

9 Nevertheless, that time of darkness and despair will not go on forever. The land of Zebulun and Naphtali will be humbled, but there will be a time in the future when Galilee of the Gentiles, which lies along the road that runs between the Jordan and the sea, will be filled with glory.

2 The people who walk in darkness
will see a great light.

For those who live in a land of deep darkness,
a light will shine.

3 You will enlarge the nation of Israel,
and its people will rejoice.

They will rejoice before you
as people rejoice at the harvest
and like warriors dividing the plunder.

4 For you will break the yoke of their slavery
and lift the heavy burden from their shoulders.
You will break the oppressor's rod,
just as you did when you destroyed the army of Midian.

5 The boots of the warrior
and the uniforms bloodstained by war
will all be burned.
They will be fuel for the fire.

6 For a child is born to us,
a son is given to us.
The government will rest on his shoulders.
And he will be called:

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 His government and its peace
will never end.

He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David
for all eternity.

The passionate commitment of the LORD of Heaven's Armies
will make this happen!

— *Isaiah 9:1-7*

Discussion/Journal Questions

Since you have heard about extreme poverty and the work of MoHI, what have you been thinking or feeling? Is there anything from your prayer time that you would like to share?

Have two or three people read Isaiah 9:1-7 out loud slowly. After some time of reflection, ask each other what words, phrases, or ideas stand out to everyone. What questions come to mind as you meditate on this scripture?

What is the message of hope in Isaiah 9:1-7? What role does the Church play in bringing people the hope of Jesus?

In the sermon, John shared the four pillars of MoHI: Educate children, Empower families, Restore health, and Redeem lives. Can you think of examples of each of these in the ministry of Jesus?

How can we serve our community with the same passion and witness as MoHI?

With your group, close with a time of prayer:

Pray for the school possibly starting this Tuesday.

Pray for Wallace and Mary as they travel here.

Pray for us, to have open hearts for the kids of Ethiopia.