



Team Cox

Warning...some people may not want their children to read. It is graphic.

February 23, 2009

Feb 2010 Team Cox update

Hello friends and family! We just want to give you an update on “what’s up” in Ethiopia these days (these warm and sunny days, I might add).

Sean has been busy at Bingham Academy with teaching and coaching. He also has been preparing mock exams for the students in preparation for their Cambridge exams this spring. Bingham is a busy place, for sure; there is a huge need for teachers for the following school year...at least 25 are needed. Please pray for more teachers to be recruited to the school. We hate to think of what the teacher’s workload may be like otherwise.

Madison and Hannah are doing really great; actually, they seem the most relaxed and adjusted now than they’ve been since we’ve been here. Hard to believe it’s been almost a year! Hannah B told me today she doesn’t want to live anywhere else, even though she does look forward to visiting Montana in the future. They both have made very close friends here, which has been a tremendous blessing. Also, they both enjoy school and extracurricular activities very much.

I (Becky) have two more months of Amharic language school, then I will finish. I know I will never finish learning this language, but it will be so nice to be out of the classroom. God has been doing amazing things through the small group Bible studies we started in the Kore community in September. These continue to grow and multiply. Our greatest need is for more facilitators to lead these small groups. I’m also spending time each week in a different area of the city called Chirkos. I’ve mentioned before that this is the area most heavily populated by prostitutes and all manner of darkness.

An Ethiopian friend of mine has introduced me to a family in Chirkos who we've been visiting weekly and getting to know. They are open to having us pray and read Scripture with them while we visit (and drink coffee, of course). This family lives in a very small, very dark shack in an area of Chirkos called DC (not yet sure why it is so named). DC is *the* area where most prostitution occurs. It is eerily quiet during the day; it is completely different during the evening and night; teeming with all the nightlife that goes along with this lifestyle. These homes in DC are turned into brothels, with beds being rented for 2 birr per use. Most of the actual prostitutes are from the countryside; girls who've come to Addis in search of work, only to find this work is primarily all that is available for uneducated girls from the country.

There are some truly evil things which occur in this area. Because most of these girls don't have family in Addis and because so few people place any value on them, many prostitutes are kidnapped by "brokers" who sell them to tenquay (witch doctors). These witch doctors, who are both male and female, do horrible things with these young women, even to the point of human sacrifice. Not very long ago, some police found ten bodies of young prostitutes in the home of a tenquay.

I don't need to tell you how burdened we are for these girls. A friend of mine who also has a heart for the prostitutes here told me of one girl who he approached to share the love of Jesus with her. She told him, "I am nothing. I look beautiful on the outside, but inside there is nothing. I am treated as worthless; I have no value; I am only used. There is nothing for my future; nothing to live for. Why should I live?"

Ethiopian women are incredible and I have utmost respect for them. Many women live with intense discrimination and violence. On March 6th, I will be running in the Ethiopian Women's 5k Race, which is specifically for awareness of violence against women in Africa. 9,000 women are expected to run in this race; to be a voice, somehow, for those who have none. Female circumcision, child-brides, high maternal/infant mortality, sexual slavery, and physical abuse are all too common here.

Please pray as we are beginning to build relationships in the Chirkos/DC community, especially beginning with this one family. I'm certain at least one of the girls is involved in prostitution. Pray for wisdom and guidance in the future, especially in sharing the love of Jesus in this very sensitive situation. We'd like to see some small groups form here in the near future. Pray for the Light of life to pierce this darkness and bring hope to the hopeless. Pray that the power of the Holy Spirit will equip us for this work. There is no other way; we are incapable of anything in and of ourselves.

Lastly, we thank you for all your prayers and continued support of our family. It is a powerful and at the same time, humbling. We're so very grateful. God bless you!

By His grace,
Sean and Becky Cox
Madison and Hannah