

Why Give...?

It takes only one short visit to Ethiopia to see images which will never be erased from your heart. When a young mother with AIDS (acquired not voluntarily) sits with her small child and asks only that you pray for her daughter - that she remains HIV free. She states she has plenty, but you know she sits all day making the base for brooms, weaving in the bristles, which she can only visualize through her one good eye. Her home, a small put together lean-to, which she shares with others like her, and pays up to half on the \$10 she might earn in a month. Somehow she meagerly feeds her child and herself, asks for nothing but prayer, and praises God that someone was generous that month to pay her rent.

Mengesha walks with one wooden leg, an old battle wound from war took his leg. He is fortunate enough to be over 45 (the average life span reaching only into the low 50's) for most ... and now his eyes are growing old. There are no "Dollar Stores" for him to check his reading vision, in fact, the last time he saw a doctor was to amputate his leg, which would have been saved had he been in another country. It's simple really; we throw away our old, run to the store to pick up a new color or different style. Even prescription glasses come in handy from someone who just needs to see better.

Churches are growing, but leadership training is scarce and difficult for those living in the countryside. Coming into the city is costly and time spent away from families who live off of what farming is available requires many long and hungry months for all. Developing training centers becomes urgent to help cut the cost for those in rural villages.

We claim to be the home of the free and the brave, and at the harbor of our shores, stands a beacon of hope ... "give us your huddles masses yearning to be set free" the arm of our Lady Liberty reaches out, the challenge is to follow the example set before us: join in and be a **bridge2ethiopia**.
