



GOSPEL OUTREACH TO ETHIOPIA

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Dear Brethren and Friends of the Gospel Outreach to Ethiopia,

A few days ago I received a report from Brother Moges about the conversion of one of the students in our School for the Deaf in Addis Ababa. I believe the story of her courage will warm your heart and will demonstrate the value of your faithfulness in reaching out with the gospel and providing a way for the lives of hundreds of children to be lifted up, spiritually and physically.

MOGES' REPORT ABOUT BIRKE BEKELE:



Birke Bekele is a 17 year old student at our Mekanissa School for the Deaf. She is in the 4th grade this year. When she was 3 years old, her mother passed away. At the age of 6, her feet and legs became infected and there was no medical treatment available in the area where she lived. After three years, the infection turned into gangrene. Her suffering was very serious and it looked as though she was going to die from the infection. Even now, she recalls how she was consumed with pain every minute of every day. In desperation, she was carried on a small bed to a medical clinic where they amputated both of her legs just below the knee. When her father saw this he was overtaken with grief and took his daughter and gave to a beggar on the street and then went out by himself and committed suicide. Birke became a beggar like the lady her father had given her to. Before that day, Berke hadn't ever met the lady. They were living in the town of Ambo and did not have a place to stay so they spent the days and nights around the Orthodox Church building. One day, a stranger found her and took her to the hospital in Ambo. For the next two years the hospital provided medical care. They trimmed her legs properly and made her a pair of artificial legs. This was the first time in four years she was able to stand and walk. The stranger who took her to Ambo hospital tried his best to find an orphan's home for her. Finally he found a Catholic home in Addis. As Birke describes this home, she says it was better than any place she had ever lived in all her life. In this home there were many mentally and physically challenged children and her condition was much better than the other children. This provided her an opportunity to help serve and take care of them. She was assigned to help cook and to meet what ever needs the other children had. But Birke did not want to be a cook all her life and started to beg the supervisor of the organization to allow her to go to school. Because of her persistence and effort she was enrolled at our school as a grade one student at the age of 14. After four years of study, she is now a grade 4 student and she is constantly at the top of her class. Birke has been studying the word of God with Bro. Bekele the last several weeks and has started coming to the Church regularly. Last week she obeyed the gospel! PRAISE THE LORD! While she was removing her atificial legs to be baptized, she was weeping because she knows that even with out her legs, God has given her everlasting life and she is very happy and grateful for that.



Pictured above, Brother Abebe takes Birke's confession. Then together with the help of another brother, they baptize her into Christ for the forgiveness of her sin. On the right, she stands with two others who came to be a part of this occasion. **GOD IS GREAT!**

The following story is also from Brother Moges:

God has His own way to deliver the good news to everyone!!



Her name is Halawa Abedo, Age 7. She was a student at our Kindergarten in 2008 & 2009. After two years of studying, she was promoted to grade one and transferred to government school. As many of the Jimma KG students, Halawa came from Muslim family. From her first day at our school she started to sing the songs and share with her father and mother the bible lessons she heard in Chapel. When they heard these new things from her that they never heard before, they did not like it at all. They watched her change, but they did not refuse to listen to her. Everyday after school when she arrived at home the first thing she did was to sing the songs she had learned in chapel and she shared the day's message with her family. After a year of listening, her father became eager to ask and to know about the bible. Finally he came and met with Brother Gutu and Degu and asked many questions. Once the bible study was setup with him he became more eager to know about the word of God after several studies were completed, her father and mother obeyed Christ through baptism. **PRAISE THE LORD!!**



Pictured here are her parents, Abedo Ababeya and her mother Zeme Kedir. Both of them are now active members of the Church. Infact both of them were with us in Awasa at Preachers Conference. This term, their younger son became a student of in our KG school at Jimma. After they became Christians, brother Abedo started to share the gospel of Christ with his Muslim relatives, friends and neighbours. He has brought three more people to Christ. He has a burning desire to study the word of God and to preach among his community. He and his family are being rejecting and are facing some problems from the Muslims around them. If God wils, we will give him a chance to be a student at the Nekemte School of Preaching in the future. It is not easy to operate a Kindergarten, but when we see how God works to change the lives of small children and their families, then all the work is worth it.



WATER WELL PROJECT UPDATE:



Our drilling crew in Ethiopia has been very busy the last few weeks. They are working on an agreement to drill 64 new wells in Wollieta, Sidama and Gedio. As of January 18th 31 have been completed. They have 21 left to complete

in Gedio before moving to the Santariea area to drill the remaining wells on the agreement. We are very fortunate to have two drilling rigs in Ethiopia. Pictured above is the 2nd rig at Healing Hands International in Nashville, Tennessee before it was shipped to Ethiopia in early 2010. The picture on the right is the same rig after it arrived in Ethiopia and was being prepared to take south to the drilling area. In Curt King's email on January 18th, he indicated while in the process of drilling, the compressor supercharger on this rig failed which caused the rig to drill at about half speed. We have another rig with the same supercharger that can be transferred to this rig. However, in a second email sent by Curt on January 19th it seems the supercharger on the drilling rig engine also failed. (Two different engines, two different superchargers) This brought the drilling to a halt. We are fortunate that the supercharger on the second rig engine can also be used to replace the one that failed. Confused yet? Curt said it would take two days to switch the two superchargers from the old rig to the new rig and then the drilling can continue. Our goal is to complete all 64 new wells before the rains come again in May or June. In the 10 years of drilling, this is our first major breakdown. We are blessed and very thankful because we have replacement parts in Ethiopia and because we have Curt King and the crew there with the skills to do the repairs. Please pray the drilling can continue soon; many thousands of people are in desperate need of good water.

WATER WELL EVANGELISM PROGRAM UPDATE:



Brother Tamirat Lole, left, is a gospel preacher and a member of the Water Well Evangelism Team. He is pictured with Fikru Mengesha. Tamirat was sent to preach in an area called Bulgeta where three water wells had been completed. Fikru lived there and came to listen to Tamirat. After several lessons, Fikru was converted and became a member of the new congregation that had been established. It was obvious that Fikru was a natural leader and very interested in studying God's Word. He was selected by the new congregation to attend the Jajura School of Preaching and is now serving as one of the new evangelists in the Bulgeta Church of Christ. This new church has grown to more than 100 members and has

constructed a new building. It is one of the 50 new churches that have been planted through this ministry. The water well drilling program is opening the door to preach and reach thousands of people as they see the love of Christ demonstrated through the giving of pure clean water for their families.

This New Year brings many opportunities and challenges. Thank you for being a part of the Gospel Outreach to Ethiopia and being interested in the souls of the lost.

John Ed Clark