

HE'S BEEN JUST THAT GOOD

Ethiopia Short-Term Mission Trip Report

The team of nine—Karen Bauer, Diane Dennis-Stephens, Patience Eka, Ingrid Forbes, Kayenda Johnson, Leeshu Kennedy, Efrim Moore, Chika Oraka, and Selam Seyoum—was a returning team of veterans to the project, with the exception of two new members, Karen and Selam.

Mission Possible: Heal the Sick with Living Water

The mission was simple; bring the gospel of Christ's shed blood on the cross for the salvation of man to the people of Chencha, Ethiopia a rural village in the mountains of southern Ethiopia.



To do this, the team had to accept the challenge of using the provision of medical care for the impoverished people as a means to create relationships via opportunities otherwise difficult to come by.

The team faced several challenges before even leaving the USA, most notably the \$250 per bag fee for all extra bags. Each team member was allowed 2 checked bags and there were 5 extra bags beyond the 18 allowed pieces. Upon arrival in Addis Ababa's Bole International Airport, the second most significant challenge was exiting customs with ALL the bags. Although the appropriate and needed documents had been secured prior to the team's arrival, four of the most important bags were seized. After three hours of painstaking negotiations, taxes of US \$150

were demanded by the Ethiopian Customs in order to release the bags.

The rest of the journey to the clinic in Chencha proved uneventful and pleasant. Joining the Ethiopian team was like returning home for Thanksgiving. Hugs and kisses were exchanged with old and familiar friends and excited updates given to new friends. The great blessing was being able to see the completed clinic for the first time and setting up for Monday's work on Sunday evening. Regardless of physical exhaustion, the work for the week would bring its own joys and challenges, but our home for the week far surpassed anything we could have imagined. When the FBA team last worked in the clinic in April 2010,

only 2 rooms had completed walls and doors that locked. Holes where windows and doors were eventually placed served as portals for communication and exchanges between patients and clinicians. The facility was complete with a café, library, four treatment rooms, restrooms, guest house and a common room/atrium.



The accounts of the mission team reflect their journey towards the goal of providing

medical care as the vehicle used to bring the gospel of Christ to Chencha. Their daily accomplishments, emotional and spiritual growth, and submission to Jesus as His Chosen, presented dramatic encounters with the Most High God.

THESE ARE THEIR STORIES

A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps. Prov. 16:9

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The Eye Clinic by Leeshu Kennedy

Like last year, I was immensely blessed by this year's mission trip to Ethiopia. Last year I was in complete wonder because of the new experience of seeing Chenchu and the rest of Ethiopia through childlike eyes. This year was different because it was as though I could see the need of each individual that entered the eye clinic and I was more focused, spiritually, on meeting the needs of patients who needed physical and spiritual sight.

Karen's presence made a tremendous difference in the overall number of patients we treated daily. We were both astonished at the sheer number of patients seen over the course of four days. The addition of another person in the eye clinic more than doubled the number of glasses distributed and referrals made for physical eye exams for diseased eyes. Outside of lunch breaks, there was always someone seeing patients for vision related complaints which helped to reduce the wait time for patients.

The chart below shows a total count of people seen and what was distributed, in addition to the final inventory of glasses left in Chenchu.



Eye Clinical Stats

Prescription Strength	Male	Female	Child	Total
Sunglasses	4	2	0	6
0.5	4	0	0	4
0.75	2	2	0	4
1.00	24	9	1	34
1.25	17	5	1	23
1.50	20	4		24
1.75	15			15
2.00	22	7		29
2.25	14	5		19
2.50	9	2		11
2.75	4			4
3.00	5			5
General Prescription	104	19	1	124
Patients Seen	192	67	4	263

Although all strengths are needed, the most significant need is listed below:

1. Sunglasses for women and men
2. Reading glasses (1.00, 1.25, 1.50, 2.00, 2.25)
3. Prescription glasses (-0.75/-0.75; -0.50/-0.50)

Karen was a delight to work with and I hope and pray the Lord creates another opportunity for us to work together again.



by Karen Bauer

We take so much for granted in the United States—the availability of vision correction being one of many things. The people of Chenchu have no direct access to such services. Those who are weavers lose their ability to weave, thereby diminishing their ability to earn any income. The elderly can only see distances, and/or cannot read their Bibles. Imagine your quality of life if you could not see properly.

