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Dear John,

***"...but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God"
(2Cor.5b)***

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ! I come to you this holiday season with an urgent request for your help. I am prayerful that God will use you in a special way this Christmas.

The Christian Mission has been serving our Savior for almost 60 years by proclaiming the gospel to our rural brothers and sisters in Ethiopia. During that time, God has blessed the work and helped it grow through planting churches, establishing Christian schools, the child sponsorship ministry, developing a respected surgical hospital and cultivating life-saving public health programs, as well as creating the self-help project for artisans. Each of these life-changing ministries has risen out of your prayers and faithful gifts.

Today, we face unparalleled challenges in this desperate nation. As the ministries at CM continue to grow, so, too, does the circle of people we need to help. Every day, our missionaries on the field are confronted with a growing number of needs – a sign that the gospel is reaching more and more people who know they can turn to CM when they are in need of Christ-like love. And yet, our resources at CM have not grown enough to meet the needs of our impoverished brothers and sisters.

That's why I'm writing to you today. The Christian Mission urgently needs your help. Without an increase in funding, we will not be able to meet our budget. Without the help of generous donors like you, we will have to begin saying "no," to those who come to us seeking help – for soon there will be nothing left to give.

I know that you are faced with many needs right now, but the situation of our neighbors in Ethiopia is so desperate, and their resources are so few that I feel

this case is truly special. Please pray about how you can make a difference to the ministries of CM.

In addition to praying about how you can contribute with a monetary gift, I ask that you also pray about how you can help bring new members to our family of donors. Many younger families or new Christians may not be aware of this expansive and revolutionary mission effort taking place in Ethiopia. Please, tell them about the exciting things God is doing through CM and encourage them to become a part of this ministry.

Your employer may have a Matching Gift program that could prove an invaluable resource to the ministries of CM. Please pray and think creatively about how we can work together to show Christ's love to the people of Ethiopia.

I ask that you join with CM, both prayerfully and financially, in responding to the current budget deficit. Please consider a special year-end gift to help us meet the needs of our destitute brothers and sisters.

On behalf of our missionaries and ministers in Haiti, I thank you for responding to Paul's message in 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 by giving yourself first to the Lord and then to the body of Christ. Please pray seriously about how you can make a difference to CM and to the Church in Haiti.

May God rain His blessings down on you and yours throughout this beautiful holy-day season.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Joseph Smith, Director
Christian Mission

p.s. Please send in your prayer pledge and year-end gift today. The impoverished mothers, fathers, daughters and sons of Ethiopia need us now more than ever.