

**April 1983**

Dear Family and Friends,

We have received the exciting news that the Ethiopian Ministry of Labor has approved our work permit for our ministry in Ethiopia. This has been a big hurdle in our visas being granted to us. Thanks for your specific prayers. S.I.M. leadership says it will be a matter of weeks before we have the visas. (A white piece of paper with an official green smudge stating you can live and work in the country.)

My how our hearts were encouraged and warmed to see the extension of God's love during our eight week trip in the Southeast! It was special to see old friends and to make new ones. The receptivity to us, our message and mission was so genuine and affirming. We praise the Lord for many committed, prayer partners.

Can you believe that we already have 70 percent of our monthly support pledged, and 50 percent of our outfit and outgoing expenses pledged! This thrills us because our departure date is only four months away, mid August.

Our greatest need at this time is for a vehicle for our life and ministry in Ethiopia. We have been advised to purchase a Toyota van in Ethiopia. We need to order now because it takes six months for delivery. An account for our car fund has been set up at First Baptist Church Collinsville, 723 St. Louis Road ' Collinsville, Illinois 62234. Designate gifts for "Harding's Car." The cost of the car is, \$13,000 U.S.

Bill had the precious opportunity to lead one of our former neighbors to the Lord. For five years we reached out in friendship and verbal witness to Vit without ' any decision for Christ. The startling news that he had terminal cancer stimulated his interest in eternal matters and prepared his heart for Bill's visit and the visit of our Lord and Savior who then took up residence in Vit's heart.

Drew, 5, is a "fanatic"! He has just learned to ride a two wheeler bicycle. If he had his way, he would ride it in the church parking lot 24 hours a day. Early in the morning we have seen him huffing and puffing and doing stunts on his bike. Looks like another item to take to the field.

Ryan, 3, will either be a scientist or a professional tinker toy builder. One morning before we got up, Ryan had made his way to the fridge to empty all the different flavors of yogurt into one bowl and mixed it together. He made a beeline to the kitchen after nursery school to devour his concoction. Such is life.

Kara's (19 mos.) favorite phrase is "time to eat." After she calls the family to dinner by name, she squints her eyes to pray and then has about three servings of everything. Bananas are her favorite. There are never any bananas around.

Pray for a sense of organization in this matter of packing and getting all the personal belongings for our three year term. It's most taxing and frustrating at times.

In our next letter we hope to send to you; our picture prayer cards, the news that we have received our visas, and that we have made great headway on the purchase of our Toyota van.

Your friendship and the knowledge of your love and concern brings much happiness.

Because of Jesus,

Bill & Grace Harding