

**Fwd: African Ministry Newsletter--Reaching Ethiopian Teenagers! For update.**

1 message

Sat, Oct 5, 2024 at 1:23 PM

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Rich Hansen <[rphansen01@4362230.mailchimpapp.com](mailto:rphansen01@4362230.mailchimpapp.com)>  
**Subject:** African Ministry Newsletter--Reaching Ethiopian Teenagers!  
**Date:** October 3, 2024 at 4:00:12 AM PDT  
**To:** Barbara [REDACTED]  
**Reply-To:** [REDACTED]



October 2, 2024



Dear Barbara,

Greetings in the name of Jesus! Welcome to my September newsletter, a few days late because I lost about a week in September due to a mild bout of Covid.

First, some good news. In my last newsletter, I mentioned **praying for the release of two busloads of kidnapped university students in Ethiopia**. I'm glad to report that earlier in September I learned that all have been released, many after their families paid a huge ransom. Many thanks to all of you who prayed for their safe return to their families.

I'm rushing to complete this issue before I leave early Thursday morning for a four day backpacking trip on the Appalachian Trail through northern Virginia. This 40 mile section is a constant up and down over many small mountains, clocking over 7,200 feet in elevation gain! I'll appreciate your prayers for my safe travel and that I survive what is aptly named "the roller coaster!"

This issue features the **inspiring story of one of my longtime Ethiopian coachees who is revitalizing a nationwide ministry to high school students**. Mathi is another great example how investing in just one leader can impact many hundreds for the gospel.

Finally, on a personal note I'm sharing a few photos of our 50th wedding anniversary that Marilyn and I celebrated with our family on September 14. *"A man's greatest treasure is his wife— she is a gift from the LORD."* Prov. 18:22 That promise has certainly been true for me!!

Thank you for your partnership that allows this ministry to keep growing. Without you, it would not happen!

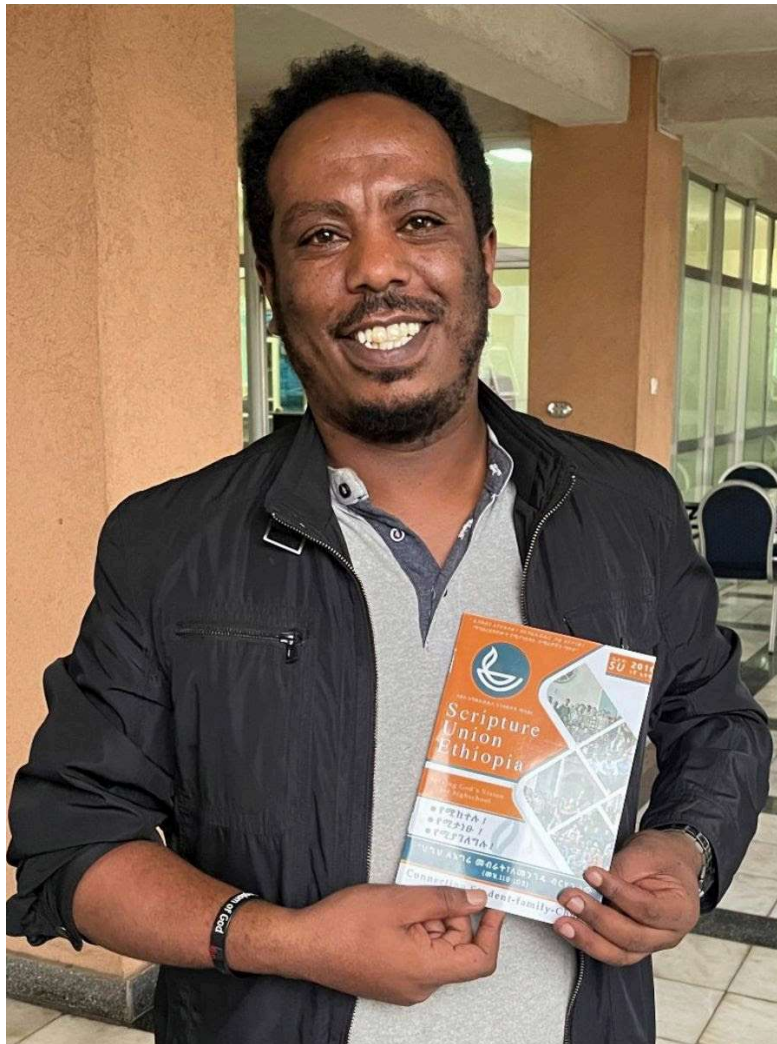
Grace and peace through Jesus,  
Rich

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## **Reaching a New Generation with the Gospel**

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I first met Mathi several years ago when he participated in my very first [Coaching for Transformation course](#) cohort in May, 2020. At that time he was the #2 leader in EvaSUE, Ethiopia's amazing college ministry that reaches over 50,000 students on over 140 campuses. EvaSUE has been one of my primary partners in Ethiopia these past years and I have coached Mathi off and on during his leadership in EvaSUE.

