

April 1984

Dear Family and Friends,

Lord, have we really been here in Addis Ababa for eight months? . And does Bill have only one more month left of Amharic language school and Grace two months? There is still so much we don't know, Lord. You are our adequacy!"

So many things have changed. Praise God things are not static. Here are a few changes we have encountered.

TRAFFIC - This is the most inimitable change Taxies slamming on breaks, stopping in the middle of the road to let off passengers. Many don't have headlights or taillights Drivers believe the lane markers are to determine where the middle of the car should be. Cows, donkeys, 'sheep have the right of way even in the city. The owner is paid if animals are hit - be careful! Authorities say, "before] there were cars, no animals or people were hit by cars thus cars are to blame for any accident." Pray for us who drive.

COOKING- It's all from scratch - everything! We soak our fruit and vegetables for fifteen minutes in Clorox water to kill the germs. We are now used to boiling our water for I twenty minutes or putting water through our neat ultra-violet filter system. We. have I to watch out for rat droppings, bugs, and dirt in sugar and flour

WEATHER - The last five months it's been beautiful with fall temperatures. Blue skies constantly. The rains which are much needed are beginning in Addis. In other parts of Ethiopia there is still tremendous drought. It is not uncommon to see hundreds of dead cows on the side of the road in southern Ethiopia.

POVERTY- The intensity and the extensiveness of abject poverty has dealt the greatest blow to our lives. One coming from affluent America cannot prepare himself enough to cope with the implications of it. Psychologically, it is wrenching. Physically sometimes unbearable to behold. God loves them all and is teaching us to love them as He did.

FAMILY - Yep, changes here too. God gave us a real unexpected expectation due in mid-August '84. How excited we are, but not without some apprehensions. Medical facilities are a far cry from home. We have found a Norwegian run hospital. two hours away from where we will be living. A real answer to prayer. Pray we make it in good time, and for a safe delivery.

Questions and statements from our kids change. The latest from Kara (2) is "Let me see your baby, Mom'." Ryan (4) wants to know all about the "Efinopians" (Ethiopians) Drew (6) is asking those deep theological questions like "Dad and Mom, why did God make tooth fairies?" He has his first loose tooth!

HOME Bill and Drew have just returned from Yerga Chaffe. This is where we hope to move in mid-June to begin our work to the churches. The church leaders eagerly received them. Forty of the one hundred and fifty churches in that area have been closed. Pray for this church which is experiencing I Peter 1:6-7. Bill was able to plant a garden and see how the small house Mom and Dad had lived in can be enlarged for our growing family.

Through all these changes we love it here and have a great sense of fulfillment in the will of God. Changes always change a person somehow, and we pray that God has used the changes to make us more like him.

What changes are you all going through? We sure love bearing from you.

Bill & Grace