



ETHIOPIA GOSPEL OUTREACH

Woodward Park Church of Christ
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April 25, 2023

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS, FOR THEY SHALL BE FILLED. (Matthew 5:6) A report from Brother Moges:



Left to right: Bro. Abebe teaching, Mohammed and Jemal in class, Moges, Mohammed, Jemal and Abebe.

“Two new Christian brothers from Dire Dawa came last week to study with us. Both of them were former Muslims and had studied with Brother Belay, first through the World Bible School (WBS) courses and then in face-to-face bible classes. At their request Belay baptized them and arranged for them to come to Addis. Our classes were for 5 days and for 6 hours each day. On Sunday they worshipped with the Mekanissa Church and then started their journey home. Dire Dawa is about 320 miles from Addis Ababa. The following stories are what they shared with me about their lives:



Mohammed Abdela is 58 years old and was raised in a large Muslim family. He had 24 brothers and 15 sisters. His father had four wives. He has served as a teacher and oversaw Islamic councils and offices in Harar and the Arusi areas at different times. He made two Islamic pilgrimages to Mecca. He served for a total of 30+ years for the Islam religion and was very aggressive and conservative in his faith. He had two wives and ten children. One day a young University student in his area tried to share about Jesus with him. This young man was from area protestant group. Mohammed became upset and beat him badly. After a year or so, Mohammed decided to leave his religion and start going to a Lutheran church. His action created a serious problem between him, and his relatives and they considered him an enemy of their religion. His decision caused him to lose his farmland and both of his wives divorced him. His first wife married his younger brother as a manifestation for the people to consider Bro. Mohammed as a dead person. The second wife moved to another area to start living a new life on her own. He heard that she had married another person. Then his family made a false accusation about him, and the court sentenced him to 2 years in prison. After 9 months they released him after they found the accusation that was made on him was false. After he left prison, he studied with a preacher from a major

denomination and was sprinkled for baptism into that faith system. He continued to study God's word and found the doctrine he had been taught wasn't according to what he was reading. One day he saw some WBS material in his friend's hand and he read it and asked his friend from where he got that material. His friend helped him to communicate with Bro. Belay Kebede. Finally, He met with Belay personally and started to study the gospel of Christ. After he spent some time in study with Belay, he made the decision to be immersed in water baptism. After he put on Christ by immersion, he announced to his church group about his decision to stop working with them, so they stopped his support too. He continued to study with Bro. Belay and to worship with the church and arrangements were made for him to come to Addis to study with us. While he was with the denominational group, he wrote a book called, "What the Holy Quran says about the Bible." He brought two copies of his book for Abebe and for me. Both Bro. Mohammed and Jemal are very happy for the time that they spent to study God's word with us. Both expressed their feeling that they want to study more in the future and both of them look like diligent students of the Word. They will need more help in the future to grow in knowledge of the Word. We are very grateful about their interest to come to Addis to study the Word of God with us!!



Jemal Reta is 30 years old. He was born in Wolo and came from Muslim family. He has a B.A. degree in accounting and a diploma in social work. He worked on a UNICEF project in Dessie for two and a half years and when the project was phased out, he found himself without employment. He moved to Jidda to look for a job and stayed there 4 years. He started a ministry to teach the Quran using the WhatsApp program. During that period, he made a pilgrimage to Mecca. He studied in a 3 month training school and opened a mobile phone maintenance business which flourished. One day a person brought in some stolen equipment for him to repair and while it was in his shop the police came and arrested him for being in possession of stolen property. He spent 7 months in jail and was released because it was determined that the apparatus had been stolen in Mekelle and he had never been to Mekelle. He then moved to Dessie to live with his brother. His brother was a member of a charismatic denomination. It was during this period that Jemal started to read the bible. He soon moved to Harar and tried visiting some of the charismatic churches but as a Muslim he couldn't be happy participating in their confusing style of worship. It was during that period that he found the WBS courses on the internet and that led him to Brother Belay. They spent time in face-to-face study and Jemal was convicted by the truth of the gospel and was baptized into Christ. Through Belay's suggestion, Jemal came with Mohammed to Addis to study deeply with Moges and Abebe."

Moges stated he has great hopes for Jemal's future. He is a very intelligent young man and a now a determined Christian. He is living in Harar but doesn't speak the language of the area, so he is unable to find employment in his profession. He is working as a daily laborer to support himself. Hopefully he will move to an Amharic speaking area where he can grow and flourish as a Christian teacher and leader and find employment as an accountant. We are thankful for Belay and the power of the WBS outreach and for all the brethren in Ethiopia who constantly reach out with the saving message of Jesus the Christ.