



# GOSPEL OUTREACH TO ETHIOPIA

WOODWARD PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST

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## HOW THE CHURCH IN ETHIOPIA GROWS:



In May, 2011 Abeyot Onoba, left, attended the Nekemte School of Preaching. He was from the city of Nejo. Following his graduation, he was employed on the western border of Ethiopia in the Benshangul Gumaz Region. On the map you can see that area in red. At that time we had no congregations in that remote area, except there had been a Sudanese congregation in the Asossa Refugee

Camp. Benshangul Gumaz has very few all weather roads and no bridges to cross the rivers. Long distances must be traveled sometimes to get to locations only a few miles away. Abeyot began to reach out to others with the gospel message and among those converted were two



men named Jano Gegesha and Teskara Abdisa. Arrangements were made to send Jano to the Nekemte School of Preaching in September 2013 and Teskara Abdisa in February 2014. Jano is pictured on the left

with other students at the 21<sup>st</sup> session of the school. He is in the center of the front row. Teskara is pictured sitting on the right end with the students of the 22<sup>nd</sup> session.



Teskara and Jano, left, attended the National Preacher's Conference in November and reported that they and two additional Nekemte PTS graduates had established two new churches in their home areas and 47 people had obeyed the gospel and had been added to their number. This is a perfect example of what can be done when God's plan is followed. It is the plan that Paul gave to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2: "The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful

men who will be able to teach others also." From all over Ethiopia men have come to attend our schools of preaching. Faithful men have taught them and following their graduation, they go to new areas and teach others. The new men of faith are sent to the schools and God's plan repeats itself. The trained preachers come from many different language groups. The gospel must be preached in a language people understand. Jano and Teskara speak the different languages of their home area and people can understand and respond to the power of the gospel message. (Rom.1:16) All who support this ministry need to know the great work you are a part of and the number of lives that are being touched by the love of Jesus through the gospel.

## **BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE NATIONAL PREACHER'S CONFERENCE:**



Brother Moges sent some behind the scenes pictures and information showing why the National Preacher's Conference was successful. How do you care for more than 800 people in one place for five days and nights with no running water, no electricity, no inside plumbing, no restaurants or fast food, no public transportation or other things we call necessary. We can't provide the complete answer, but these three pictures provide some insight. On the left are three brethren; Mesele Daniel, Alemayehu Orebo and Pawolos Wadolo. They are from the area where the conference was held. They helped mobilize an "army" of brothers and sisters with specific assignments that provided food, shelter, water, bamboo mats to sleep on and even coffee three times a day. In the center picture, four of the fifty ladies that cooked over wood fires from before daylight into the night each day are shown very involved in preparing dough for hundreds of buns used for breakfast. On the right is Sister Ayelech Basore. She is 75 years old and was the wife of one of the original gospel preachers in Ethiopia, Belete Melsebo. Belete was the preacher at Katcha Birra for more than 40 years and passed away few years ago. This dear sister is still very active in the church and is a great encourager. It took her 2 hours to walk over a mountain to get to the conference. This brief information can be multiplied many times and we will better understand better what Jesus may have meant when he told his disciples, ".....if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you....." (Matthew 17:20) These brothers and sisters believed it could be done.....and they did it!

## **CULTURAL CELEBRATION AT OUR MAKANISSA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF:**



Each December National Cultural Day is celebrated throughout Ethiopia. There are hundreds of cultures among the many tribes. Our deaf children come from many different back grounds and are very excited when they get wear their cultural clothes and participate in their own tribal dances. They also like to show off their acrobatical abilities. On this day the school compound was filled with parents and friends who came to share in the celebration.

**WATER WELL DRILLING UPDATE:** As of January 12<sup>th</sup>, eleven good wells have been drilled on the new 42 well agreement. By the time you receive this newsletter, we believe that number will have doubled.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness. Please understand the eternal consequences of what you are a part of. May God continue His blessings upon you. Kevin and John Ed Clark