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To: bnjadams@gmail.com

RE

Loving and Leading Others

News Letter, February 09, 2019



Greetings Family and Friends from Ethiopia

We thank you sincerely from the bottom of our hearts. A lot has happen in our lives and it could not have been a possibility without your love, support, and help. When Elsa and I decided to get married

Thank you Markos and Meseret Zemedede for your support; Thank you Yene and Megan Negatu for your help with so many things; We want to thank our families who catered the food; We want to thank Kathy and Karen McIlharæev from who we

on December 22nd of 2018, she was still in Ethiopia and I was spending 3 months in Zambia for a missions training program. We did not know how we would pull it together to plan our wedding. Elsa and I still reflect on that day and it is hard to see how the two of us could have planned it even if we were present in California. When we look back, we cannot avoid but notice your hand involved in every detail. We want to thank People's Church Staff for collaborating with us and for allowing us to use their sanctuary and venue space; We also want to thank Ken and Emily Khiran who flew from Canada to officiate our wedding; and we also want thank Dina from who we used a lot of the items to decorate our wedding venue.

...and on Monday, we had to borrow the chairs and table for our sweetheart setup; And we want to thank many of you who decorated, transported items to the church, provided your homes as a storage room, organized, and all together coordinated our wedding. Many of you volunteered your time, your resources, and your love for us. You made this happen and we truly are indebted to your generosity. The smallest act of service did not go unnoticed. We were blown away with how everything turned out and we hope you enjoyed it. We feel honored and privileged to have all of you in our lives.

People were also very generous after the wedding. Elsa and I did not have a place to stay and people took us in as their own. We truly are thankful and only wish we can repay you.

Honeymoon Experience in Peru



For our honeymoon we found a very inexpensive flight to Peru from



One of Elsa's friend from Fresno Pacific University, Rosanna, who is a missionary

Mexico, where we also visited family. Peru taught us patience in different ways (two flights were delayed, bags misplaced, extra charges for unexpected details for hotel stays and so on). And we also got high altitude sickness from being in Machu Picchu. When we flew back to California Elsa made me promise her that I would take her to honeymoon :D. One thing we did do intentionally was to visit women in the area of Peru that are less fortunate, to learn from them and to share our experience from working with women in Ethiopia.

We spent two weeks in California before flying to Ethiopia on January 30th. Our time came by so fast and we apologize if we didn't get a chance to say goodbye in person. We made it home safely and there has not been any water in our home pipes or water tank since we got here (5 full days now) and we do not know how long it will continue. We have to get the water elsewhere. We are still very happy with our cold-bucket-showers. We came back in such a dry season where everything is so dry and dusty and we hope to have rain soon.

On Monday Feb 4th, Elsa and I went to the immigration office early in the morning to start the paperwork process for me to

in Peru connected us to two different families. We met Irma and Candida who welcomed us warmly into their respective homes. They each live 10 minutes away from each other. We encouraged them and prayed with them. We felt as though God placed us intentionally to meet them. Their spirits were uplifted with hope for better days in their homes and with their families.

Today, we found out that the marriage certificate needs to be sent to the Department of State in Washington DC to be authenticated and then to the Ethiopian Embassy in Washington to have it approved before we start any process in getting an Ethiopian ID. Unfortunately, the Ethiopian government only works with the Head of State Department (Washington DC) and not with every state like California. Please pray for God's favor with this process. We know God can do all things and His hand is upon us through your prayers.