About a year ago, Mathi felt God's call to move to Scripture Union, a high school outreach ministry similar to Young Life. It had fallen on very hard times, lacking direction and vision, and falling far short of its potential impact.

Mathi injected exactly the kind of proactive, forward-looking leadership they needed! In the photo above, he is proudly holding the booklet he orchestrated and wrote containing Scripture Union's upgraded mission, vision and future action plan. I coached him throughout the intensive process of a year of consultations across this nationwide organization to bring this revitalizing transformation (captured in this booklet) all together.



Here's a recent photo from Mathi's September newsletter of a leadership conference he led for high school fellowship student leaders. **These student leaders represent over 60 high school fellowships throughout southern Ethiopia!!** Through his renewing training and coaching of all these leaders, he is having an impact on hundreds if not thousands of high school kids all across the nation. *(Mathi is standing at far left in front row)*

**And yet....**while all these great things have been happening through God's Spirit in his ministry, Mathi has been suffering in the most elemental way...most days he is hungry. On some days he has only enough money for one meal. Almost all of Mathi's meager monthly income goes toward renting his small apartment--prices have exploded in recent months, creating economic hardship for even well-off people in Ethiopia. He is paid almost nothing by the organization and must raise his own support--a very difficult task in African nations!!

Ministry leaders like Mathi focus all their attention on their ministries and neglect fundraising; on the other hand, most Ethiopians are unwilling to give financially because they live in a culture that has no understanding of tithing or personal giving. Many decades of Western donors have created a culture of dependence.

**I'm now engaged with Mathi in a several month coaching program to help him upgrade and expand his fundraising process.** Through some connections, I was able to enroll Mathi without charge in an online fundraising training program used to empower Western missionaries. Over the coming months he will work through one module in the program before each coaching call with me, hopefully building a strong foundation to sustainable long term

income.

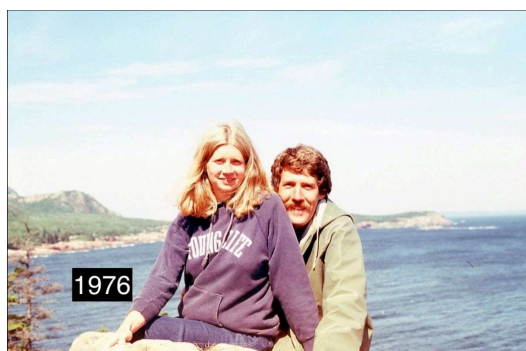
**Mathi is exactly the kind of difference-making leader making a HUGE contribution to God's Kingdom!** Scripture Union will continue to grow and flourish in reaching high school students if Mathi can stay healthy and well (including having enough to eat every day).

Thank you for investing in me, so I can walk alongside and invest in Mathi, as he invests in his financial future, so he can better invest in and lead the gospel outreach to high school students all across Ethiopia!!

**Please click [here](#) to download Mathi's September newsletter and spend just 2-3 minutes reading about his training of Ethiopian high school student leaders.**

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## 50 Years of Blessings, by God's Grace





(top). Yes, I had long hair in college and at our wedding. It was the 70's!

*(middle)* Left is one of our first of our many camping adventures in 1976; right is on our 50th Anniversary cruise to Alaska with all the family this past August.

*(bottom)* Our family on the Alaskan cruise: son Nathan with grandkids Niam (4) and Naya (7) and wife Milli next to Marilyn (Arlington VA), daughter Lauren (New York City), daughter Megan (Spokane, WA), Marilyn and me.

*(bottom)* Celebrating 50 years to the day on September 14, 2024, at brunch with Nathan and his family in DC.

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## I Appreciate and Value Your Support...

As I continue to invest in African leaders like Mathi as agents of transformation for God's Kingdom in Africa, I invite your tax-deductible [financial support through The Antioch Partners](#). *(one-time or monthly gifts by credit card online, check, e-giving, or even stock)*

And speaking of transformation...[CLICK HERE](#) to take a look at my updated vision statement "empowering agents of transformation."

Especially as my expenses increase in 2024, every gift (small or large) will help me meet the challenges of my expanding opportunities.

*Please help me deepen and expand this network of high capacity leaders that the Lord continues to bring to me. Thank you!*

**Give Now To Support my Ministry**

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