



# Christmas Newsletter

Hope for Horn of Africa Ministries

December, 2023

[www.hopeforhornofafrica.org](http://www.hopeforhornofafrica.org)

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## October Refugee Mission Trip

*"As you did it to these one the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."* Mt. 25

**Day and night** these past months, I had been receiving pleas for help from desperate families escaping horrendous conditions in the **Horn of Africa**. After much prayer, the Board asked me to comfort and sustain as many as possible. We are Ambassadors, doing our part in bringing **Emmanuel**, "God with us" to those He loves.

From the beginning to end, it was a timely trip. When I boarded my long flight in October, the LORD arranged me to be seated next to a young Muslim girl who was open and hungry to hear the Gospel.



Arriving in **Kampala, Uganda**, I was able to contact a pastor's family who had abandoned home and possessions to escape with their lives from the Civil War in **Sudan**. For two years they were our valuable colleagues, helping us bring hope to others in this very situation. It was a joyful reunion. When I got to the U.N. Refugee camps, I found fellow Tigrayans forced to wait in long lines, twice a day, only to receive a cup of cold cooked rice, and a can of beans. No blankets, no clothing, nothing else was provided. It was overwhelmed to witnessing their despair and sadness. I purchased clothing, but since they had now way of even preparing food, I gave them money, crying with them, representing our LORD and YOU, while sharing in word and deed the HOPE that never leaves us. How encouraged they were to know that they were **not forgotten**.

While some fled Sudan for Uganda, more sought safety in **Egypt**. When I traveled to **Cairo**, I found zero Refugee Camps. Here, they are mostly left to their own devices, over-crowding apartments. Some ladies find jobs in cleaning and caring for children, but there are almost no opportunities for men, and most don't yet know Arabic. I found many war widows, grieving the loss of husbands and children. I was able to help 33 single mothers. Some were sick, all hungry. I spent my days providing clothes, shoes, food, while praying, proclaiming Jesus' Word. I thank you all for making this vital ministry trip possible.

**Negest Hagos, President**



## HOUSE OF HOPE

At our November Meeting, your **Board of Directors** voted to send our HOUSE OF HOPE staff and local Church partners the sum of **\$86,000 dollars** during 2024, which will fully protect and provide new clothing & shoes, food, educational, medical and spiritual resources for the **150 children** we sponsor in the city of **Adwa**, the province of **Tigray, Ethiopia**. It takes a large staff. When we took on this awesome responsibility two years ago, we knew we could not keep this promise based upon our own resources. We determined to trust the LORD.



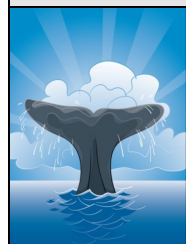
Today we are so proud of these young believers, living without fear, full of smiles and excitement for the future. Because of **greater numbers** of AT-RISK CHILDREN, we have been able to serve each **more efficiently**. Instead of needing \$78 a month for each child, we are **NOW** able to provide food, clothing, school supplies and loving spiritual care for only **\$50** a month. Please join us in prayer for these needs.



## WHY CHRISTMAS?

When I lived in northern California, **Humphrey the humpback whale** became a national celebrity.

Every day our newspapers followed his frolicking course in the **San Francisco Bay**; but then he made the deadly mistake of heading up the **Sacramento River!** Ocean biologists, government



experts, and even shouting pleasure boaters all attempted to get Humphrey to turn around and go back to the saltwater environment of the ocean which was essential to his safety.

Finally after failing with every other method, the lost whale was lured into turning around by the recorded sounds of other humpback whales. It takes a whale to talk to whales!

And it took a God who is fully human to rescue us! This is the most startling claim ever made for any event in history! The God who is totally **UNLIKE US** (creator, invisible, almighty, infinite) becomes totally **LIKE US** (an en-fleshed helpless, finite baby)! For our salvation, God had to be both **UNLIKE US** (holy, without sin, and powerful enough to rescue us) but also **LIKE US**; namely, a human being of flesh and blood whom we could comprehend, love and trust! And so from the loftiest heights of un-know-able-ness, God moved down the stairway of the stars and entered history for us!

