

CIRCULATES IN THE HEART OF

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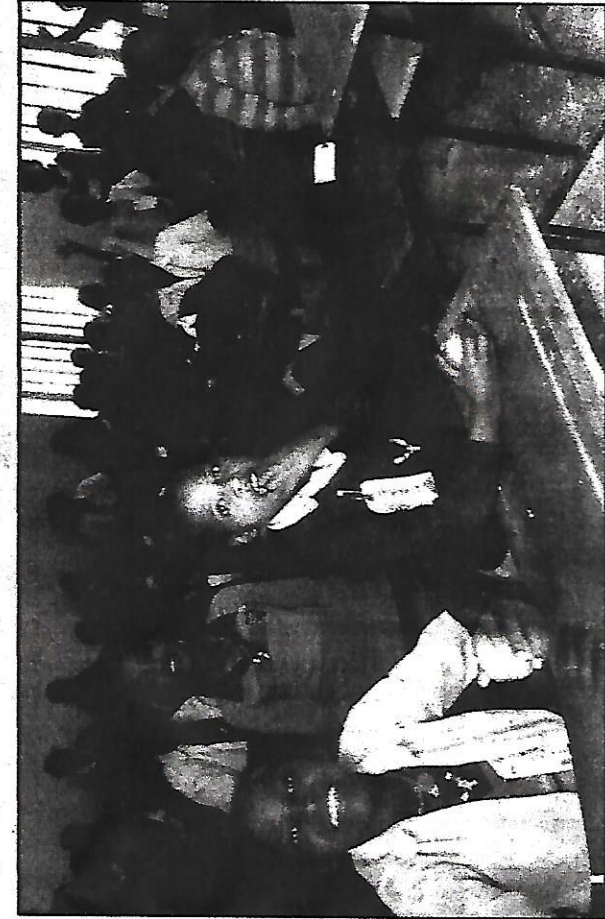
Adopting Ethiopian children opens path of faith for Mill A families

By The Pioneer
 The old adage, "The Lord works in mysterious ways," was proven true a few years ago when Angela Morrill of Mill A was contemplating adopting an infant from Ethiopia.
 One day, neighbor and friend Cheri Rogers rang up Morrill and began talking about adopting an Ethiopian child herself.

"I said, 'we're kind of doing this crazy thing ... we feel like we're supposed to adopt this little girl from Ethiopia,'" Rogers said. "You could've heard a pin drop. She said 'What? What? Ethiopia? A girl? We're going to adopt a girl from Ethiopia.' She and I had not had the adoption conversation and we live right down there (next door)."

Both women have firm Christian beliefs and they had each prayed over the decision to adopt, so when they learned they both were on the same path, that confirmed their faith as little else could.

"I jokingly tell people, you pray and ask God to an-



Ethiopian students pose for a photo during a recent visit by Cheri Rogers and Angela Morrill to the Children's Hope Chest Care Point facility in Chapa. Submitted photo

swer your questions but how often does He answer you with a phone call?" Morrill said. "You think, gosh, we're going to adopt a child from Ethiopia and it's going to be this weird thing in this small community."

Both families welcomed the infant girls into their families, but Rogers said the adoptions were the begin-

ning of a more significant journey of faith.

"We brought the girls home and just settled into life," Rogers said. "For us, in traveling throughout Addis Ababa, which is the capitol of Ethiopia, our eyes were just opened to so much more. We knew we somehow needed to be involved. Adopting was just a part of us seeing

this great need and learning more about why kids end up in orphanages and knowing that if you can be part of solution, landing on the side of family preservation."

Morrill agreed: "It's such a different connection, I think, once part of your family history is tied to Ethiopia."

Rogers found the charitable organization, Children's

Hope Chest, and has traveled three times to southern Ethiopia. The agency brings together community people, church leaders and government officials to establish a safe compound where children attend school, get basic medical care, have clean water available, receive food and are mentored.

The two women spent several weeks in Ethiopia last month, assisting the organization's efforts.

"Children's Hope Chest's motto is 'Survive. Thrive. Succeed,' so first, helping them survive, then to thrive, then to succeed," Morrill said. "Ultimately, that helps the entire community succeed."

Morrill said her family has sponsored one of the children helped by the facility for the past year and a half. The children aren't orphans, though they may have lost one parent.

"I'd really been wanting to learn more and to serve and I finally got a chance to go," she said.

Rogers was inspired to begin an effort to provide clean
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