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

## Prayer Newsletter • May 2021

# "A MILLION DISPLACED PERSONS!"

As Ethiopian and Eritrean troops burn down residential areas in **Tigray**, killing, stealing and destroying land and livestock, as well as looting food supply trucks from **UN** and **USAid**,



surviving civilians flee! The International Organization for Migration (IMO) says more than one million refugees are internally displaced across Ethiopia's Tigray region, flying to large towns and cities to "seek hu-

manitarian assistance." The highest concentration of Internally Displaced Persons is in Shire where 445,309 are residing in overcrowded collective shelters, including schools, within the host community and in open spaces. We held a Pastor's School there in 2019 for Eritrean church leaders who had escaped the anti-Christ authoritarian regime which now seeks to control Tigray also. Other urban areas with high displacement concentrations include the three other areas where we also held Pastor's and Youth Conferences, Adwa (129,524 IDPs), Mekelle (126,267), and Aksum (60,115). While international aid groups struggle to help, we are informed that the children in Adwa received only a single hot meal from Samaritan's Purse so far from outside groups.

### TIGRAY WORSE THAN SYRIA?

The Biden administration just asked **Jeffrey Feltman**, a seasoned former senior U.S. and United Nations diplo-



mat, to assume the newly created role of **Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa**, where multiple crises threaten to unravel the entire region. Many are predicting Ethiopia's

breakup as tribal conflict grows! **Feltman** believes this deadly conflict in the Tigray region of Ethiopia has the potential to spiral into a full-fledged regional crisis. "Look at what the collapse of Syria (a nation of 22 million) and the chaos of civil war has meant" said Feltman. "Ethiopia has 110 million people."

meant," said Feltman. "Ethiopia has 110 million people," he said. "If the tensions in Ethiopia would result in a widespread civil conflict that goes beyond Tigray, Syria will look like child's play by comparison."

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# WE HAVE A HUGE OPPORTUNITY!

rom day one, we have partnered with the oldest Evangelical Congregation in Ethiopia!
This Lutheran Church in Adwa is where our
House of Hope kids worship. It was founded by
German missionaries in the 1830s, and has a long
history of evangelism, along with literacy, education and health work. (You may remember Pastor
James' grandmother Amanda hoped to be a missionary there until she instead joined his grandfather planting churches in America.) This Adwa
church also teams with Operation Compassion,
caring for hundreds of orphans.

Recently, their leaders asked us to care for **130** more kids! We have been prayerfully seeking a way to help more children who have lost their par-



ents, lack nutritious food, health care, clothing and bedding, as well as any loving care or message of the Gospel. How could say NO? This month, our BOARD agreed to this staggering opportunity to care for 150 CHILDREN instead of only 20! This

will require almost **7 thousand dollars a month**, and tremendously stretch our staff and volunteers in **Adwa**. Yet they are willing to take on these added responsibilities, and greater risks, for the sake of serving their Savior Jesus! We

don't have such funds now, but we believe Our LORD is calling us to step out in faith, trusting that He will provide **FRESH PROVISIONS** to meet these **BIGGER NEEDS**. Perhaps some of you will be called to sacrificially help us! It is a privilege to join with you.

Negest Hagos

# THE POWER OF PRAISE!

For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.

Hebrews 13:14-15 (ESV)



or many years I didn't understand. I saw fellow
Christians engulfed in negative circumstances—some would go completely under, while others would come out of it stronger, encouraging everyone around them! I would witness a

brother or sister in Christ being misused, humiliated, or offended—then watch some hold a lifelong grudge, their lives scared with withered fruit, while others kept their head, joked about it, and never stopped loving back. Some seemed to have an inexhaustible store of emotional, spiritual, physical & financial resources. Others seemed always impoverished. For years this mystified me: "Why doesn't God treat His children the same?" Now I understand. Some children release the storehouses of heaven with praise, and others stop the flow with a bitter, complaining, unbelieving spirit. Praise (even when we don't feel like it) releases faith. Praise puts God back on the throne, and glorifies His name in our life. Praise always brings victory, frequently miraculous! Yet real praise is always a sacrifice. You make a choice to praise rather than fret, to thank God for His goodness and deliverance rather than blame Him for "putting you in this position!" Praise completely

routs the devil! Nothing possesses so much power to push away the enemy as praise. At the same time, whoever stops

praising



God, will soon lose all faith as well. Where do you need to pray: "O Lord, what a fool I was not to praise You! You are never wrong! Even where I don't understand, I thank you for what YOU are doing! What a great God you are to me!"

Dr James Hoefer, Chair

# **Sponsors Corner**



coordinator Nora "Poki"
Carr, we were able to send each of our sponsors an Email Letter from their child. If you didn't receive yours, please contact her at chil-



drenstrumpet@outlook.com. We need many

more sponsors! Who would like to sponsor Mebrahtom, an 8 year-old boy? Check our web site.

# WHY ARE WE MULTIPLYING OUR EFFORTS SEVEN FOLD?

hen Jesus invited Peter to get out of the boat and walk on water, it didn't make sense to him. When Jesus commanded His Disciples to go into all the world and preach the Good News, humanly speaking it ap-

peared a foolish delusion. But Peter did get out of the boat. Yes, he sank, but Jesus picked him up again! Later, Peter joined those early disciples whose witness transformed their world. They discovered Jesus was "with them always." It turns out hearing and following Jesus' commands is the best part of life! Join us!



**Solomon**, Social Worker & Co-Chair of our local **House of Hope** Board, had been unable to connect with us for over 5 months due to internet shutdowns. Recently, church leaders sent him to **Addis Ababa** for training in **TRAUMA** ministry for the displaced and suffering. **PTL!** In contact briefly again, we were able to send additional FUNDS, and plan for our project with the Adwa Congrega-

tion, of which he is President. Pray for physical safety and spiritual strength as he travels thru many war zones! He is a key member of our team, full of love for Jesus and all children.

### MICHAEL & MARY Last week they

brought their four delightful children from North Carolina for a visit to Phoenix. **Dr. Michael** and his uncles are helping us raise funds for our team heading to **Sudan's UN Refugee Camps** where we can minister to displaced kids. **Negest** gave birth to him fleeing Tigray as a refugee herself during



the communist takeover. His wife Mary, an RN, gifted him (after he completed his MD studies) with a first TRIP to his homeland and our work in Tigray just before the fighting broke out! He hopes to join our team the following year. Pray for us as we seek permission to minister inside of the Sudan

UN Refugee Camps, bringing bedding, clothing, shoes, high protein food and the GOOD NEWS of Jesus!