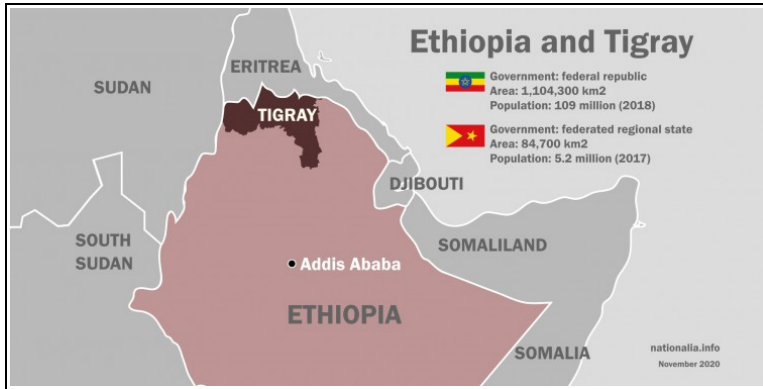


Training Disciple Makers and Encouraging the Unity of Churches in the Horn of Africa

PRAYER NEWSLETTER ● FEB 2021

“PURPOSEFUL ETHNIC CLEANSING!”



Recently, the head of the **Norwegian Refugee Council**, **Jan Egeland**, said he had "rarely seen an aid response so impeded" in the 40 years he had worked in the humanitarian field. He warns that if food and medicine do not arrive quickly a "looming humanitarian disaster of biblical proportion" would become a "gruesome reality in Tigray."



Tigray is where **HFHOA** has labored diligently, and where our orphans, staff, pastors and widows live. Their towns have been demolished by blind artillery shelling, hospitals, small businesses, and small factories looted, educational facilities destroyed and, "to the surprise of any sane mind, religious institutions have also been attacked and their sacred possessions plundered."

About **100,000 Eritrean refugees**, whom we have ministered to, living in **UN**-run camps, have also been caught up in the conflict. A spokesman for the **UN Refugee Agency** said some were eating tree barks and drinking water from puddles after being forced to flee their destroyed camps. Over two million people have been internally displaced. **Amnesty International** says soldiers heavily restrict access to the region for the media and aid agencies.



Witnesses claim **Eritrean** soldiers abuse Tigrayans, stating their mission is to kill all citizens over 7 years of age: "You are all an ungrateful bunch of lice. If we followed orders, all of you above the age of 7 would be dead. We were told to exterminate all of you. If you don't stop crying – we will kill the children too."

A doctor in **Axum** reported that people are scared to assist rape victims. **Eritrean** and **Ethiopian** soldiers shoot those who try to assist when women cry out. Those who witness rapes, often carried out in broad daylight, are eliminated. Teenagers have been ordered to load the appliances, furniture, anything of value into trucks and are then killed. "Ethiopia's military and government stands accused of purposeful ethnic cleansing, a precursor to all-out genocide," writes **World Peace Foundation (WPF)** president Emeritus **Robert Rotberg**. Lord, Have Mercy!

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A Call to Prayer!

Dear HFHOA SUPPORTER:

Undoubtedly, you are asking during this crisis, "How are our kids?" Since banks, newspapers, cell towers, infrastructure have been looted and destroyed, getting information is difficult. Everything of value in House of Hope, like the rest of



the region, has been stolen or ruined. However, miraculously, because of your prayers, we have been assured that all our young children are presently hidden and safe, and we are teaming quietly with Christian leaders who courageously travel in the midst of conflict, supplying them with food and essential resources as best we can. I am working with our wise Board Members, strategizing our next move! Evangelists tell us there is a huge spiritual hunger for Bibles in all the languages of the combatant troops! Some international aid is trickling in. Our Vision and Mission hasn't changed! Please join us in **INTERCEDING** for the **HORN OF AFRICA** region, and this ministry. With tears in our eyes, we look with expectation to our mighty Savior as He reveals His mercy and grace in the midst of this horror, saving more lives for the Kingdom of God!

Negest Hagos, Founder

WHAT INITIATED THIS CONFLICT?

BBC News Feb. 3, 2021

"The **TPLF** had been the ruling party in **Tigray**, with an estimated 250,000 fighters under its command, for almost 30 years. It was ousted from power on 28 November after Ethiopian government troops captured the regional capital, **Mekelle**. **Mr Abiy** accused the **TPLF** of threatening the territorial integrity of Ethiopia, and of trying to overthrow his government by seizing military bases earlier that month. The **TPLF** said it had captured the bases as a pre-emptive strike as it feared federal intervention in Tigray.

In August, it organized elections in Tigray in defiance of a decision taken at federal level to postpone all polls because of the coronavirus outbreak. **Mr Abiy's** government condemned the election as illegal, while the **TPLF** said his government was "illegitimate" and did not have a mandate to govern Ethiopia. Tensions boiled over, leading to the outbreak of conflict." (At the same time, in a planned coordinated attack, Eritrean troops illegally invaded.)

