Ebenezer International Ministries, P.O. Box 606, Milan, TN 38358