

Wednesday, March 4, 2009
Letter # 10 from Ethiopia

Dear friends and family,

Recently I have been having some breathing trouble, along with lowered energy levels. As the recipient of a 2001 heart-valve transplant, I decided to get a check-up from a cardiologist. Last Saturday I got the results from an EKG and from an echocardiogram, and it appears that my transplanted valve is beginning to fail. We are advised to return to the US promptly for a thorough evaluation before there is further deterioration.

We will leave Addis Ababa tomorrow night and arrive in Louisville Friday evening. We will be staying at the Furlough Home on the campus of the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and our mailing address will be:

Lora and Bruce Whearty
1044 Alta Vista Road
Louisville, KY 40205

Our email address will remain the same: blwhearty@gmail.com We would love to hear from you, as always, but we may be slower than usual in responding.

I already have an appointment with a cardiologist next Wednesday, one week from today. We will be in touch with you as we learn more.

Lora and I are both surprisingly at peace, and have been productive, doing the things that we need to do, that is, packing and faxing doctors and emailing insurance companies and saying goodbye to people. Our sleep has been a little broken up but we're doing OK, trusting that the future, as always, is in God's hands.

Our packing has been interrupted by a steady stream of teachers stopping by, and that makes us feel good. We are confident that, with your help, the small initiatives that we have been able to foster here will continue.

Today, our last full day in Ethiopia, we contacted the marble factory near the school. We had visited this place once before, when the marble window-sills, thresholds, and stair treads were ordered for 'our' new apartment, now nearing completion. Marble is common in Ethiopia, the result of the extreme pressures exerted in the complex, tortured landscape of the highlands. Today we weren't ordering anything, just picking up a small souvenir. I found the little sample that I wanted, a scrap that showed the rough, unimpressive matrix on the surface, as well as the smooth, pure interior. I will carry this small stone with me, both as a reminder of Ethiopia, with its hidden beauty lying dormant behind its troubled face, and as a reminder of the metamorphosis that God can create beneath the surface of our own troubled lives. Someday, perhaps, I'll have the chance to show it to you.

Thank you all very much for thinking of us and for holding us in your prayers.

Love and peace,
Bruce and Lora Whearty

This letter will soon be posted to our webpage at www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profiles/wheartyb You can visit our photo album from that page, as well as browse old letters.

We love to receive email at blwhearty@gmail.com but because of our slow internet connection, please do not send us photos, attachments, or e-greeting cards. Thanks!