Except for needing glasses myself, I am untrained in the provision of vision services. The eye charts used for testing indicate we need 20 feet to perform the test. The room is 11 feet at best. Leeshu and I sorted the glasses by prescription strength to the best of our limited abilities.

How can this be done? It is not going to be right! With no training and a lack of the required testing environment, I was unsure

of how this would possibly work and how effective we were really going to be. Leeshu gently encouraged me to trust God, summon as much patience as I possibly could, and refuse to give up. Leeshu stated, "We must do the best we can with what we have!" How her words would stay with me throughout the week and provide the guidance I needed was the unknown blessing that I walked away with gratefully.

The challenges of the small space, lack of experience, and trying to understand my translator proved challenging. My translator



sometimes needed a translator himself for those people who spoke the local language and not the national language of Amharic. It did not take long to realize how ill-equipped I was for the task, and that my only choice was to rely on God. This, I am sure, was precisely how He wanted it!

There were so many times when I did not know what prescription strength to give to a patient. So many times I prayed, while searching through the inventory, for God to show me which pair would work best for the eyes that were before me. He **always** showed me the right pair which was not usually the first pair. *Leeshu's words would ring in my head... "trust God...don't give up."* This is exactly how He wanted us to pray...without ceasing even when we did not get an answer right away, and trusting He would answer in His time.

The smiles and tears of joy from those who received glasses, caused my heart to swell. The simple gift of improved vision given through the hands of one ill-equipped servant—what a privilege and a blessing God gave me!

One particular man was so thankful, his final words to me were, “May God bless you higher than me!” I wanted to scream, “No! That’s not how it works!” God loves us equally, and I deserve no “higher blessing” than He. How could he understand that my blessing came in helping him to see better? I choked back my tears and felt so humbled by his words.

Another afternoon, right after lunch, I was feeling exhausted and daunted at the task that lay ahead for the rest of the day. It was one of those times the enemy would whisper ...“You can’t do this.” I took a few minutes and prayed to God that He would give me His strength and wisdom to make it through the afternoon. The very first person I saw that afternoon was a young lady who needed reading glasses. She was so thankful we were able to help her she smiled ear to ear with tears in her eyes. She looked me in the eyes and her gratitude penetrated my heart. At that moment I knew this was a special message of encouragement from God. I had to remove myself from the examination room to collect myself. I found a quiet place to kneel before God, and let the tears of thankfulness and praise flow. There was no way to hold them back. I can’t say the rest of the afternoon was without challenges, but I knew God was there right beside me.

God willing, I will someday serve the people of Chenchā once again.



Pharmacy Notes: Augmentation to the Pharmacy Process and Ministry

by Kayenda Johnson



*After arriving in Chenchā on Sunday afternoon and getting settled into the Win Souls for God (WSG) Guest House, we began our first walk to the clinic for our “Welcome Party” and to set up the pharmacy for Monday morning. The walk was delightful – how sweet it was to see a familiar scene with familiar places and faces. As we continued toward the clinic, I could not believe my eyes! I knew that the clinic was finished, but it had not occurred to me to expect a **completely** transformed building. From the outside, the building and the landscaping was absolutely fantastic!*

Upon entering the building, I went directly to the pharmacy. Once I stepped inside the room that was to be my home for the week I screamed to myself, “Are you serious? This pharmacy is amazing!” Never in my wildest dreams would I have imagined that the pharmacy would look so wonderful and be so accommodating! In April of 2010, we worked in a room with cut-outs in the walls where windows would eventually be inserted, bare concrete walls, no doors, an unfinished, uneven concrete floor and no electricity (daylight only). In preparation for this trip, I made no assumptions or had any expectations about the physical state of the pharmacy. I knew that the entire youth center was finished, but it did not occur to me that it would be this incredible. At this point I could already envision a smoother and more efficient process in the pharmacy, simply because of the physical accommodations made for the individuals who would serve as staff in the pharmacy. We now had electricity, an even and covered floor, three large business desks to work on, four sturdy shelves for storing medicine, and a door that locked for safe-keeping. Win Souls for God Ministries had done a great job managing and financing the construction of this center,

including its design and furnishings. To God be the Glory, Great Things He Hath Done! In the midst of our AWE, we began setting up the pharmacy and organized all of the medicines into 4 primary categories: antibiotics, allergy/decongestant/colds, anti-fungal/anti-parasitic and G.I. medicines.

