



# GOSPEL OUTREACH TO ETHIOPIA

WOODWARD PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST

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## HONORING LADIES AT THE MAKANISSA CHURCH OF CHRIST:



On Sunday, March 1, 2015 the Mekanissa Church of Christ studied about the great women of the Old and New Testaments. The qualities of the women in scripture were then compared to the faithful attributes in the lives of the Christian sisters in the Addis Ababa area. All who read this report understand the value of faithful mothers, grandmothers, wives, and all dedicated women in the church. It was a time of rejoicing because of the spiritual richness faithful women have provided quietly and respectfully throughout the 50 year history of the church in Ethiopia.

On the right, Brothers Behailu and Demere stand with Sister Zenebech Alula. This dear sister was honored for her 38 years of service in the Lord's work. She was employed in 1969 as the cook for the newly established Addis Ababa School of Preaching. Within a few weeks she was convicted by and obeyed the gospel message. She was an excellent cook and during her years of service she provided meals for young men who would one day become great preachers like Brothers Gujo, Molla, Tenabo, Admassu, Belete, Filatay, Walde Ghorghis, Fitamo and many more. When the Addis Ababa Level One School of Preaching was moved to Santariea and Jajura, Sister Zenebech started working at the Mekanissa School for the Deaf as one of the custodians; a position she held until she resigned due to health issues. Her home is located in the Kore community and is several miles from the Addis Ababa church building. At that time a new house church started to meet in her home and still does until this day.



The church was established in Addis Ababa in 1961 by Carl Thompson and Bob Gowen. Its first location was in a store building in the downtown area of the city. During the years it moved several times and is now located on the compound of the Mekanissa School for the Deaf. On the left, Brother Behailu is pictured speaking at an assembly the day Sister Zenebech was honored.

## **MAKANISSA DEAF STUDENTS WIN GOLD IN COMPETITION:**



In February a city wide individual sports competition was held in Addis Ababa. Students came from hundreds of schools all over the capital city to participate, including a number from our School for the Deaf. Pictured on the left are five of our students (kneeling wearing red sweaters) who succeeded in winning gold medals in the various disciplines. The School staff all participated in their training and spent time tutoring the young people, helping them keep up with their studies during their time away from the classroom. This is a victory for everyone, students and teachers, as

they demonstrate to tens of thousands participants, officials, coaches and visitors that the deaf can compete with the best athletes on any level. The 350 students who attend the Mekanissa School for the Deaf can hold their heads high. Congratulations to all who were a part of this amazing achievement!

## **THE SIGN LANGUAGE TRAINING ASSOCIATION PROJECT WORKERS:**



In 2004 the Sign Language Training for the parents and families of our deaf children was started. Over the years hundreds of family members have been trained to communicate with their deaf children using sign language. The project was funded by AC International Child Support located in Copenhagen, Denmark. Last year the project was notified the funding would end. The project manager and staff went out to the business community in Addis Ababa and were able to raise the necessary funds to keep the project moving forward. This was an amazing accomplishment. Among

the eleven staff members pictured, five of them came to us as children and were raised in our orphanage. They are all graduates of the Mekanissa School for the Deaf. It is wonderful to see these dedicated workers giving back to others the blessings they have received.

## **BRIEF REPORT FROM CURT KING AND THE WATER WELL CREW:**



Wednesday March 18: "Good evening. The crew finished well #23, a good well. The people at the next site had a road cut into site #24 and the guys found water at 160'. Lord willing they will complete it tomorrow. It also appears the water bureau leaders are having all the other sites located and roads prepared. We appreciate everyone who is a part of making this work possible, allowing us to complete wells and to provide pure clean water for the people. May God richly bless you." Curt King

Two of the assignments given to us are being accomplished in Ethiopia. Preaching the gospel to the poor and lifting the burdens of the oppressed. (Luke 4: 18-19). Please understand with God's help and your faithfulness in praying and providing support these good works are being accomplished. Our prayer is that God will continue to bless you richly. Kevin and John Ed Clark