

FRAGMENTS FROM THE FRONTIER #7

September 2021



Our Children playing frisbee outside the Mission

A quick update to share with you the practical reality of life in Gode; which is somewhat different from many parts of the country because of the distance we are from a major commercial town, or at least one that produces more than onions and bananas. A fact which adds to the cost of many essential foodstuffs. I stood in shock last week at the sudden rise in prices, when I went to buy the dry goods that we *usually* need for a month (although with the growing number of ladies, our needs have ‘grown’ accordingly); I asked the price of flour, since we bake all our bread for breakfast for the women, missionaries and our workers, in May I bought a 25 kg sack of flour for 880 birr. Now two months later, this has increased to 1200 birr a sack! This 400-birr difference is equal to just over a days’ wages! Oil has increased from 230 birr for 3 litres to 440 birr! Eggs from 8 birr each in March 2021 to 12 birr each! Powdered milk for which I had paid 600 birr for a 2,5-kilo tin, now costs a little over 1000birr for the same amount. Bread, which was previously 2 birr a roll, now costs 5 birr.

The women we have been helping, who were just getting back on their feet feel like they are back at the beginning. The future looks grim to say the least, and the worried look on their faces has returned. It is hard enough



Learning to use scissors

for single people, but when, as is the case of most of our women, they have multiple children to care for it becomes even more difficult.

As many of you face the “new normal” in the West, please spare a thought and of course a prayer for these women and the many like them all over the world. For these women whom the ‘new normal’ has nothing to do with normality, but is a continuation of basic injustice that the poorest of the poor suffer simply because they are, for whatever reason, in that position.

I thank God for the many generous gifts which come from the ‘Friends of the Mission,’ who share in the work. I know that many of you give at real personal cost, something which is so



precious to God and to the poor, which is why I want you to know that your gifts relieve suffering. This may be physical illness, the lack of shelter, food or the emotional stress which shadows so many of the women I meet. These women worry about how to survive the coming weeks.

The latest arrival in the Mission

Please continue to pray that here in the mission we may be attentive to the ways in which we can be God’s Presence, Compassion and Love to those who have nothing and no one to turn to.