On Monday morning we began filling prescriptions and preparing them to be distributed to our patients. The core components of our pharmacy process remained the same from last year, but there was a most wonderful addition to this portion of our healing ministry to the people of Chenchā. In the pharmacy there were those who were solely dedicated to filling prescriptions, those who were solely set apart for providing instructions in Amharic, and/or the local language for taking the medicines. God used our team member Selam in such a powerful way! She served as our primary translator for instructing the patients on taking the medications. While I could not intellectually understand the words that she was saying, I observed the time that she spent with each patient and could sense the work of the Holy Spirit through her. It was most evident to me that she felt so honored to be able to speak to the patients about their medications and bless them as they went away to their homes. Selam’s ministry in the pharmacy opened my eyes a bit more to the breadth of the ministry of healing, that is possible for a medical mission team. **The ministry to the people is not just that they are provided with medicines for their ailments and diseases, but that they are also encouraged with sweet and kind words for their souls.** So many were given the gift of graciousness, kindness and gentleness as they spent moments with Selam. She gave new meaning to the phrase, “By any means necessary!” She was the tool that God

provided to entice the people of Chenchu to sense His arms and words of love.

Selam told us that she ended her discussion with each patient by saying, "God be with you." Many of the patients responded with such amazement and appreciation for her words. **I was so impacted by their responses and was reminded that words inspired by the Holy**



Spirit are a part of God's formula for healing the total man.

Each day we were blessed to provide patients with vitamins, medicines and kind words, administered with compassion and love. Many prescriptions were filled over the four days in the clinic: Monday (110), Tuesday (185), Wednesday (182), and Thursday (203). In total Diane, Patience, Brook, Ingrid,



Selam, Tsedey and I filled 620 prescriptions for the people of Chenchu. We worked together with the doctors and nurses to serve the people of God's children with the best natural and spiritual medicine that we could. We pray that God will work continually to multiply our efforts and to bless the people of Chenchu, Ethiopia



by Diane Dennis-Stephens

The generous prosper and are satisfied; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed. Psalm 11:26

I am always blown away and humbled by the graciousness and humility of the Ethiopian people I have come in contact with. Working in the pharmacy filling prescriptions does not allow many opportunities to personally interact with the patients. We do, however, come in contact with the Ethiopian clinic staff with more regularity than those who treat patients. The staff provided explanations to patients of how medications were to be taken. There were also the most precious encounters with those who provide our snacks.

This year the pharmacy staff was provided with snacks by a young lady named Basrat. As soon as she entered the room, it was lit by her radiant smile. Basrat, a beautiful nineteen year old young lady, was armed daily with the warmest countenance. It did not matter that our verbal communications were limited because she

spoke volumes with her smile. I felt that she had a beautiful spirit in her, the Spirit of God, but because I had not really had a conversation with her, I did not know for sure. Three or four times a day she would come into the pharmacy to take our snack and beverage order. Each time she entered, she brought joy and peace to us in the midst of the hectic pace of the pharmacy. Basrat was our oasis in the desert. One afternoon, in the midst of our business, I turned to Kayenda and was about to say, "Isn't it snack time..." but before I could finish the sentence, she entered the room carrying a tray of cookies, coffee and tea. Even though my back was to the door, I could feel her brilliant smile as she attended to each individual in the room.

I later learned that Basrat was indeed a Sunday school teacher, which confirmed what my spirit already knew. Jesus' light shone through this young lady with megawatt power! Coming in contact with her was like finding living water. What a privilege it had been to share those brief minutes with her each day. On our last day in the clinic, when Basrat brought us our last order, she came with tears in her eyes. As we said goodbye, it hit me that we had been her special ministry for the week, and as a result we had all bonded as one body in Christ. She was much more than just the girl who brought us coffee, tea and cookies to refresh our bodies. She had refreshed our spirits and souls with the love of Christ. As short term missionaries, our initial thought is that we are going to minister to others. But in reality, we often are the ones who are ministered to,

loved and refreshed. Certainly, the people of Chenchu blessed us with their gracious kindness and hospitality. Hallelujah! The most profound lesson learned from this simply gorgeous spirit-filled Sunday school teacher, is to serve as though serving the LORD and not man!

