



# URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE

## CURING BLINDNESS IN ETHIOPIA

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By Mo Siegel, president, Urantia Foundation, Colorado, United States

For the past two years I've been blessed with the opportunity of assisting Dr. Geoff Tabin, cofounder of the Himalayan Cataract Project, as he cured cataract blindness in Ethiopia. During the last week of August 2017, our small surgical team of three experienced and three resident doctors performed 1100 cataract surgeries on blind men, women, and children. With that many surgeries being performed in such a short span of time, it felt like an assembly line delivering light to those lost in darkness. When you see the despair caused by blindness, you can easily understand why the merciful soul of Jesus felt compelled to cure the blind. It took several weeks after returning to the United States for me to

go a day without thinking about the experience, tearing up, or dreaming of those souls who found relief from Dr. Geoff's scalpel.

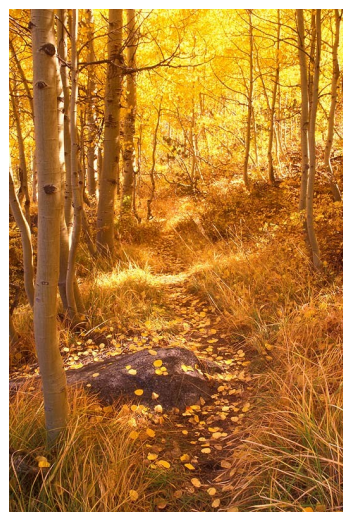
This year we worked in a small eye clinic in a remote town in southern Ethiopia. The clinic had two "hole in the floor" toilets without running water and one old AC unit that didn't function. Electricity generally worked but would frequently shut down during surgery. From seven thirty in the morning to eight thirty at night, the blind patients, often the poorest of the poor, streamed in, busload after busload. For me, it was an endurance test that I could only pass when I remembered Jesus' words, "What you do for the least of my fellows you do to me also." From my pampered American perspective I frequently felt overwhelmed



Mo Siegel

by germs, suffering, and the seemingly endless waiting room of patients. Intertwined among the wafting unfamiliar smells of Ethiopia came moments of joy, medical success, and hopefulness. One look at Geoff, eyes steady on the microscope, and you felt humbled by his selfless and tireless determination to end unnecessary blindness. From the viewpoint of the patients and their families, they must have felt love, care, and the total transformation of their lives.

Imagine being completely blind before surgery on Monday, and after your bandages are removed Tuesday morning, you have near-perfect eyesight again. In an instant a blind person goes from helplessness to self-sufficiency. Despair, coupled with deep depression, turns into promise for



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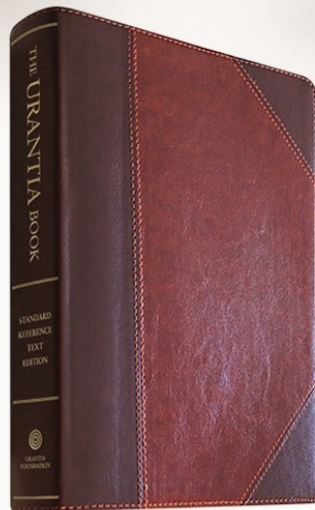
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Says the Lord: 'I dwell within their own souls as a lamp of wisdom. I am the splendor of the splendid and the goodness of the good.'

*The Urantia Book,  
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