



News & Views

Ethiopian Outreach Ministry

Apr. - Jun. 2020

Purpose of Ethiopian Outreach Ministry

- ◆ Reach unreached Ethiopians with the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- ◆ Teach and encourage Ethiopian believers to be strong in their faith and help them grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ and the scriptures.
- ◆ Prepare Ethiopians for various ministries in churches and fellowships.
- ◆ Produce printed materials of Christian education and Bible studies, audio resources, and radio programs.
- ◆ Conduct seminars.
- ◆ Train and develop future church leaders and teachers.



Praise and Prayer Corner

- Praise God for our faithful supporters.
- Praise God for the new prime minister of Ethiopia, Dr. Abiy Ahmed. He is a believer.
- Praise God for the wisdom of Dr. Abiy in leading the country out of chaos.
- Pray for the success of the political reform in Ethiopia.
- Pray for Ethiopia's building of the dam over the Nile river and the dispute between Sudan and Egypt.
- Pray for Ethiopia as the number of people infected by COVID-19 slowly grows.
- Pray for the persecuted church around the world. For more information go to www.worthynews.com.



Legacy of a Dear Friend

Our close friend, Fred Garber, left us so suddenly to be with his Lord forever. I was shocked and saddened when Linda, his wife, called me to tell me the bad news. Though I know Fred is in a better place now, without illness and pain, I still miss him terribly. I am actually in denial struggling to believe that Fred is gone. It seems like just yesterday that



he was at our biannual banquet, eating his favorite food, *injera and wat*.

When I look back, it amazes me how God always provides the right people at the right time to fulfill His purposes in



one's life. Fred and Linda Garber, from Elizabethtown, PA, are a couple that God brought into my life and ministry. In 1976, when the Lord opened the door for me to come to the United States to quench my

thirst for higher education, God used Fred and Linda to support me financially for room and board. I call them my American parents who fully supported me financially throughout my college, graduate school, and seminary years. Fred and Linda were not a rich couple, but gave generously. Fred was just a simple farmer before he got a call to serve as a pastor at a local church.

Their support continued throughout the years. During the formation of EOM, our children stayed with them until we secured a home of our own. Our oldest children, Moses and Emanuel, had a heartwarming experience at Fred's farm and home.

Fred and Linda invested their lives and their finances so generously in us. Their giving was not only to me, a single individual, but to all the people of Ethiopia. I am sure they are not disappointed with their investment after seeing what God has done through EOM for the last 38 years.

When EOM started in 1982, Fred and Linda were the couple who bought us a manual Amharic typewriter from Germany, a tool that we needed badly then, before computers were available. Fred was also one of the first board members when EOM was established. Fred believed in me without even knowing me well. Fred, I thank you so much for your encouragement and support in my effort to fulfill God's calling in my life.

I thank you again for having such an impact on my life and my ministry. I am eternally grateful. I'm sure we'll meet again in Heaven. I love you, my dear brother.

~ Melese Wogu



Ethiopian Outreach Ministry
Evangelizing, Teaching, Equipping

~ Financial Corner ~

For this quarter reporting, our year-to-date budget is \$96,435 and our year-to-date receipts are \$84,810. Our cancelled spring banquet donation brought in a gross of \$5,920.00. Praise the Lord!

Thank you to everyone who donated. May God bless you and meet your needs as you have met ours during this time of uncertainty.

What Is the Idol in Your Heart?

In a message titled, "The Grand Demythologizer: The Gospel and Idolatry," Dr. Tim Keller states that unless we identify our idols or the idols of the heart of the people we encounter, we won't be successful in presenting the gospel in a life-changing way. He goes on to say that it is the scandal of the church. I so much agree.

Even though I did not use the word scandal, I have made a similar observation. People rarely see Jesus in His beauty and life-transforming power in the lives of many Christians. They hear about Him, but the lives of those who tell of Him lack the awe-inspiring, convicting, convincing, engaging, and gripping power of

the Gospel. I believe that when we tell others of Jesus, the listeners should have an encounter with Him so much so that they would have a strong reaction, either like the men on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35) or those from the region of the Gerasenes (Luke 8:26-37). His presence is powerful. Even unborn babies react to the unborn Jesus like John the Baptist did when his mother met up with Mary, who was pregnant with Jesus. So, why don't we see that more often? Could it be because our idols prevent Jesus from manifesting Himself?

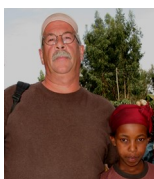
In my journey of 40 years with Jesus, I have had to put many idols on the altar. To mention a couple, as a young Christian, I remember praying and asking Jesus not to return before I got married and had children. God answered my prayers, but not before asking me to put on the altar the strong desire to be a mother. It had become an idol. I remember the internal struggle, the fear of saying yes, the unknown implication of my saying yes, but I also remember the strong desire to obey God. I remember it being excruciatingly painful when I finally said yes, down on my knees, sobbing uncontrollably. It felt like a verdict was passed that I would be barren and I wouldn't know what the verdict was until maybe six years later, two years after I got married, when we had our son, Isak, my only child.

(continued...)



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**"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"
Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and
with all your soul and with all your mind. 'This is the first and
greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your
neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on
these two commandments."
Matt. 22:37-40**



We are saddened to hear of the passing of Jeff Giambalvo, a York native, former Living Word Community Church attendee, and also a friend and supporter of EOM. In the early days of LWCC's short-term mission trips to Ethiopia, Jeff served the people of Sendafa, Ethiopia as a short-term missionary. During the trips he helped in the schools. Here are a couple of pictures of Jeff with the children he served. Our condolences to all of his family and friends.~

Fast forward to 1997, when my husband decided to leave Jesus, and my son and me. As a single mother treading uncharted waters and clinging to Jesus with everything I had, my son became my focus. Before long, though, as my thoughts and life revolved around Isak, I was reminded by the Holy Spirit that I was in danger of making him an idol. So, again, I had to put my desires to see him graduate from high school, go to college, get married, have children, and live a long life, on the altar. But this time it was easier and less painful. I had grown to trust God and find comfort and peace in His sovereignty.

The more I surrender the easier it becomes to trust. With each surrender a veil is lifted from the eyes of my heart and I see Jesus a little clearer. This is in keeping with his promise in John 14:21, that He would show Himself to us if we obeyed him as a sign of our love. Obedience does not guarantee a favorable answer to our prayer requests but, with time, it guarantees that everything will lose its attractiveness in light of Jesus. So, back to the question in the title of this article: What is the idol in your heart? What have you found more desirable than Jesus? What is keeping Jesus from manifesting Himself in your life? What has weakened your testimony?

☞ Sossena Maybury

News & Views is a seasonal publication of Ethiopian Outreach Ministry.

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