A CHILD IS BORN FOR US

COME LET US ADORE HIM!



Ukun's child: Abdi Kassim

FRAGMENTS FROM THE FRONTIER - 15

Dear Friends of the Mission,

We are halfway through the season of Advent, and I wish each of you a profound preparation for the mysteries we shall celebrate at Christmas. Far from the cold, rain and snow that most of you live in, here in the 30°C+ temperatures we have a different experience of Advent.

I wrote to you recently about my 'adventures' with Birtukan and her cousin Mahamed in Addis Ababa. We are returning home for the three week wait before she begins radiation therapy.

Now I would like to give you some form of update on the other work of the Mission, as we continue to accompany so many who live in difficult situations.

We have six ladies in various stages of pregnancy. One of whom looks after the children in KG 2 previously had a 'molar' pregnancy so the doctor, who has become a friend of the mission follows her closely due to his concern

Many of the ladies have never attended the clinic before, even though many are in their sixth or seventh pregnancy. Having had a bad experience before of a child dying during birth, I have made every effort to take the ladies to the clinic and follow the development of their babies, under the watchful eye of Dr Moges.

Most of the women are quite anaemic and need iron supplements, but as they get used to eating the moringa and banana flower that we grow it seems to me that this becomes less and less necessary…

I never get used to seeing a child in the womb, and Dr Moges often has the time to point out the features of the child to the mother. It is wonderful to see their surprise and wonder as the see their child for the first time! On one occasion the child seemed to me to be waving at us, I thought I was seeing things and asked the doctor who looked again at the screen and confirmed that indeed the little one was giving us a 'high five!'

Rest time in the mission is almost 'sacred' as the heat, the humidity and the pace of life tend to wear us down. At least half an hour to rest is a godsend and renews us for the rest of the afternoon. As one missionary said to me, "it is a marathon and not a sprint"!

Just as my head touched the pillow my phone rang, “Sister, Ukun is delivering her baby”. Heavily pregnant, Ukun’s waters had broken. She had insisted on coming to our house each day, although I had asked her to stay home and rest for these last weeks of confinement’. A strong Somali woman, she walked at least twenty minutes to the bus each day to attend the seminar we were having for the women on the programme. Her husband, Kasim, who was working in the field was called, to accompany us to hospital.

I drove not sure if I should be going quickly or slowly, whether the bumpy road would encourage the delivery or the slowness of pace would mean that we would be delivering en route, but I was relieved as we arrived at the hospital, with the baby still in utero, although not for much longer!

I left Kasim and Ukun, in the care of the midwife and went back home to look for the things she would need for the birth. On return to the hospital, I was greeted by a now peaceful mother and sleeping baby boy, her ninth child. The next day I brought both mother and child to our home to rest, before she returned home with her husband and her other children in the evening. I visited her again two days later and found her suffering from an upset stomach. So, we returned to the hospital, where she was given medication. She needed to be kept in to receive some IV fluids as well. Her last experience in the hospital had been far from pleasant with regard to the lack of nursing care available. I asked if I could keep her in my house whilst she took in the required fluids, the doctor agreed and so we had Ukun and Abdi, as he is now called back in our house.

At the end of the day, Ukun told our Somali teacher that she was grateful for the sanctuary she had received in our house through the difficult times. After her treatment, she returned to her house full of life and happy to be back among her other children once again. We still have another five births, so please pray that they may go well for both the mothers and their children.

The classes for the children of the women being trained in weaving continue and we notice a great improvement in behaviour and academic achievement among them. I think this is a direct result of the creative work of our team of teachers: the young graduates who have put their hands to the plough with great enthusiasm.

I must also say that the input of our other volunteers Gosia and Jola, Marlena and Fr Pawel in the summer, has carried over into the everyday life of the informal school we have. Marlena brought a lot of thoughtful preparation to their time with us and had different techniques to help the children develop skills that could later be used in their learning. Jola being a teacher was able to help us to recognise the children’s developmental needs at different stages.

Marlena has started an ‘Association of the Mission of Hope’ in Poland, and is ‘on fire’ raising money, and finding volunteers and experts who could help us in the mission field itself. Speaking with Marlena recently about the connection of the ‘Friends of the Mission’, members of the Association of the Mission of Hope in Poland and others who are involved in the Mission of Gode, we noted how Mother Teresa’s words have come true in so many people’s lives:

“What you do I cannot do, what I do you cannot do, but together we do something beautiful for God”

Please God the mission link will continue, so that each of us may share the good given to us with our brothers and sisters, who have less… or nothing at all.

This has become quite a long ‘fragment’, I will keep you up to date with Birtukan’s progress when we return for the radiation treatment in three weeks’ time, please God. I end here with grateful and prayerful wishes for Christmas for you and your families, and the promise of our continual prayer here in the Mission.

A HAPPY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS!

God Bless you and your families,

Sm Joachim and all in Gode Mission!

PS. I have attached photos of the Mission at work…


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11/12/2024 11:32


REDMI 13C
11/12/2024 11:32

CLASS TIME


REDMI 13C
11/12/2024 11:32


REDMI 13C
11/12/2024 11:32



TOP CLASS (FOLLOWING THE LOCAL SCHOOL PROGRAMME)



LEARNING TO EAT ALONE!



LADY'S LITERACY CLASS



BEST TIME OF THE DAY!!!!