Divinity became humanity to reveal not only who God is, but who we are! We discovered that our problems were even bigger than we thought—sin, death and the devil! But then Jesus rescues us! **He chooses to pay a debt He didn't owe because we owed a debt we couldn't pay.** By His death and resurrection He vanquished the power of our enemies. Jesus is **Emmanuel** ("God with us") and reveals what we could never have discovered our own! **Dr James Hoefler, Chair**

# Our Annual Dinner A Success!



(who ministers around the world), challenged us to never be complacent in our desire to be more and do more for the Kingdom. Pictured are a few of the some 50 attendees. Said one, *“It was an exciting night.*

**A BIG THANK YOU** to all who attended our HOPE FOR HORN OF AFRICA annual DINNER Nov. 17, 2023. **Teame Haddis** (who went at his own expense to Tigray, Ethiopia), shared the delight he had visiting our kids, and their local leaders, while **James** updated us on House of Hope. **Negest** (who just returned from ministering to those displaced by the Sudanese Civil War) spoke passionately about her experience. We were all inspired when **Karthik**, who oversees our website, shared his testimony. Vice-Chair Pastor **Doru**

*Thank you for including us. It was heartwarming and heart wrenching to hear the stories from the work...around the world.”*

Special thanks to the **entire BOARD** for creating such a lovely and wholesome free event.



## SUMMARY of TWO YEARS of CIVIL WAR in Tigray

- Over 500,000 civilians killed
- Over 120,000 gang rape survivors
- Over 20,000 new orphans
- Over 33,000 starving children



- Over 80,000 malnourished children
- Over 65,000 refugees who escaped to UN Camps in Sudan (now Egypt & Uganda)
- Over 2.2 million internally displaced persons living in tents and on streets
- 5.5 million in immediate need of food
- Over 50,000 in concentration camps
- Over 70% of health care system down
- Over 88% of schools destroyed
- Over 500,000 have lost their business and home
- Over 20,000 trucks and cars stolen
- Over 300 banks looted and closed

## THE FORGOTTEN TRAGEDY

Last week U.N. chief **Antonio Guterres** said (about the 15,000 misfortunate deaths in Gaza), *“We are witnessing the killing of civilians that is unparalleled and unprecedented in any conflict since I have been Secretary General.”* While every civilian death is terrible, what about



the 500,000 who just died in the two year conflict in Northern Ethiopia? **What a short memory our world has!**

Today the entire HORN OF AFRICA is very vulnerable. While **Tigrayans** signed a peace treaty, the **Eritreans** and **Amharas** still occupy much of their land, and **Oromo** people oppose the Ethiopian government. Next door in **Sudan**, a new Civil War began in April, with the **Wagner** forces from Russia, and business leaders in **Arab** lands helping the rebels steal the large gold deposits. The dictator of **Eritrea** continues to enslave his people, and Civil War in **Yemen** begins it's 8th year. While the problems (competing tribal groups, terrible poverty, pharisaic religions—Orthodox & Muslim), are complex, the answers come from the voice of the Good Shepherd. That's why **HFHOA** is not ashamed to speak the name of Jesus there, no matter the cost. Recently, new Board member **Teame** arranged for hundreds of Orthodox priests to be given a Bible—the first time they had ever held one! Pray revival in for the HORN OF AFRICA.

## SPONSORS NEEDED:



Frezer Male 3 yrs



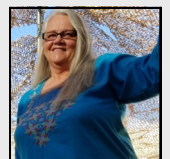
Siharm Female 6 yrs



Eyob Male 13 yrs

Currently, only 20% of our children even have a sponsor. Occasionally, the LORD moves supporters to make a LARGE gift on behalf of HOUSE OF HOPE, or we could not care for **the other 80%**. This year, because of **larger number**, we are becoming **more efficient**. Instead of needing **\$78** a month, we **NOW** can provide for each child for only **\$50** a month. We've placed more names on our **website**.

Anyone who wishes can choose a boy or girl there, or simply write us a note, or e-mail our Sponsor Co-Coordinator **Poki Carr**



at [childrenstrumpet@outlook.com](mailto:childrenstrumpet@outlook.com)