The poor and needy seek water, but there is none, their tongues fail for thirst. I, the LORD, will hear them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them. I will open rivers in desolate heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water. I will plant in the wilderness the cedar and the acacia tree, The myrtle and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the cypress tree and the pine and the box tree together, That they may see and know, and consider and understand together, that the hand of the LORD has done this, and the Holy One of Israel has created it. Isaiah 41:17-20

by Salem Seyoum

Conversing with each patient at Chenchu clinic brought me the greatest feeling I have ever had. Each patient's face was lightened when greeting them with words and phrases depicting Christian care and love. We sent them home not only with prescription medications, but with words for blessing such as, "May God's healing be upon you and your family; and May God bless you," (in Amharic). They were already grateful and happy to be seen by a doctor and receive medications. Given that the details





and instructions for the medications were in English, and the fact that most of the patients were either illiterate and/or non-English speakers, it was imperative to take the time needed to explain the type, dosage, frequency and duration of each medication in the local language. Demonstrating the administration of some of the medications and opening safety lids of medicine bottles were part of the explanations of prescriptions. Opening the safety lids was a challenge, particularly for our elderly

Orthodox, who expressed their gratitude for the service, the love and care they obtained, and the witness from the mission team members. It was apparent that they were touched and it is yet to be seen how God will work in their lives, and that of their families. Their responses were humbling to say the least. Patients and a staff member told me that the way they were spoken to was itself a "cure" and "a ray of hope." I received words of blessings from most of the patients I spoke with. They wished the team a safe trip back home and showered words of blessings on us and our families.



Our mutual prayer during Wednesday's lunch break was a wonderful spiritual experience that I will never forget. The team was prayed for in the prayer room in a way I had never before experienced. For all the wonderful blessings I had in Chench, and along the way with my dearest mission trip team, I only have three words—PRAISE THE LORD!

patients. I was relieved to know, in most cases, that they reported that there was a younger family member who would be able to help in opening the bottles. I was also able to talk to the patients about child safety. For example, I gave instructions to place the medications out of the reach of children.

As a US social worker, however, it is challenging for me to explain the prescriptions of different medications to 8, 10 and 11 year olds who came to the hospital to receive treatments and medications, unaccompanied by any adult. More surprisingly, children 10 to 14 years old brought their younger siblings who were sick for treatment. What can be more challenging to a US trained social worker? Though I am originally from Ethiopia, I was raised in Addis Ababa by parents who treated me as a minor, even when I was a college student. I heard in other families, particularly in the rural parts as in Chench, children are more responsible and took over adults' roles at a very early age. My background did not save my heart from aching to see these poor children, apparently malnourished, burdened by responsibilities that seemed cumbersome, even for adults. *I was amazed by their courage, innocence and maturity as they repeated the prescriptions I explained to them, almost perfectly. They told me, "no problem," when I asked them to make sure the medications were taken as prescribed.* I also asked them to place the medications out of the reach of other children in the home. I prayed for all the minors I encountered in Chench, as well as their counterparts in Ethiopia. I also prayed for the rest of the underdeveloped world and asked for God's healing hands and love.

Initially, being a member of the pharmacy team was not part of the proposed assignment for me. Upon arrival at Chench however, the responsibility I was entrusted with, was explaining prescriptions to patients. When Ingrid, our team leader, heralded my role, I felt like God Himself gave me a special assignment. I had the opportunity to double check the prescriptions, dosage and the names of patients, for precision with my awesome pharmacy team. Most of the patients spoke Amharic, the national Ethiopian language I speak. A few patients minimally understood Amharic, so I worked with staff members who translated in the local language. It was wonderful to work with Megdesh and Tseyey, who helped in the explanation of the prescriptions. I believe that they learned techniques in communicating with patients, in delivering prescriptions and information.

Almost all of the patients I explained the prescriptions to were pleased and happy. Some were born-again Christians who told me they would pray for me and my team from the US. Some were

The patients who received treatment were given the best care possible. Each patient was given a 30 day regimen of multivitamins, with the exception of those treated for thyroid disease. These patients were given at least 60 days worth of multivitamins with iodine. For many patients, multivitamins were the only course of action that was possible. It was carefully explained to these patients that the illness would not be cured or treated by the multivitamins. Vitamins were donated by church members from First Baptist Church Atlanta, South Carolina, New Harvest and students from Luella High School.



Ethiopia Medical Cases 2011

Chika Oraka, NPA saw 182 patients • Dr. Efrim Moore saw 277 patients

From the Treatment Rooms

My Ethiopia medical mission 2011 experience was one that was extremely positive. We

by Efrim C. Moore

had an outstanding team that functioned together very well. We had the pleasure of working in a beautiful facility. However, my take-home experience had nothing to do with medicine.

