



ETHIOPIA GOSPEL OUTREACH

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December 26, 2019

FOR ALL OF YOU:

2019 will be over by the time you receive this. This has been an interesting year for the work in Ethiopia. It has also been a good year. At this writing there is a lot of political unrest in the country. Many of the highways cannot be used for travel because of the disruptions. Most of the cities are fine within the city limits because the government tightly controls the movements in them. However without transportation to the cities, traveling to them isn't possible. Life in the rural areas where the churches are located is mostly normal. All the Preacher Training Schools had regular and uninterrupted sessions. We completed 26 new wells this year without problems; except for equipment breakdowns. We are applying this week for a new 30 well agreement, 10 for the Badewatcho district and 20 for the Sidama region. The pressing need for clean water is growing with the population, which is now estimated to be more than 100 million; the second largest in Africa. Many new congregations were established in the last 12 months. The water well evangelists are receiving more opportunities to preach and teach than they can follow up on. A new 8 foot high stone fence was completed around the deaf school and church compound in Addis Ababa, which offsets the government's movements to take parcels of land not being well used in the city. Excavation and site preparation for a new 5 story Deaf School building on the Addis Ababa compound has started and completion has been estimated to be by 2025. Funds have been donated for the first and part of the second floor and the balance of needed funds are being sought from those who are able to help. (\$150,000 a floor) The old school facility was completed in 1962 and was condemned a few years ago by the government because it didn't meet the minimum standards of the Ministry of Education. The school will continue operation in the old facilities until the new ones can be occupied. Preaching the gospel and training gospel preachers continues to be the focus of the work. However, the deaf work is what provides the legal status for the Lord's church to preach and teach the gospel of Christ in Ethiopia. This is the reason we have to add the upgraded deaf school facilities.

God continues to bless the work in every way. Through your fervent prayers for the work and the workers and the generous financial contributions by all of you who read this newsletter, this great outreach ministry continues to be made possible. Our brethren in Ethiopia are completely dedicated to serve day and night to make sure things move forward as has been faithfully done for the past sixty years. In past few weeks calls have been received from churches in America that have been an active part of the work for many years. Members are aging and passing on to their reward and other members are moving away and churches are being forced to close their doors. When times become difficult we must return to basics. Matthew 28:18-20 still assures us if we keep our focus on His work, He will be with us. We have that promise! Our Lord loves the church and gave himself for it. (Acts 20:28) May God bless all of us in 2020 as we focus on doing His work, His way. Thank you all!!!

REPORT FROM A GOSPEL EVANGELIST IN EASTERN ETHIOPIA:

Belay Kebede lives and works in Dire Dawa, Ethiopia. This is a Muslim area which makes preaching and teaching there very difficult. Belay communicates with Brother Behailu by email and the report here was received on November 29, 2019.

"Dear Brother Behailu,

Happy thanksgiving to all of you. Attached is a completed copy of the WBS courses I have translated into the Oromugna language. I understand you don't read or understand this language, but I wanted you to have them because they are very useful in reaching the people in my area as well as the Oromo people across Ethiopia. Using this material the following report will provide an understanding of how effective WBS courses are:



1. In the town of Babille: 2 souls baptized.
2. In Guder: 10 km from Ambo 14 WBS students are ready. I have sent one name to Bro. Moges in Addis.
3. 13 students from Guliso, West Wollega are actively studying the courses at this time.
4. 24 students in Agaro, Jimma are studying using the courses. One of them called and told me that they have loved the lessons.

Please pray for this effort to grow. I am finishing printing all the WBS courses and I am praying for funds to print more in the future. May God help us to do this! Let everything be to His glory.

God bless you

Belay

From Dire Dawa Church of Christ"

THREE BAPTISMS AT THE MAKANISSA CHURCH IN ADDIS ABABA:



Brother Moges reported these three baptisms at the church in Addis. Far left: "Isaac Chuol was added to the Sudanese church in Addis as he put on Christ in baptism. Bro. Alemayehu and Sudanese brothers at the Yeka Abado church are the ones who taught him. **Solomon Mengistu** (center) obeyed Christ by baptism on

November 14th. Solomon is a WBS Amharic correspondence course student. Following a study with Bro. Abebe Haile Michael, he confessed Jesus and was baptized. Solomon has been coming to the church every Lord's Day for the last several months. **Zelalem Getahun** (right) was also a WBS student. His teacher is from Fort Mill Church of Christ in America. When we received the student information from his teacher, Abebe and I communicated with Zelalem by telephone. An appointment was made and he came to the compound and studied the word of God with Abebe for two hours and was then immersed in Christ for the remission of his sins. He was already convinced he needed to be baptized when he came. Zelelem is another example of the power of the gospel presented through the World Bible School lessons. Thanks to all the WBS teachers in America who reach out to the lost souls all over the world with this great tool."

Our prayer is that 2020 will be a great year in the Lord for all of you and for His work in Ethiopia. Thank you for your prayers and financial support which make it possible for preaching the gospel, lifting up lives of the hopeless and children, and providing pure clean drinking water for thousands in southern Ethiopia.

Kevin and John Ed Clark