

Heartland Community Church's Partnership with Zeway, Ethiopia

The college ministry of Heartland Community Church in Kansas City, Missouri partners with Zeway, Ethiopia and Food for the Hungry. Heartland took a trip to Zeway in March of 2007. This interview is with one of the FH Advocates, Jordanne Bonfield.

"Partnering with FH and Zeway, Ethiopia through the Adopt a Community program has opened our eyes to a world beyond Kansas City, which is great for college folks. Heartland was ignited by the week long trip we just took to Zeway. Our prayers are now more direct and intense, and we know that our prayers **matter**. We have faces and names. We know that our partnership **matters** in Zeway, our sponsorship of kids **matters**- we are sponsoring 10% of the kids in the entire sponsorship program in Zeway. Because of FH's work there, we are breaking the cycle of poverty and HIV/AIDS in Zeway.

"We were blown away by what we saw in Zeway- the way we saw God working. It was amazing to see the staff there seek God, pray, and receive from Him on behalf of Zeway. There, you see God everywhere. Here in America, it can be hard to see God working. The poverty stares you in the face in Zeway, it is not hidden--you are a mother dying of AIDS, you are a 10 year old orphan caring for 3 siblings on your own, you are a widow with no way to feed and care for the 8 children in your charge--and so you cry out to God for help and He sees you and meets you. The needs are so honest. Here in America, our poverty is hidden. We mask our poverty of heart with money, success and power. We have the same need for God to meet us in our poverty, but we keep it hidden and so we don't see him working and meeting us in the same way because we are not as honest about our need for him. We cover up our brokenness; they don't. God meets you when you come to him in honesty and need, and being there challenged us to be honest and let God meet us in our poverty the way he meets people in Zeway in their poverty. We are challenged to wait for, watch for and anticipate God here in our lives and our city in new ways because of the example of our friends in Zeway.

"One guy, Mark Wagoner, was praying a few months ago for God to give him something to be passionate about. He was feeling his lack of passion, and yet he knew God calls us, as believers, to be passionate for Him and his kingdom. One night at our Sunday night service he heard Alissa Shirley talk about Zeway, and immediately he knew THAT was the answer to his prayer. Zeway is what God wants him to be passionate about. God answered his prayer and immediately gave him passion for Zeway. He signed for the trip, went, and now he is so on fire for God and for Zeway... he has even signed to be an FH advocate so that he can be resourced to effectively speak to churches, small groups and individuals about God's heart for the poor, the work of FH in Zeway and the needs.