



GOSPEL OUTREACH TO ETHIOPIA

WOODWARD PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST

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BEHAILU RETURNS TO ETHIOPIA:



Excitement and thanksgiving was experienced by thousands of our brethren as Brother Behailu returned to Ethiopia in January. This is the first time in four years that his health condition has permitted he and his wife, Alem, to make the trip. They plan to stay in Ethiopia until April. If there are no health circumstances that arise then other extended trips can be planned for them. Because of the opportunity offered through the technology available to us all, Behailu has been very active in filling the

same leadership roles he would have filled if he had been present with the others in Ethiopia. Here he is pictured, seated, third from the left, with those who serve in the administration of the areas where the work is connected to the legal status required by the government. The four men seated, left to right, are brothers Moges, Demere, Behailu and Alemayehu. These men not only serve as administrators, but more importantly as gospel preachers, Preacher Training School instructors and other spiritual leadership roles in the Lord's work there. The others in the picture are accountants, facilities managers, administrative assistants and "holders of the purse" for the work. This is the team that makes everything move forward. Brother Demere has served in the leadership since 1963 and Behailu since 1964. Moges has served for more than 35 years and Alemayehu for almost 25 years.

REPORT FROM BROTHER ALEMAYEHU ABOUT BEHAILU'S MINISTRY WITH THEM:

"We are writing this email from Hawassa after completing our meeting with the brothers and staff of the Preacher Training Schools in Jajura and Shone and the schools in Shinshicho and Mazoria. We would like to thank our Heavenly Father for allowing Brother Behailu to be with us here in Ethiopia. Everyone was so happy seeing him physically and they glorified God for that. Brother Behailu explained to all the leaders about the current situation of the church economy and the difficulty of raising fund these days. We discussed each activity of the work in detail especially on the evangelical outreach and development programs that we operate. He has given them financial reports of the last four years, including the external audit reports and led a prayer time with them for the future of the work. He discussed with them the need for every congregation to support their own preachers and be completely independent from outside financial assistance of any kind. By hearing these points directly from him, everyone now understands very well and will cooperate by working in harmony in all areas of the evangelism outreach. We feel his coming to Ethiopia at this time was critical in going forward.

All of our meetings with the brethren have been very positive and has established a clear understanding of their individual responsibilities to our Lord and His Church. We felt so grateful to God. Tomorrow we will continue our trip to Santariea to meet with the church leaders in the Sidama Zone then we will return to Hawassa to for extended discussions here. When we return to Addis Ababa, then we will travel to the western region to visit the Lord's work in Nekemte and Jimma. At that time we will have visited, planned and encouraged all our brethren in every area, every school and every project being accomplished by the Lord's people in the nation of Ethiopia. There are no words for us to express how important and beneficial Brother Behailu's visit with us has been. We look forward to the weeks we have left with him on his trip here."

REPORT FROM BADEWATCHO, WOLLIETA AND DURAME:



Bro. Molla reported to Behailu that during the last year more than 550 people obeyed the gospel and added to the Lord's Church in the Wollieta, Badewatcho and Durame areas. Five new congregations have been established in these areas through the water well evangelical efforts. Molla is pictured here with a group that came to be baptized at the Preacher Training School in Shone where Molla serves as the school director. Over 200 of the 552 wells drilled in Ethiopia have been completed in these three areas. The majority of the new congregations established thought the water

well evangelism program is also located there. Molla regularly leads a group of evangelists as they travel to the new churches encouraging and strengthening them. The Shone Preacher Training School has served to train preachers for the new congregations.

REACHING OUT TO THE DEAF CHILDREN IN ETHIOPIA:



More than 800 children attend our eight Christian schools in Ethiopia. Of this number, over 200 are deaf. More than 50 of these deaf children are boarding students and we supply all their needs; physically and spiritually. On the left is pictured a first grade student at the Nekemte School for the Deaf. She is one of our boarding students and was sent to the school from what we call Child Protective Services here in America. Most of the 44 deaf students attending the school in Nekemte came either from living on the streets in their areas or from extremely poor families. Our Christian school has provided them hope for the first time in their lives. Some of you who read this report sponsor these children, but more sponsors are desperately needed.

WANT TO RECEIVE THIS REPORT ELECTRONICALLY?

Enclosed with this report is an insert you can fill out with your name and email address and return it to us in the postage paid envelope and we will add you to our electronic mailing list. (Perhaps I'm not using the right terms, but hopefully you will understand what I mean.) It will take us a month or two to work it all out and you may receive it both ways for a time.

Please accept our sincere appreciation for your faithfulness in supporting the Lord's work in Ethiopia. It is a great outreach that touches tens of thousands of lives spiritually and physically. Our prayer is that God will continue to effectively use all of us in His Kingdom.

Kevin and John Ed Clark