



# EthioFaith USA: Developing Christian Special Education for Ethiopia

## NEWSLETTER: WINTER, 2020-2021

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### GREAT NEWS!

You've not received a newsletter from us since this summer because we've been waiting to share good news with you—when it happens. And now is the time! But first, we need to back up and explain what has been happening.

COVID-19 shut schools in Ethiopia about the same time as they were shut or shifted to on-line formats in the US. Of course, on-line wasn't an option since our families have neither internet nor computers. Instead, staff did home visits.

The epidemic was not severe in Ethiopia, due to factors such as the government taking decisive action in the spring, all folks flying into Addis Ababa had to quarantine in an airport hotel for two weeks, that the focus was on masks and temperature taking, and that Ethiopians have much more of an outdoor culture and life style than do we.



While access of testing and reporting of data has some challenges in Ethiopia, at present there have been 118,006 cases and 1818 deaths in this country of 109 million. God's mercies have been evident! Thus, schools were supposed to open a couple of months ago, but then something happened.

You may know that there are a number of different ethnic groups in Ethiopia and apart from the capital city, these ethnic groups are clustered in various regions of the country. One of the ethnic groups, the Tigrayan people, are one of the smaller groups yet have often held power. When socialism ended in Ethiopia in the 80s, the Tigrayan people were responsible for its defeat. In the ensuing years, however, the power has shifted to the Oromo

and Amhara people (the two largest ethnic groups who, together, comprise about 62% of the population). As a result, the Tigrayan people have been taking actions that some believe would lead to secession.

In response, the federal government initiated a conflict about two months ago with the Tigrayan people, sending troops to their region. Many have been killed, about 50,000 Tigrayan people have fled over the border to refugee camps in Sudan, and human rights abuses have been alleged. While the situation in Addis Ababa has been free from conflict, schools that were going to reopen remained shuttered out of an abundance of caution.



In the last few weeks, the government has proclaimed victory (yet reports of isolated conflict remain), so in December, schools started reopening and on Monday, December 14, Faith school reopened! Below are pictures of the students back in class.



Finally, in the midst of this good news, we are facing a great problem. We have a waiting list of students and our facility isn't large. We're exploring the options at present, so pray with us that we will be able to accommodate these additional students!

### -----Get Involved-----

- For more information, reach us at [ethiofaithusa@gmail.com](mailto:ethiofaithusa@gmail.com) or go to the website: [www.ethiofaith.org](http://www.ethiofaith.org)
- Give thanks for the minimal Covid 19 impact; pray for a return to stability and flourishing in Ethiopia.
- Give on-line: [www.ethiofaith.org](http://www.ethiofaith.org) or by mail: EthiofaithUSA; 3500 Eastview Dr. NE, GR, MI 49525