

## Lisa Ritenour

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**From:** Lisa Ritenour  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 13, 2019 9:14 AM  
**To:** Partners  
**Subject:** FW: Lawrences in Ethiopia: Crossing Borders

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**From:** Scott & Tina Lawrence <scott.lawrence@sim.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 13, 2019 4:13 AM  
**To:** Lisa Ritenour <lisa.ritenour@2pc.org>  
**Subject:** Lawrences in Ethiopia: Crossing Borders

### Lawrences in Ethiopia: Crossing Borders

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Our mission is to demonstrate the love of God through healing the blind, caring for the poor, giving hope to the hopeless, and mentoring future leaders in eye care. With the generous support of our friends, family and churches, we have been serving in Ethiopia since 2015. We are thankful for new opportunities to care for our neighbors to the north as barriers have been removed and the border has opened.



Facebook



Scott



Tina

## Crossing Borders



One of the benefits of working in a capital city like Addis Ababa is encountering people from all over Africa and our surrounding region. Among the countless Ethiopians (many from the countryside) are families from South Sudan, Djibouti, Yemen and various countries in North Africa.

Just last week, a tall gentleman from Eritrea walked slowly into my exam room with the assistance of a walking stick, accompanied by his younger family members. I could see that he was nursing an old injury to his left leg. "He was a soldier," a young woman explained through a translator. I was not surprised about his profession given his serious demeanor and *very* firm handshake.

With the recent peace agreement between Ethiopia and Eritrea, this family had wasted no time crossing the border to seek medical care for their father's failing vision. He could barely detect light through his right eye due to a dense cataract that looked more like a fried egg than a lens one could see through.

After a carefully planned surgery, my patient returned the next morning for his check up. As soon as we removed the patch, a big grin broke out on his face - the first and only time I saw him smile. This proud man stood up without assistance and raised his arms to pronounce a blessing on me and my staff. We celebrated together his new-found sight and wished blessings upon his family as they prepared to journey back home. I look forward to many such encounters. Perhaps next time I will be the one to cross the border.

## **'Family Matters'**



Our family has recently been battling illness, but we have much to be thankful for as we look back on the past couple of months. We celebrated with James (*top left*) the completion of a major research project when he performed his oral defense in front of *bezu* ("many") faculty, students, and families. As he spoke with authority, we couldn't help thinking about how much he has matured in his four years here. Tina enjoyed an evening out in Addis with fellow medical missionaries (*top right*, yes food was involved). All of our boys continue to enjoy athletics. Jon Nathan (*bottom right*) has established himself as a force in volleyball. How Tina and Scott could produce one of the tallest kids on the team is no small miracle. Christmas and New Year's came and went quickly, but we did try to make time for small outings with the kids (*bottom right*). We relished reading through the many cards and update letters from our friends and family back home!



## Prayer Requests

Praise: promising opportunities to hire one or two more doctors for the medical work

Prayer: restoration of health for Tina and James as they are the last to fully recover from recent illness

Prayer: for the current leaders of Ethiopia as they bravely seek opportunities to elevate human rights and freedoms in our country (new elections scheduled for 2020)

Prayer: new teachers (secondary and elementary) at Bingham Academy (email us if you know someone)

## How You Can Be Involved

By investing in our work in Ethiopia, you play a vital role in bringing sight and care to thousands of Ethiopians. We need both prayer and financial partners to stand with us as we respond to the incredible need for eye care and leadership development in Ethiopia. Would you consider becoming a monthly partner or making a gift by clicking on the button below? All gifts are fully tax-deductible.

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Send checks to: *SIM USA, P.O. Box 7900, Charlotte, NC 28273*  
Remember to write our account number in the memo line (043201)

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