My number one goal in life is to have Christ seen in everything that I do. I can honestly say that it is very difficult. With each mission trip that I am privileged to be a part of, Christ shows me that it is not about medicine, but about Him.

On this trip, Christ showed me what it looks like to truly represent Him, and to have others see Him in all that we do. I was



On the first day of the very first mission trip to Ethiopia, in December 2008, I remember walking around very sad about the poor conditions of the government clinic and the people I saw. All of a sudden I heard joyful noises coming from the opposite end of the building from where I was working. Out of nowhere, a mother came into the clinic. No one knew how far she traveled to get to the clinic, but, we were all blessed to be a part of the delivery of her beautiful baby boy. His journey into the world was smooth. While all of us were in tears about the poor

able to see Christ in the WSG staff, from the cook and to each individual staff member, no matter the task or assignment. The cook, for example, served us the way we should always serve others. She served us as if Christ was actually standing directly in front of her. There was always a smile on her face, regardless of what was going on, and she would always greet us with, “may I help you,” which to me meant, “may I serve you.” This was exactly what Christ did as He walked among the people. He consistently smiled and served others, even though He did not have to do this.

The other kitchen staff would come by with similar smiles as they each asked how they could help. They did not have access to “fancy” kitchen equipment, but they always prepared meals fit for a king by putting their hearts into it. They genuinely loved to serve Christ, and to them that meant serving us the way they would serve Him. I would make my bed each morning in the guesthouse, but someone would come in and redo the bed. I can only imagine that this was robbing them of their act of service.

The guys in charge of loading the luggage always did so with a smile on their faces. One day I grabbed a bag to help, and one of the guys tapped my hand and said, “no!” I can only imagine that they were treating me the same way they would treat Christ. There was a feeling of, “I am going to show my love for Christ by loving you the way I love Him, and there is nothing you can do about that!”

The service and love exhibited there was infectious. Each day I felt as if Christ was so close that I could touch Him. I could hear Him speak to me every day. Out of all the mission trips I have participated in, I felt the presence of Christ the strongest this time. I would see Him in the faces of others wherever I turned. Early in the trip, I can recall getting goose bumps because I felt that I could see Christ’s face.

Additionally, I experienced Christ working through our team. I witnessed acts of service and love shown through each of them. We had a small team of nine people, but God accomplished through us what would have otherwise required a much larger group.

It Is Well by Chika Oraka

conditions of the people and the grim looks on their faces, God was sending us a message of courage and the charge to resist the urge to be dismayed through the birth of this child.

On Monday, February 21, our first day to see patients on this mission in the completed clinic, the first patient died. My first thought was, “How can this be?” But as I delved into the history of this young woman, I confidently believed, “It is well!” It is a story of a lonely woman, but she died in the company of people who loved her even though they did not know her. She had no relatives around, she lost her parents almost six months prior, her twins had died in 2010, and her husband had left her to go to Addis Ababa. She was brought in by her neighbor. After being treated with antibiotics, she was sent to the prayer room. It was as if God, in all His abundant mercy, extended compassion to her as He allowed her to taste a tiny bit of His love before leaving this world. Whether or not she gave her life to Christ we will never know, but why would my Savior order her footsteps

to end in that powerful prayer room? Then on the last day of our work at the clinic, 8 year old Dubalech and her brother came in thinking they would receive medicines for her infection, and then leave. Little did they know that they had walked into God’s loving arms of mercy. The child needed to be admitted into the hospital in Arbaminch, and with the help and persistence of the FBA team, her hospital stay was ascertained. She is facing possible amputation of both legs and a long recovery. She will hopefully know the love of her extended family as the team unofficially adopted her by committing to secure her care as needed.

The night before leaving Chencha, Meteki, the mother I adopted, was led to Christ by a group of women on the FBA team. It is well indeed.

But may all who search for You be filled with joy and gladness. May those who love your salvation repeatedly shout the LORD is good. Psalm 40:16



From the Prayer Room in Chencha by Patience Eka

My personal request on this trip was for God to glorify Himself, and to help me and my team members individually carry His light for all to see. I think my faith grew more on this trip than before because of the way I saw God work. I witnessed Him

answer instant prayers, was amazed at His miraculous works, touched by His healing power and able to feel His love for His people in Chencha.

