From: Elsa donations@lovingandleadingothers.org Subject: New Women; New Season; New Year Date: September 12, 2018 at 10:51 AM
To: bnjadams@gmail.com



















## Dear beloved,

## Happy Ethiopian New Years!! It's 2011 here.

I hope everyone is doing great. My team and I are so excited for the new season. We started the Ethiopian New Year with God's greatness and faithfulness. We also expecting God to do even greater thing this year as He promised in his word on Ephesians 3:20.

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us."

We finished a one-year program with our firest group of women at the end of July. We trained, mentored and helped each women see themselves differently than how they saw themselves before and built their confidence. We also helped each women started a small business, which helped them stand on their feet and freed them to be independent.

We took a month off to recruit and prepare for the second group of women. Successfully, we recruited twenty women between the ages of 19-35 years old women, single moms from the worst part of the city within Addis Ababa. Most of the women work in the dumpster, trying to find something valuable. Some days they will find something that could be sold and buy bread for their children. Other day's, they come home empty handed to their children after being in the dump all day long. We visited their home and saw their living

condition. Almost all of them live in extreme poverty and in a very unnealing environment. We trust God for his provision and using you and I to make a change in their lives. God is calling us to love these moms and walk with them. As much as the reality seems heavy and unbreakable, we believe that God knows how to change histories.

We intentionally chose to work with this specific group of women because they are young and knows how to read and write. There are more women in this area but we cannot take all of them because it costs and we are still in the process of learning what works and what don't work. However, we want to raise leaders from the group so they would go back to their community and teach what they have been learning from us. This way, we will be able to replicate and reach more women/lives.

On Saturday Sep 9<sup>th</sup>, my team and I invited the previous and the new group of women into the NEW HOUSE. Praise God for providing a house! We're incredibly blessed with the new house and with many rooms that that is available to do several workshops. So grateful.

Out of the twenty women we recruited, eighteen of them showed up and nine women from the previous group were able to come. Including our team we were about 36 people in the house. We are SO thankful for God's provision on the new house and for the people who supported so we can do different activities including fun games in the space that is available. My team and I were able to cook Ethiopian food the night before in the house and provided food for the women as we celebrate Ethiopian New Year with them. By far, it was one of the most successful, effective, fun day since we started the ministry.

We asked the pervious group of women to share their stories to the new moms. It was really encouraging to hear and see the previous women standing tall and sharing their success stories with confidence. Inviting the previous group of women was so strategic as they were the perfect example and a living testimony. The new groups of women have now a very good understanding about how result driven and measurable our program is. In other words, we're not gathering for the sake of gathering, but we focuses on the well being of each moms and we expect life to be transformed.

We honored the women from the previous group in front of the new group and gave a special achievement certification to three moms who completed the sewing program successfully. All together, we trained 6 moms, which three of them already started their own business. The testimony the previous women shared encouraged and painted the perfect picture and gave the new group hope for the future.

I shared the vision and the mission of *Loving and Leading Others*, which is to transform life one at the time. I gave a short lesson about "*A garden place and a good Gardner*" I used our little garden area (fully covered by weeds) to demonstrate the similarity of our minds and thoughts. Our mind is like a garden place, and the seeds are our thoughts. If we don't cultivate, water and take care of our mind, it will be covered by weeds (negative thoughts) and the weeds will chock the good seed. As proverb 23:7 says, "*As someone thinks within himself, so he is.*" I strongly believe, we're what we think of all day along.

We left our small gardening place messy intentionally to inspire the new group of women. In the days ahead, our plan is for each woman to have a small section of the garden area and give responsibility to plant a seed of her choice. In the process of taking care of the plant; we hope they would know that everything takes time and change requires being intentional, whether that is watering the plant, or plucking the weeds. As we inter into a new season and the New Ethiopian Year, it is our hope that the garden place would symbolizes that the soil is our mind and the seeds are our thoughts. And, we have to be a good gardener in order to produce results that are measurable at the end.

We're so excited about the new group of women because there are more challenges than the previous group. However, we already invited God to lead us in the way we should go and we're fully confident that He will walk with us in every step of the way. And make a way when there is no way.

I feel very encouraged and honored for you to partner with me. I also urge you to continue to pray for the new group of women, and for my team. There are still many things that we need in order to fully support these moms. It is my

nope that they will know Christ in the process and learn to love themselves as Christ loves them. I'm optimistic and enthusiastic that we can train these moms with many trainings, such as sewing, cooking and baking, embroidery, and if God will, making paper bag for grocery bag and sale it.

## Prayer Request:

- Pray for me so God would give me wisdom and knowledge so I can be able to impact these young women and lead them to Christ.
- One of my team is going to marry in less than 12 days. I'm loosing one of the biggest asset from my team and I'm praying for God to bring someone who is passionate to love and serve others. I ask you to join me in this specific prayer.
- Pray for my fiancée Rodolfo Venegas who is in Zambia, Africa. Who is learning how to become a missionary and for God to use this time to strengthen and stretch our relationships.
- Also for God to make a way for us to come back to Ethiopia after we get married and serve the people God loves.

## **Announcement:**

Please save the date for Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018. If God will, Rodolfo and I will be united in marriage. It will be in Fresno California. I will send the invitation and full information vie online. If you receive an email through Weddignwire.com, know it is from me.

As you probably know, most of my family and brides made are coming from out of the country including Ethiopia. If you or know anyone who can host my family and quest for a couple nights.

would appreciate so much.

I'm also looking for a house by the ocean or mountain where my family and I could celebrate Christmas together. This is a very significant time for my family and as this is the first time after 20 years my family and I would be at same place and time. So so excited. If you know anyone who have a house by the ocean that could give us with great price please let me know.









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