

October 1997

Dear family and friends,

A few weeks ago, I (Bill) flew back from five days on the border of Ethiopia and the Sudan. I was involved in preaching at a United Nations Refugee Camp, Kor Bonga, which provides a safe haven for about 12,000 Sudanese Uduk refugees. Let me share with you this incredible story of faith. One of the Uduk Christians was beaten for his faith in Christ. Since he did not recant his faith, they tied him on the hood of a military truck in the baking Sudan sun. His flesh cooked until all of his skin stuck to the hood. After he was peeled off the truck, he was put in prison. When the guards came to beat him again, there was a bright blinding - . light that shone causing the guards to flee. He then fled for his life too. This man, with a disfigured back, is in the camp and continues to serve his Maker and Savior with JOY! Wow, what an inspiration he was to me!

We continue to experience the special JOY of watching our children grow and count the cost as they make choices to make Christ first in their lives. We have seen God's abundant care and provision for Drew so evidently In the last year. Most of his emails are full of how great everything is He loves college life at Wheaton... classes (particularly his evangelism class), friends, and dorm life. Do pray with us that God would provide the right job for him to help him be able to pay off his financial obligations to the school. It is a concern for him. We miss him. It was a delight to hear that the highlight of his summer was sharing Christ with a friend at work and observing the process of that friend coming to know the Lord along with his wife.

Ryan, finishing and loving his senior year at RVA, also needs prayer as he moves into the college years. He wants to do pre-med so he can eventually go overseas to help those who have so little medical help available.

Kara is very happy at RVA. We were thrilled to hear of her very genuine decision to rededicate her life to the Lord last week at the RVA spiritual emphasis week. It has been harder academically for her with ADD in dorm life. We do wish we could help her more.

Our last, Kyle, turned into a THING called a teenager! Hard to believe he was born here in Ethiopia thirteen years ago. What a delight to still have him around!

We are so grateful for so many things... the opportunities the Lord gives to minister In spite of opposition from so many directions.. the peaceful knowledge that God is with our kids when we cannot be ... that He is so faithful in providing for our needs as well as theirs... and that He gives us friends like you who are so faithful at praying, giving and encouraging so that we can serve Him with great JOY here In Ethiopia. Knowing that in an ever changing world, we are serving a God who never changes!

Bill & Grace