A total of 282 people were individually witnessed to. After hearing the Gospel of

Our Lord Jesus Christ, 67 prayed to receive Christ into their hearts as their personal Lord and Savior. 18 people were delivered from demonic spirits and four women were miraculously healed. Many were delivered from different kinds of spirits and bondage,



according to their testimonies. On the first day at the clinic, the first patient passed away peacefully in the prayer room while she was prayed for fervently. I had just walked into the prayer room for prayers, when this 22 years old lady was sent to the prayer room, after being seen by Dr. Efrim. Little did I know that God brought her there to be with His children on her last day on earth. According to the good Samaritan neighbor who brought her to the clinic that morning, her twins died in September 2010, as well as both of her parents. She had no brothers or sisters, her husband left her and she was living alone. She was so sick that she hardly left her lonely house. That morning, when her neighbor heard that the medical team was in Chenchu, she managed to bring the sick lady in a wheelchair, even though it was hard for her. As we were praying, I noticed she was not breathing and decided to check her pulse. There was no pulse and her feet were cold. I went to call Dr. Efrim who later confirmed after examining her that her eyes were “fixed and dilated.” She died peacefully without struggling or any signs of death on her face. All I saw was God’s peace showing on her face. As she died in the arms of her neighbor, God’s children were calling her name before His Throne.

On that first day, one prisoner who was brought to the clinic for treatment got saved. A lady who had one paralyzed leg was healed after receiving Christ into her heart. She walked home with her two straight legs, praising God. At the end of our first day, out of eleven people that were brought to the prayer room, five testified of how they were set free from evil spirits that had been tormenting them for years, even though they were Christians. We ended our first day in the prayer room, thanking God for bringing different local churches to pray together under one roof; this was a first time experience for the churches and for WSG. A lady on the prayer team praised God for revealing to her, by another pastor in another town, that “God was about to visit Chenchu through visitors who would be coming to

Chenchu.” She wholeheartedly believed that was the Medical Mission Team from FBA. She believed that God was about to redeem their land.

My second day in the prayer room was another day for God to glorify Himself in a mighty way. Twenty-seven people were witnessed to on this day and later brought to the prayer room for prayer. Six out of these were depressed. A lady who had been oppressed by her husband, was scared for her life because if she accepted Christ, her husband would drive her out and she would not have anywhere to live. But after explaining to her how to trust Christ to handle her husband, and let Christ into her own affairs, she surrendered her life to Christ. She said that she would rather be driven out by her husband, than miss the peace she felt in her heart, or lose her peace



in order to please her husband. Another young man was also afraid of his father because he was involved in witchcraft and believed his father would kill him if he received Christ as his Savior. But when he heard the Good News of how Jesus died for him, he willingly accepted Christ as Savior and Lord, even though his father may decide to kill him. One of the village pastors was so thankful to God and to our church for sending us to them. He said, “This mission trip to our village was just like using nets to catch lots of fish from the ocean.” We ended our second day with joy, and lots of thanks to our God.

On our third day, 89 people heard the gospel of Christ and eight new believers later received Christ. One lady received what they call a “spiritual or special healing.” She came to the clinic sick, but since she could not be seen by the doctors, because there were so many patients, she was brought to the prayer room. After many prayers over her, she received her supernatural healing, and was set free from the spirit of unbelief. She went home rejoicing. Many were freed from addictions such as alcohol and what the local people believed to be spirits in their

culture. Nonetheless, many refused Christ because of fear of their oppressors, especially women.



On our last day, 104 people heard the Word of God. Seven new believers were born into new lives with Christ as their Savior. Fifteen people were healed and set free from different kinds of spirits. One lady came to the prayer room, after prayers she said she had no need to see the doctor because she was also set free from evil spirits. Another lady came to the prayer room and got healed instantly, after suffering from loose stool and uncontrollable urination for two years. She said she had visited so many different hospitals with what little money she had, but nothing had ever worked before. That morning, when she came to the clinic, she refused to see the doctor first. As she stepped into the prayer room, she said she felt the dryness under her while simultaneously the Lord revealed the healing to one of the ladies in the prayer room as she prayed. PRAISE GOD.