TAKING OFF NIGHT GOGGLES!

"... the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." **2 Corinthians 4:4**

Night vision goggles are amazing! They make it possible for you to see 200 yards away on a moonless night.

Steve, a teenager I mentored over 40 years ago, became a night vision goggle technologist designing and building the image intensifiers that make these goggles work! He explained to me that by using **near-infrared light**, the "energy" of individual photons becomes "light" as electrons strike a fluorescent screen in the goggles—unless someone nearby hits a light switch. Then ironically, the sudden flood of light that gives everyone else sight, strikes the goggle wearer instantly and painfully blind. Such a tidal wave of light screech "over-load" and shoot painful reminders back to the brain, telling the eyelids, **"STAY CLOSED!"**



Perhaps this is a **spiritual parable**. Jesus taught us that the world runs from the light (John 3). **Reality, real truth, seems painful to one who has been avoiding it their whole life.** It's important for each of us to welcome the Holy Spirit to reveal our own blind spots, no matter how painful that might be.

I have great admiration for those who courageously come out of the darkness and stand in the light with Jesus. I'm thinking of the **Apostle Paul, Luther**, and heroes today like **Abby Johnson** who quit her job as the director of a **Planned Parenthood** clinic in **Texas** ten years ago. That simple act became a national news story as Johnson, then only 29, said she experienced a "change of heart" while participating in an abortion procedure. *"I had never seen an abortion happen on an ultrasound,"* she said. She had been told that the "fetus" felt no pain, but that wasn't what she saw as this 13 week fully formed baby desperately sought to escape the deadly probe. That day she walked out and became the major pro-life advocate she is today. As we read the evils being done in Tigray, let's PRAY that the Holy Spirit will open the eyes of these perpetrators so they too cast off the chains of Satan, and stand in the light with Jesus!

"Peace if possible, truth at all costs."

Martin Luther

When I shared this parable with Steve, we both agreed to ask the Holy Spirit to expose our own blind spots. He quoted, *"Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults"* (Ps 19:12), then wrote: *"The older I get, the more I see the need for the illumination of the Spirit and the feedback from the Body of Christ to expose these blind spots. Staying in the light is painful and arduous. Self-deception is much more comfortable."*

Dr James Hoefer, Chair

EMERGENCY FUNDING REQUEST!



We hear from many in Ethiopia and Tigray, calling for Bibles, Food, and Financial assistance. We are working with the **Ev Ethiopian Church Mekane Yesus**, and other groups to send emergency supplies. **Any gift towards this purpose would be put to good use!**

Thank You Sponsors!



Last year, we had grand plans to connect our kids with their caring sponsors! We didn't know our office would be looted, and that our staff would have to operate in secret! Thank you for understanding our predicament. However, we are still recruiting. We need **22 more sponsors!** Who would like to sponsor **MILEN**, 8 year-old girl? We have many others who still need sponsors. **Check our web site.**

WHY THIS DEMONIC CRUELTY?

Many around the world are baffled by the accounts of unexpected and extremely brutal acts of cruelty being perpetrated against people who are to all intents and purposes kin (same race and language). Eritrean psycho-therapist and human rights activist **Selam Kidane** believes this is the fruit of Eritrean president Issias Afwerki's madness. His once prosperous country has become an economic disaster. Anyone who could, escaped, so like the **IRON CURTAIN**, a wall kept people in, while Christians were killed or imprisoned inside. For decades this tyrant deprived his people of productivity, making them feel meaningless, humiliated, and impotent. What insidious, multifaceted evil! Now these victims can "enjoy" an emotional high—absolute control over others—providing them a unique sense of power. Psychoanalyst **Erich Fromm** refers to sadism as **"the conversion of impotence into the experience of omnipotence"**. In this sense, he believes **Issias Afworki** has recruited sadists to implement his grand scale evil. What a clear manifestation of the damage that comes when sin, the world and the devil are welcomed into hearts and minds!



CURRENT WAR SITUATION

Tigray Regional Forces are selectively fighting the huge combined Ethiopian and Eritrean forces. It is reported that the Tigray Forces burned nine armored vehicles, and ambushed an allied convoy near Shire, preventing loot from being taken across the border. However, they face mechanized divisions, and Chinese-supplied drones. Mr. Debretsion, ousted leader of the Tigray regional government, called the war in Tigray 'a **genocide**'. He defended the 'constitutional right' of the Tigray people to hold democratic elections and he denounced the 'collective punishment' for the exercise of this right. He stated: "It is imperative that you fully grasp the magnitude of the atrocities being committed by the Ethiopian and Eritrean aggressors....They are attacking the people of Tigray to **exterminate** them with bullets and **weaponized hunger**. The international community must recognize its responsibility and exercise its maximum efforts to bring these criminal aggressors Abiy Ahmed and Isaias Afeworki [committing grave crimes against humanity] to an international court." <https://martinplaut.com/>