

EASTER SEASON 2010

Dear Friends and Supporters of Addis Hope,

Realizing that it has been some time since any message from us has appeared on our website and not wishing to be thought of as having a love affair with inertia, I would like to pen some thoughts, keeping in mind that the pen is a mighty scepter but how few are the kings that wield it.

It had been my hope to send this Easter message before Easter Sunday, which this year is celebrated at the same time in both the East and West, something that happens only once every four years. However, due to circumstances beyond my control, such as rationed electricity this is the best that can be done.

Of course, when I think of the Easter season, I think of what that period means in relation to those who make possible the education of the impoverished children of Addis Hope. I think of Palm Sunday and how palms were tangible symbols we held in our hands, making the story of Jesus' last days something we could, literally grasp. Webster's dictionary says the name *palm tree* derives from the way the leaves resemble the shape of an outstretched hand. And there we find their deepest meaning. With that hand earth can be tilled, clay can be formed empires can be built. In that hand a flower can be given or a stone can be hurled. We can grab the hand of another to squeeze away fear or to offer friendship. A hand can heal a hurt or brush aside a tear.

During this season, I'm also reminded of the story of the Good Samaritan which is about someone who, as a fundamentally caring and compassionate person, held out his hand to someone deeply wounded and went at once to his aid. He didn't ask any questions. He brushed aside the excuses which no doubt sprang to his mind. He saw someone in need of help – that was enough. This compassionate man could not bear to see suffering and remain unengaged.

Make no mistake, almost all the children in Addis Hope have been damaged and in need of a helping hand and have found it in those who, whether knowingly or not, see how much one life is related to and affected by another. This spiritual oneness is at the heart of who we all are.

If God can create something out of nothing, then God can bring good out of any evil – joy out of sadness, gain out of loss, hope out of damage. It is for us to act with compassion and self-sacrifice in alleviating the suffering of others, especially children, and helping with God's work.

Thank you for being such a vital part of this noble endeavor we call Addis Hope.