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April 2020

From the Chairman:

As I sit down to share with you this month of all that is happening with Ebenezer International Ministries since our last correspondence, we still find ourselves amid the ongoing COViD-19 pandemic. People around the world are still suffering and many are quite anxious either over concerns for the sickness or the timeline for "re-opening" their communities. I have leaned heavily on the promise of Proverbs 3:5,6 these last few weeks, "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Where am I placing my trust? Is it in the Lord, myself and my experiences, the government, a talk show host, or some social media site? If I want direction from the Lord in these most uncertain times I must place my trust in Him and Him alone.

I would like to apologize for the lateness of our newsletter this month, but I wanted to be able to share insight from our EIM quarterly board meeting held April 23rd. Like many during these days we tried something new and were able to use ZOOM for a video conference and were joined by our Executive Director via Messenger. Brother Haile updated us on the COVID-19 effects in Ethiopia and EIM's ministry there. The confirmed number of cases in Ethiopia is a little over 100 with 3 deaths, and we are very thankful the Lord has chosen to spare the country from greater infection thus far. Crosspointe School, as all schools in Ethiopia, remains closed. Work has been able to continue on the conference center, in Addis, and due to the gifts given toward the printing of Bibles, Meskel Minche printing has been able to operate and provide income to its employees. The evangelism and reconciliation work has been limited due to the cancellation of trips in March and May, but for now there are trips scheduled for September and October to continue the work going on in Sodo and the Wolayita region. Please pray with us tthat hese trips will be able to go on as scheduled, and that the Lord will bless the efforts with many souls won to Christ and many leaders trained for the sake of the gospel. Haile and Tsedale are well and confined to the compound at the school, with several of the orphan children, for the most part. Their girls, who were here in the states for school, have found themselves "staying home" in New York (Dee Dee and Abigail) and Virginia (Amen), and are a focus of Haile and Tsedale's prayers. Please join with them in lifting the girls up in prayer.

As part of our meeting on the 23rd, we welcomed a new board member, Mr. Eddie Bolton, a businessman from Milan, TN who was officially voted onto the board back in January, and we added another new member, Pastor Chris Hawks from Hamlet, NC. Both gentlemen have visited the work in Ethiopia and have a great love for EIM, the people of Ethiopia, and Haile and Tsedale. We are blessed to have both are part of our team.

Allow me to close by sharing my gratitude to each of you who continue to pray for and give to the work of EIM. Since January of 2017, EIM has collected and distributed well over \$200,000 for the work in Ethiopia. Due in large part to your faithfulness we have been able to once again this month help with the payroll for the teachers at Crosspointe school. Though we were unable to provide the entire \$9500 payroll again this month as we did in March, we were able to send \$6000 to help with this need. If the Lord would lay on your heart to help provide for our teachers at Crosspointe during this crisis we would be grateful.

May God richly bless you and His work in Ethiopia.

Jeff

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