



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



**THE POWER OF
GRATITUDE**

We served food countless times during our recent ministry trip. Nobody told these two young ladies to give thanks. They just did! They also radiated a joyful countenance on their two faces!

Gratitude makes you shine. Thankful people are fun to be around. I don't have to tell you that ungrateful and grouchy people are at the opposite end. Would your friends call you a grateful person?

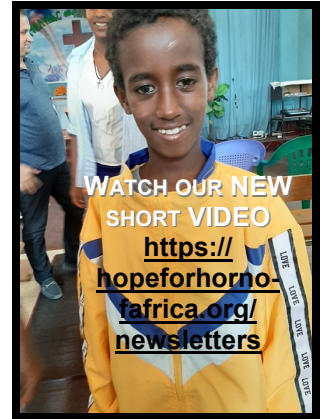
Ungrateful people they think they deserve to be in a better place, while blaming others and making excuses. They focus on their own agendas, holding on to old wounds. Ingratitude is a serious offense, and makes us irrational. *"For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened."* (Romans 1:21).

Ingratitude misses the opportunity to see God working! But when you say "Thank You", you recognize our good God is in charge! Gratitude invites His activity, sowing seeds for a rich harvest. What you give comes back. Sowing complaints reaps a bitter harvest. But grateful people experience life not as victims, but victors!

Gratitude allows you to receive grace from heaven, simply because you know you are not entitled to it. Thankful people are poor in spirit, aware of how desperately they need God. They also choose to serve rather than to be served. (continued on other side)

SPONSOR A CHILD!

There is a growing need to care for **AT RISK** children in the areas where we work. This January, we will be opening our doors wider than ever before, receiving many new boys and girls into our **HOUSE OF HOPE** in Adwa, Ethiopia! We can't do this alone, and are taking a big step of faith! We are seeking sponsors who would be willing to **pray** for a child, and **support** them with a gift of **\$39** a month! We will send you the **picture, name and updates** from our **Sponsor Coordinator, Nora (Poki) Carr**. Our kids love Jesus and are becoming future leaders of the Horn of Africa. Use the enclosed form, or contact us at **PO Box 22214, Phoenix, AZ 85028**



THANK YOU FOR PRAYING!

We planned an ambitious ministry trip in September, but our God had far more plans in mind than we did! Many "divine appointments" resulted in salvation, reconciliation, and healings! We planned one **PASTOR'S AND LEADER'S CONFERENCE** in Adwa, and were asked to do three more in **Shire, Axum & Mekelle!** **Negest** flew there in June, working months with **Solomon**, to arrange a new location and arrangement with the government, for our **HOUSE OF HOPE** ministry. We

We were able to attend **Ye-mani's graduation** in September! Now he can start working as an electrician!



Bilan obtained a four-year University scholarship. He wants to preach the Gospel. Pray for him as he begins studies far from home!



planned an innovative new week long **DESTINY DISCOVERY WORKSHOP** in **Tigrigna** for just our kids, but then welcomed Christian youth from 4 other churches! We quickly produced more materials, and they treasured the training, understanding themselves and

God's calling on their lives in a new way. Everywhere we built wonderful relationships, as we sought to encourage, coach and release leaders! (continued on other side)



THE POWER OF GRATITUDE continued

The higher up you see yourself, the less thankful you will be; but when you have a grateful heart, you always feel like you are being blessed. You can't help it—God simply pours it on. You feel like the prodigal son coming home!

Gratitude and generosity are siblings. Generous people cause thanksgiving to rise to heaven: *"You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous to every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God"* (2 Corinthians 9:11). If you have learned generosity, it started with a grateful spirit.

Paul uses words like "continually" and "always" when talking about thanksgiving. He speaks often about the need for gratitude. He writes, *"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful"* (Colossians 3:15). Then two verses later he says, *"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him"* (v.17).



CITY OF GOD is not a place, but one of our ministries, rescuing those like **Kedija**. She was marked for death by her Muslim husband when she wouldn't renounce Jesus as a young wife. She is now a powerful evangelist, fluent three languages, including Arabic. She traveled and ministered with our Team. One lunchtime, we asked her to share how she became a sold-out follower of Jesus at 11 years of age. She told us that she was in love with her teacher (a believer), though she didn't know why. She simply couldn't keep her eyes off her. The teacher sometimes threw chalk at her when she looked at the her face, instead of the chalkboard. When she moved to another grade, she didn't have that teacher anymore, so she became friends with her daughter, doing whatever she could to get closer to her. People told her to stay away from that family, because they were Christians, and they ate cats!

Finally, she asked for a Bible, and the teacher agreed, but first gave her a lesson in John 1. When they got to **John 1:14** *"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth,"* she wondered: Who is this? God? She went home that night with her Bible, and suddenly a great LIGHT came on. She felt enveloped in LIGHT, and as she slept, she shook so much that the bed shook, and her family came in, finding her body limp. She was unconscious for 9 hours.

Her "Muslim" family found the witchdoctor, who put charms around her neck, and prepared her body for burial. Meanwhile, Kedija experienced in a heavenly vision, seeing wonderful things not found on earth. She asked if this was her new home. Then after many visions, she woke up!

Her family was astonished! They were convinced she had died. Kedija couldn't wait to rush to her teacher and ask to receive Jesus personally into her life. At that moment, a peace came over her that has never left. She now leads the local Board overseeing **HOUSE OF HOPE** for us, and shares that peace with our kids!

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING! continued

We had many opportunities to share in churches of all denominations. On New Year's Day, Sept. 11, 2012 (they have a different calendar), all 6 churches in Adwa came together filling our Lutheran Sanctuary to overflowing for 4 hours! After an hour of prayer, soda, candy and cookies were passed out. I noticed the youngest of our **HOUSE OF HOPE** kids picking up bottle caps and empty soda bottles, without being asked. Then 90 minutes of very active worship, followed by a powerful message by our own Pastor Mike (**Doru**)!

We had numerous youth outreaches, always providing food, sometimes shoes, clothing and educational material. We also took our **HOUSE OF HOPE** kids on some special fun trips, to see places in their own country they had never been! Days were long, from breakfast to long past dinner, yet because of your prayers, we never ran out of strength!



We spent significant time up north with the Eritrean Refugees, our hearts often broken, as we visited with them in their lonely camps, where they are kept for years! We jumped at their request share our **PASTOR'S AND LEADER'S CONFERENCE** with them, going to our own "piggy bank" to rent rooms, buy materials, paying for the transportation and food for 15 leaders from 5 of the big Refugee churches in the camps! It lasted three days, and was a very positive event!

We learned that our work is producing strong healthy leaders for the future. We learned that the Horn of Africa is a strategic place! The greater the persecution, the more the Gospel multiplies believers! Everyone senses the coming downfall of the horrible Eritrean Regime, and when that happens, even greater opportunities for mission will appear. We are more convinced than ever that God has called us to this work.



We are a very small band of volunteers seeking to be faithful in this unique work. Wonderful **new opportunities** have opened up for us! If you would like to be a part of our team, contact www.hopeforhornofafrica.org
(Donations accepted @ PayPal, or check)

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