



# ETHIOPIA GOSPEL OUTREACH

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## COVID19 IN ETHIOPIA UPDATE AS OF APRIL 21, 2020:

In America we are overwhelmed at the amount of news devoted to the Coronavirus pandemic. However, it is difficult to find any news concerning the disease in Ethiopia. As of this date on international news there are 114 reported active cases of the disease in Ethiopia and only three deaths. Our brethren in Addis communicate by cell phone to our preachers all over Ethiopia and then they report to us by email. Here is an edited email update we received from Moges on April 15<sup>th</sup>:

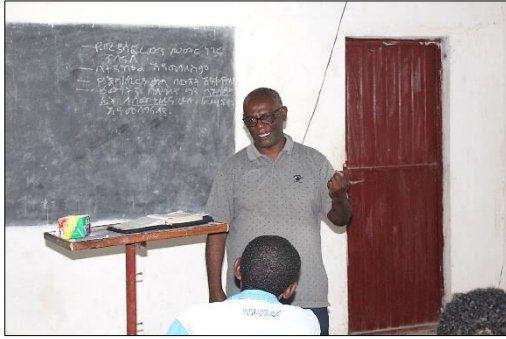
*"Here especially in the cities, most people are staying at home. For many people this is impossible because they must search for their daily food. Many people also have lack of understanding about the nature of the virus and do not know how serious and harmful it is.*

*Meetings, public gatherings, including religious meetings are forbidden all over the country but in the bush still they do not take it seriously and meet as they always have met. As we have seen from other countries the problem is growing slowly but once it spreads among our people it will be very difficult to control. It will be devastating for our country because of our culture. Our lives are very close to one another and we do many social commitments together. Our government, medical people and different organizations are putting their maximum efforts to create awareness and try to minimize the spreading of the virus by encouraging people to stay at home. We also communicate with the preachers in the countryside through our cell phones trying to encourage them to inform their congregations to keep themselves clean and to respect the social distancing and to stay at home and to pray more. As God's people we may not know why this problem happened in our world today. But we pray it will help all people to take time to think and turn to back to our Almighty God. We understand that such things are beyond human ability but God is the One who is and has the answer and all power to stop the problem (Job 42:2). We also know that our home is not this world! So, we put our trust in Him in season and out of season. Our prayers will continue from where we are. God bless you all and keep you safe. In Christ, Moges"*

## HABTU'S THOUGHTS ABOUT THE CORONAVIRUS IN ETHIOPIA:

*"We live in a different time and different times require different ways to live and it takes time to adjust to what we call the "new norm". As it is here in some places, I am sure it will be difficult for many the countryside of Ethiopia to understand the magnitude and deadliness of this virus. Hopefully, the early intervention by the Ethiopian government and the effort to educate the people about the virus may help but once it starts this virus will be like a wildfire and will be very hard to stop. We will continue to pray for God's intervention and let us hope the Ethiopian people will get the message sooner than later to do all what the experts are telling them to do. My concern is also, how people will be able to obtain their daily food as the price of food is so expensive because of the uncontrollable price gouging by many greedy merchants. As Moges, said we put our trust on the Lord and we know He is in control. **May God be with the people of Ethiopia!!!**"*

## **THE GOSPEL OUTREACH MUST CONTINUE TO GO FORWARD:**



Left to Right: Brothers Moges teaching at the Santariera School of Preaching. Center: Brother Alemayehu teaching during a seminar held in Addis Ababa. Right: Brother Nebayehu, the Addis Ababa congregation's deaf minister, teaching at a bible seminar for the deaf in the Addis Ababa area.

These brothers as well as preachers and church leaders all over Ethiopia are totally committed to preaching and teaching God's word. In these troubled times they must assume a dual role: first in preaching God's word and second to inform their respective congregations throughout the country about the threat of the Coronavirus. All schools, including our Schools of Preaching, Deaf Schools and Kindergartens are on a mandated closure. The government has also decreed that religious services be paused until the threats are over. Our congregations in Addis Ababa are abiding by that decree, but the congregations in the countryside are assembling as they do normally. If the pandemic explodes there like it has in America, only God knows what death and destruction would result. In the countryside of Ethiopia there are no medical facilities equipped to deal with the virus and with the masses that gather in the open markets each day and riding in the packed buses and other similar activities there will be no controlling the spread. Please pray for God's intervention and for His protection of the Ethiopian people as well as similar societies all over the African continent.

## **WORLD BIBLE SCHOOL CONTINUES TO REACH OUT:**



Brother Belay Kebede preaches in Dire Dawa, a city in eastern Ethiopia. He uses the WBS lessons to study with people all over the rest of the country. On the left Brother Lemma from Nekemte is shown with a WBS student that lives in Ambo, Ethiopia. Ambo is a University town about 75 miles west of Addis Ababa. One of Kebede's WBS students is pictured on the right. His name is Addisu. He requested to study with someone about being baptized and Kebede referred him to Brother Lemma. In early April Addisu took a bus from Ambo to Nekemte and spent time studying and Lemma baptized him into Christ. Kebede has more students in Ambo and we pray that Addisu will be the first member of a new congregation that needs to be established in that city. God and his message continue to go forward even during times of crises!

One more thought: Most congregations in America are not assembling at this time. All of us must be faithful in our worship and walk of faith until this crisis passes. Your continued faithfulness is a blessing for the Gospel Outreach in Ethiopia. We pray for God's protection and peace to be with you.

Kevin and John Ed Clark