



November Ministry Update

THANKFUL

In the month of November, it's easy to remember all that we're thankful for.

Many people post daily thanksgivings on social media and *of course*, in America we have a feast all about giving thanks. Though we're half a world away in Ethiopia, the Lord continues to remind us of all He's given us and we are so very grateful. One of the things we're so thankful for is the support both spiritually and financially the Lord has given us through all of our prayer warriors and financial partners. As you read this month's update, I hope you know how much you are appreciated. The Lord has used you to impact the lives of our family, the children and the staff of this ministry. THANK YOU!!!



Eye Clinic Volunteers

We were extremely blessed by this small team from the UK and US that came to serve us. Rebekah (left) is an optometrist from Northern Ireland who came with

all her skills of checking the eyes and giving prescriptions to many of our children, staff and friends in the community. Maria (next to Rebekah) screened each of the patients' eyes before they were to see Rebekah. She prayed with every person and made sure they had a relationship with Jesus. If they didn't, she shared the Gospel with them. Because of her amazingly outgoing personality and boldness, three people from the community received Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior during the eye clinic. Also, one young boy, being raised in a Muslim family, that we had met at the pool accepted Jesus into his heart as a result of her love and desire that all would be saved. Maria also got to share her testimony to my friends at the Women's Fellowship Bible Study. Third in the picture above is Theresa. This is her second time here in Ethiopia. She led a dental team here last year. She made sure everything ran smoothly with the eye clinic and was such a wonderful blessing to me (Rachel) as a more experienced missionary/wife/mother. Seth, Theresa's 15 year old son, was a blast to have around for my kids. They really bonded with him and he seemed to enjoy hanging out with them. All in all, it was an amazing, albeit short, week while they were here and we are forever grateful for their service and sweet fellowship the Lord allowed us to experience with them.



A Visit to the Braille School

Argaw and I were honored to be invited to Amanuel and Freyhiwot's Braille school a few weeks ago. Ebenezer had purchased 14 school uniforms for the students there and they wanted to formally say "thank you" to us. We got to see firsthand the amazing work this school is doing with children who are blind and mostly impoverished. The kids are learning how to read Amharic and English Braille. They're also learning how to write it. One of the administrators was reading the Gospel of John to us, and I was so impressed how he could read faster being blind than I could having sight!



Birthdays

November is a slower month for birthdays for our Ebenezer Family. But, we still celebrate each child and do our best to let them know they are loved. Binyam

from House of Hope turned 15. Tegegn from Ebenezer Grace turned 6. We also celebrated Diborah, the daughter of two of our staff from House of Hope. She turned 5.



Peace On Earth...

...Or at least in the southern part of Ethiopia! We are thankful that the Lord has heard our prayers regarding these past few weeks and given us all peace

during this time. The people living in the Sidama Zone were asked to vote for or against the Sidama tribe becoming independent as an individual regional state. There were quite a few fears circulating that what had happened in July when the referendum was due would happen once again. However, the Lord brought peace upon this nation and allowed for a very smooth and fair voting process for the people living here. The results of the voting came out to be an astounding almost 98% for the formation of the regional state. We could not be happier and believe that the Lord will continue to bring peace to this country and to our people.



It is Finished!

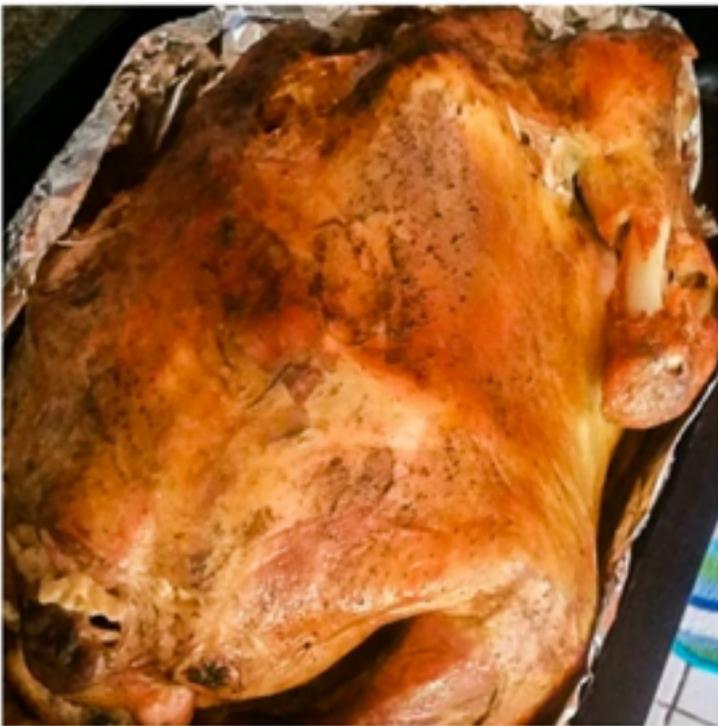
Oliyad finally received what we hope is his very last surgery last week. They closed up his stoma and he is able to "go" normally now. We are so thrilled for him, as I know he hated the fact that he couldn't play and run around with the other kids his age. His little buddies, Nahum and Mateos have started Nursery, and I know Oliyad is excited to be able to start as well. Thank you for all your prayers and the support you've given for this child. He's a precious soul, and we believe the Lord has BIG plans for this little guy that He's saved multiple times in his 5 years of life.



Special Visitors

We were so grateful having my parents here for the past few weeks. They brought SO MUCH STUFF! On top of the 25lb. turkey and 10lb. ham they had stuffed in their luggage, they managed to bring with them Christmas gifts for 92

children for our upcoming celebration on January 7th. Obviously having them bring all these things has been a huge blessing for all of us. However, having them here during Thanksgiving, and just in general, was the biggest of all blessings. It's been way too long since they were here last in January 2014! We had the best time with them and are already missing them greatly, though they only left a couple days ago.



Thanksgiving came to us this year and we had all the fixins' with it!

Praises:

- For God's continued provision in this ministry and His love for each of the kids, each of the staff and our family
- For our wonderful eye clinic team that did so much for us and provided the free eye care our kids and staff needed, as well as the community
- For the 4 people who received Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior
- For the opportunity Argaw and I had to visit the Braille school and all the amazing work they are doing here in Hawassa, especially for Amanuel and Freyhiwot
- For the birthdays celebrated in November
- For the peaceful voting of the Sidama Referendum and that statehood will be attained soon
- For Oliyad's last surgery being a success and that he's able to "go" normally
- For Opa and Oma being here and bringing with them the gifts for Christmas for the kids in the ministry, as well as for our family, and a delicious turkey for Thanksgiving and a ham for Christmas
- For each of you who are praying for, sharing about and/or financially supporting this ministry. We are so grateful for you!

Prayer Requests:

- For the Lord to continue to provide for the ministry, especially for the rent that is due
- For spiritual growth in the hearts of those who accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior
- For continued healing for Oliyad from his recent surgery and that he'll be healthy from here on out

- Continued prayers for Amen to be healed of tuberculosis and for her to be able to return after her 6 month treatment
- Continued prayers for Alemitu to be healed from the cancer and that she'll be able to get the surgery she needs
- For the Word of God to penetrate into each of our hearts and that we would seek to do His will each and every day

Until the December Update...thanks for your continued prayers and support of ESMAfrica and the children we *all* serve.

Child Sponsorship

To learn about how you can make an impact on a child's life by supporting and praying specifically for one of these precious little ones, click on the button above.

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