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MISSIONARIES TO ETHIOPIA

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Dear Friends,

We send you all New Year's greetings and blessings. We've come back to real life and routine now after a totally blessed holiday time with our two girls. Hannah came from Indonesia, where she teaches at Mountainview International Christian School. We had a wonderful two weeks with her. Christy came a few days after Christmas from Louisville, KY, where she lives with her husband Jason. All of us were together for a memorable week. It was a sweet time of catching up.



SATURDAY CLASS

God has blessed our Saturday Bible class, studying the gospel of John. There are almost 50 people registered, and attendance hovers around 30. The

International Evangelical Church (IEC) has let us use their facility. We have leaders and class members from both IEC and a number of other churches. The majority of the students are Ethiopian,

but there are also people from Nigeria, South Korea, China, and Germany.

CELL CHURCH

At the Berhane Wongel Theological College, David is beginning to teach the current set of second term students on cell church. It has been exciting for him to have students who are so keen to learn and implement these ideas. We pray and expect that these people starting cell groups within their five different denominations will bring renewed life and growth. God works through these small Christian communities (cell groups) to transform people's lives. As they mature in Christ, all are trained to share what they have learned, minister to one another, and reach out to non-believers in their families and circles of acquaintance.

ELLILTA:WOMEN AT RISK (E:WAR)

I continue to teach at E:WAR, rejoicing in the transformation in these precious young women since last August. Nineteen of the 20 originally enrolled continue in the program. Half of their year's course is intense counseling,

Bible teaching, and prayer.

The second half year is focused more on vocational and skills training. They continue with the Bible teaching, and I teach them English one day a

week. Colossians 1:13 and Jude 24 describe what is happening: *For He has rescued us from the one who rules in the dominion of darkness and brought us*



victoriously into the kingdom of God's dear Son...
with mighty shouts of everlasting joy!

CMF-ETHIOPIA URBAN POOR TEAM

There are currently five of us on this newly forming team. Three more are preparing to come and join us. Our teammate, Shelly Hilvety, is currently in the States for a five-month furlough. Erica Carson is in Kentucky for medical leave. We pray that they will return by the first of April to resume their fruitful ministries here. Amanda Rose Vickery has been teaching art at Bingham Academy. She



has also done art therapy for women with fistula. Amanda has regularly done street evangelism with a team, and has assisted Erica in the work with

former street boys, called Horizon Club. Many of the boys are from Muslim families, who have surprisingly given their permission for the boys to become Christians (!) after seeing dramatic changes for the better in these boys. Shelly has a similar work with her soccer boys, some of them previously street boys but now Christians. She's their proud mom, looking forward to the graduation of three of them from Bible college this coming April!

HOME VISITS IN KORE

In Shelly's absence, I have been doing home visits to people in an Addis Ababa slum who have HIV or AIDS. It has been a privilege to show God's care and

compassion for these suffering people by bringing groceries, gifts (scarves, calendar pictures, etc.), listening to their situations, sharing encouraging Bible passages with believers or the Gospel with those who haven't yet received Christ, then praying for each one.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- *Pray for the success of the newly forming cell group churches in five different denominations as David's students put into practice what they have learned.*
- *Pray for the nineteen young women at E:WAR that they would "be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power." Pray that they'll "put on the full armor of God so that [they] can take [their] stand against the devil's schemes... that they'll stand their ground, and after [they] have done everything, to stand." Ephesians 6:10-13 Also pray for discernment and wisdom as the counseling staff meets regularly with other young women who want to come out of prostitution into life in Christ.*
- *Pray that we would have discernment and God's wisdom about coming alongside one of the local churches in the Kore area. They have a start in Community Health Evangelism (CHE) work, and have asked us to partner with them in this. We need God's clear direction regarding whom to work with and how. We are quite aware that what is done outside of God's leading is "wood, hay and stubble," and won't have lasting value.*
- *Ask God to clearly guide the Bible Study Fellowship headquarters' decision regarding starting a class in Addis Ababa.*

We are grateful to all of you for your prayer, interest, and the support that makes it possible for us to be here doing these things.

With joy,

David and Marsha

Marsha and David Van Wagenen

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