Mission Accomplished

by Ingrid Forbes

With each mission trip to Ethiopia there have been seemingly insurmountable obstacles, trials and challenges. Then there have been strange occurrences, unexpected detours (as in Easter Sunday 2010 in Cairo, Egypt), and travel logistics that would just be impossible to comprehend in our western minds. This trip was no different and met our expected call for faithful prayers and determined focus on the real assignment – present the gospel of salvation for the lost souls of Chenchu. How God would use us was ours to discover and marvel at as it became evident over the course of the week. With

so many unknowns, it was difficult to rely on anything other than the Word of God and His promises to sustain and equip as He called us to this project. But it would be on a need to know basis and in a way that would cause each of us to seek Him for each moment of our time in Ethiopia.

As one of the team members with “NO medical training,” my constant battle was seeing my own purpose daily. When the first day was marked by the death of the first patient, I quietly fell apart one minute piece at a time, one day at a time. Yes, I was working in a clinic that provided medical care for extremely sick people, many of whom were seeing a doctor for the first time at the age of 70. I should not have been so devastated and surprised, but the reality of what came with the assignment this time, finally became clear. That death was as difficult as it was poignant and profound. The Mighty One had moved a neighbor from the home next door, hand-picked and escorted nine people from a country 7,691 miles away, given birth to an idea in the hearts and minds of four young Ethiopian teenage boys to build a ministry that would one day build a clinic. This clinic would create the opportunity for a young woman

who was technically alone in the world, to leave the earth as we know it, as her name was being lifted intentionally to the One who saves, the Most High God. Instead of being in isolation in her home, she was wrapped in the arms of love and her name heralded by the voices that sang praises of and to the Father. Yet, it was one life that would cause the need for salvation for the people of Chenchu to take on a new urgency in my own heart. As if to remind me of His intention in calling me to this assignment, my Father allowed me the honor of being on my knees at the feet of Chika’s Ethiopian “Mama” as she joyfully and bravely submitted her life to Jesus.

It had to be enough that He called me! I had to realize that the call was not a guarantee of “feel good experiences for my convenience.” The call comes at a price and always requires that I rely on His Sovereignty ... rather than my own plans, abilities and desires. My ultimate assignment was to lay down my own life, expectations and comforts for whatever my Savior chose for me. It was time for “big girl faith...and no more pretending!”

It was my privilege to work beside Patience, Chika, Efrim, Karen, Leeshu,

Diane, Selam and Kayenda. They have taught me “to walk worthy before the Lord” and do it humbly and without question. They have been the word of encouragement when it was needed for so many and the gentle hands of love when hurt of any kind needed to be soothed.

God promises new mercies each day. Little did I know that His mercy extended to me on a daily basis, is a love for Ethiopia that I cannot explain and gratitude for the gift of being in the company of those He calls to serve His children in that beautiful country. There are no words to sufficiently express the extent to which we have all received His anointing and favor, but we are sure that we will never be the same.



Special Thanks!

Two members of the team, Kayenda Johnson and Leeshu Kennedy, were significantly supportive and sent by their home churches. These are the churches that they grew up in as young girls or made their homes when God moved them geographically to new homes. We stand amazed at how far reaching the impact of this medical mission team has had all around the world.

Under the leadership of Bishop Marcus A. Johnson, Sr., New Harvest Ministries in Baltimore, Maryland supported our mission to Ethiopia. The New Harvest Ministries: (1) raised financial support for Kayenda Johnson who was the lead pharmacist, (2) collected over 100 pair of prescription & reading glasses and (3) 133 bags (30 day supply) of multivitamins for children & adults. They also wrote and sent letters of encouragement for the mission team members, in addition to constant prayer support while we were away.

Reverend Terry O. Corbin and his congregation at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church of Winnsboro, South Carolina proved to be staunch supporters of Leeshu Kennedy for her second medical mission to Ethiopia.

At the end of October, the church began collecting reading glasses, used prescription glasses and vitamins for the people of Chenchu. Approximately 145 glasses were donated and used on this trip. The members of the church began praying for the team well before our first trip in 2010 and they continued to pray throughout the year. Reverend Corbin monitored the blog daily

while the team was in the field and informed the church members who continued to pray for us in real time.

The Proclaimer was donated by “Faith Comes by Hearing” for the people of Chenchu. This electronic version of the New Testament was translated into the national language of Amharic and played for patients as they waited inside the clinic and at the gates to receive treatments and/or appointments. Many who heard the Gospel were able to ask questions of the staff and were given the opportunity to talk in the prayer room with the local church leaders who gathered to pray on the premises daily. This unexpected gift became the “surprise visitor” daily.