This week's, another priority was to enroll in language school, which I did manage that and registered for six weeks. My first

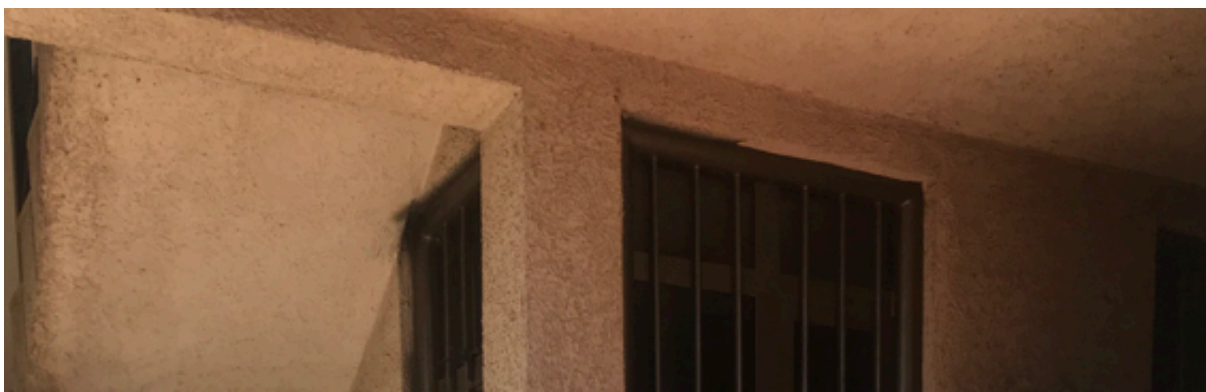
get residency in the country otherwise, I have to leave every 3 months and this can get very expensive. Before coming to Ethiopia, I drove up to Sacramento to authenticate our marriage certificate, thinking we can get a head start on the immigration process to avoid extra cost for visa.

day school is Feb 25th. I did not want to waste any time while I can start learning and be effective in preaching the gospel in the native language.

Ministry With The Women

We will be taking a break for one week to assess and connect with our team and to build a strong foundation with each other. While Elsa was away, her team in Ethiopia (Ase, Edu and Aster) continued the ministry with the women very efficiently. We want to hear from them their stories, not a report of their work, but their hearts for these women. We want to build a strong relationship with the team. Serving twenty-seven women is not easy plus their children but they did it with fullness and led one woman to Christ, Praise God! The bible says, **Jesus leave the 99 sheeps to go and search for the one that is lost.** The women now connected in the local church and taking discipleship class. We cherish such stories because that is our vision for the women beyond anything else to find their identity through Christ.

Unfortunately, two of our team members (Ase and Aster) are leaving us as one of them transitions into marriage life and the other one to family commitments. We know they are going to leave a huge gap. We love them dearly and we will miss them so much as they have been key team members in Loving and Leading Other. Please pray for God to bring the right people with the right heart and mindset. We trust God that He will continue what He has started.





Meet Almaz

Lastly, we want to introduce you to Almaz who ran away from “forced marriage,” in other words an older man was going to abduct her into marriage. She ran away in August from the rural part of Ethiopia in search for security and a better education. When Elsa heard Almaz’ story, she was moved to adopted her unofficially. She has been living with Elsa since September and



has also been attending school. Almaz has been an extreme blessing. She kept the house clean and secure while we were gone and has been so attentive. She has also been a huge blessing for the ministry and the women love her. She has a servant heart and communicates ever so loudly with kind acts of service and is a very sharp girl. We want to help her finish her education. Please add her to your thoughts and prayers.



Prayer Request

In conclusion we humbly ask you to pray for the following things,

- **Rudy's immigration paperwork so he can stay in the country.**
- **Rudy's language school and adjustments to a new lifestyle in Ethiopia.**
- **New staff member and strong foundation in our team to effectively communicate identity and God's purpose to the women and children we minister to.**
- **Water to come through those pipes and water tanks to be filled.**
- **Almaz situation and her education for a better future and opportunities.**

Also my job has been killing mosquitos every night to keep my wife safe. She has been safely taken care of. I will confess, they are not always easy to kill.

"if you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito"

- African Proverb

We love you and respect you very much. If you would love to contact us, please do not hesitate to do so. We would love to hear from you.

Thank you!

Rudy and Elsa Venegas

Loving and Leading Others

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