

April 1989

Dear Family and Friends,

We have really appreciated how so many of you responded to our request for yeast. It was incredible! We've received enough yeast to make over 400 loaves of bread. Eating piping hot doughnuts and beautiful bread that's not flat has this Harding family smiling and feeling fat. Again; thanks for RISING to the occasion. Now we want to inform you of the great chocolate shortage in Ethiopia, Har-Har!!

There have been some changes as to our family situation. The boarding parents who have been taking care of Drew, Ryan and Kara are having their first baby. Grace has gone to Addis to take over till the end of the school year. This means separation. Bill is still maintaining his water and teaching responsibilities at Yerga Chaffe. It's not easy, so pray for emotional strength for Grace as she handles all four kids without me there for support. Pray that God would help me fight loneliness.

I had a super time teaching "The Life of Christ" to the college students in Dilla. It was so rewarding to see them grasp and understand more clearly their Lord. As we studied Christ's passion they were moved to tears and reaffirmed their commitment to make Him known. This made this Easter particularly meaningful to me.

The two week Easter break was fun packed. The kids came home to ride their horse "Blazer", they got at Christmas. They ran him into the ground! Blazer did manage to bite Ryan in the chest. Ryan can still prove it to you. Kara got too close to his rear and was kicked in the leg. After some blood-curdling screams it wasn't long and she was back on riding away. Each evening Grace read the "Love Comes Softly" series to the family. We all "ate it up"! Grace boohooed a lot.

I had a neat opportunity to be used of the Lord during a chapel program at Bingham. Forty made decisions for Christ. One was a muslim girl who had longed to be a Christian, but was so fearful of her parents response. That morning she counted the cost and boldly yet humbly received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of her life. Pray for these kids who come from so many different nations.

On May 22, my Mom and Dad will be landing here in Ethiopia to serve as pastor of the International Evangelical Church. They will be here for 4 1/2 months. The grand-kids are going wild, so are we. My brother, Joe and his family are here too. What a neat reunion time it will be.

In closing, an urgent matter for prayer. The killer disease, Meningitis has hit Ethiopia with a fury. Thousands and many near us have died. Its been horrifying - killing so fast the young and the old. We have vaccinated over 20,000 in our area yet it still continues to take its toll.

Sincerely in Christ;

Bill & Grace