



GOSPEL OUTREACH TO ETHIOPIA

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Dear Brethren and Friends of the Gospel Outreach to Ethiopia,

Brother Moges sent an article about our School for the Deaf in Addis Ababa having a new teacher with a B.A. degree in Pedagogy. I was happy to hear that we did, but I had no idea what pedagogy was or what the word meant. So, I looked it up and here is what I found at Wikispace, Tangient LLC.

"Pedagogy is the art (and science) of teaching. Pedagogy is the "how" the teaching and learning occurs. Students are not empty vessels to be filled with our expert knowledge. They must construct their own understandings through our considered learning experiences. You need variety in order to reach all the students in the class. Therefore a wide variety of teaching strategies are essential in order to develop effective methods of teaching at the highest level."

This description (more than a definition) helped me understand why this new teacher is an important addition to our school. Teachers are trained to be teachers. Teachers of the deaf are teachers with specialized training. I remember the first time I tried to explain to young deaf children in Ethiopia what a map was. They had never traveled more than two miles from home and had no idea there was such a thing and it took several classroom hours for them to grasp that simple concept. We grew up with boats; but to a child who has never seen a lake or a river, it has little meaning. Our new "pedagogical" teacher will help develop better methods of teaching these and other concepts to our deaf children.



The teacher's name is Lidia Belehu. Moges had this to say about Lidia. "She is a very good artist and prepares many aids and pictures for the other teachers to use as they teach. The pedagogical storage room is full of her masterpieces. At our recent Parent's Day, hundreds of our students families came to this room to visit with Lidia and to tell her how their children were better able to learn their lessons because of the great work she was doing." On the right, one of the parents is looking at what seems to be a simple map. We needed this tool 45 years ago! At the end of the school year last term, Lidia was elected "Teacher of the Year". Thank you Lidia for serving the deaf children in Ethiopia. They will forever be better because you are there.

TAKING THE 8TH GRADE LEAVING EXAM; 2014

Moges shared this news: "Another achievement which Makanissa School for the Deaf performed this academic year is all 29 of our 8th grade students passed the National Examination and were promoted to the 9th grade. We thank our Almighty God for His blessing on this matter and would like to thank to all who are supporting the Ethiopian Gospel Outreach and all our teachers and employees for their commitment."



Parents, relatives and friends of the students came to the school to join the celebration. In America this doesn't mean as much to us as it does there. There few, if any, schools in Ethiopia where all 8th grade students pass the leaving exam. When the government comes to evaluate our school this year, this one thing will be on the top of the reports they will take to the Ministry of Education Department of Special Education.

What does this mean to us? Our school is a Christian School. God's word is taught every day. Look closely at the people in this picture; there are many Muslims who came to celebrate with our people. The man on the far left is a Muslim as is the lady in the center of picture is dressed in her black burka. Every student attends the same classes and studies the same material. They are given the same tests. By the time a student completes our school they have had 10 years of teaching about Jesus and the gospel message. All of you who have faithfully supported the Lord's work in Ethiopia are a part of the reason the God of love that we worship is respected and followed by the people of Ethiopia.

CONSTANT CHURCH GROWTH IN ETHIOPIA:



Every day the church grows in Ethiopia. Hundreds of preachers and teachers are constantly reaching out to the people around them. The majority of people in Ethiopia are active believers in God and that the bible is the word of God. All the "isms" of faith we have in America can also be found in Ethiopia. Above are pictures showing the results when an honest heart examines the "way of God more accurately" (Acts 18:24-28) and places absolute trust in the truth that must be believed and followed. (2 Thess. 1:8) On the right, a new brother named Dereje Berhanu (in the army coat) stands with Brother Degu just after Dereje put on Christ in baptism (Rom. 13:14). Degu serves as the minister of the church in Jimma. We welcome Dereje to the family of God.

Our sincere appreciation goes out to all of you who faithfully pray for and support the Lord's work in Ethiopia. Please know all of you are prayed for, appreciated and loved.

Kevin and John Ed Clark