

Pray for Rain

CMF missionary Erica Carson teaches and ministers to the children of Bingham Academy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, as well as to the street children outside the walls of the school. She sent this update on Ethiopia's drought in late May 2008.

While we don't have four seasons to enjoy in Ethiopia, we do count on two to be consistent – the dry season and the rainy season. It should have rained here the entire month of February, but the rains never came. We had rain for a few days in March, but not nearly enough to sustain the crops this year. So now we find ourselves facing severe drought and the possibility of famine in this country is once again a real and imminent danger, especially in the countryside.

In the city, we feel the effects of the drought in different ways. We are now on extreme conservation routines throughout the city. In my home I have three to four days a week without electricity, although those days come by surprise; I never know which days will be "blackout days." The "juice" cuts off at 7 a.m. and comes back at 10 p.m. Considering it gets very dark by 6:30 or 7 p.m., I've kept the candle companies in business these past few months.

Last week we discovered that we are now on water restrictions as well. I went three days without running water last week. I awoke once again this morning to no water. All of this is merely a frustration for me, and I find ways to cope, but for others, this is a real hardship; I think especially of café and restaurant owners who depend on water and electricity to sustain their businesses. The economy is suffering and tensions within the city are rising to uncomfortable levels. Please pray for us here as we cope with a difficult situation. Pray for wisdom within the government, for peace among the people, and for those in the countryside for whom the drought has caused more than mere inconvenience. We desperately need this rainy season to turn things around for us. Please pray for rain.