



GOSPEL OUTREACH TO ETHIOPIA

WOODWARD PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93720

559 446-2550 www.wpcoc.com

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CHAPEL AT THE MAKANISSA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF:



Each school day more than 300 students, teachers and school staff members of the Makanissa School for the Deaf gather in the church auditorium for morning chapel. Bible lessons are taught in Amharic and in sign language. Chapel attendance isn't an option at our schools; it may be the only time some are exposed to the truth of God's Word. Since we are a Christian school, even students from other religions are required to attend. All the children love to sing and this is an enjoyable time for

them to come together. Every morning more than 800 children and 100 staff members hear a lesson from God's word at our five schools for the deaf and our three kindergartens located in southern and western Ethiopia. Many of our preachers, church members and even our Schools of Preaching instructors were taught the Good News of Jesus during morning chapel as they attended our schools as children.

PREACHING THE GOSPEL IN A NEW AREA:



In January we reported that the church had been established in Benshangul Gumaz region located in the north western region of Ethiopia which borders the country of Sudan. Brother Abeyot Onebo, standing on the left of the picture above, was the first preacher to go to that area. He is pictured with other trained preachers that were converted by the gospel message preached by Abeyot. Left to right; Brothers Abeyot, Eyasu Belachew, Tesegera Abdisa and Jano Begesha stand in front of the church building of the Belesa congregation. The members at Belesa are pictured on the right. Jano is the preacher at Belesa and they now have grown to 61 members. Two other congregations have been established in that area. The second new church at Bore has 11 members and Brother Eyasu was trained at the Nekemte School of Preaching to serve there. The third congregation is located at Korka where Brother Tesegera serves as their preacher. He is also a graduate of the Nekemte School of Preaching.



Lemma Sheferaw, the director of the Nekemte School of Preaching recently traveled to the the Benshangul Gumaz area to encourage and teach these three new churches. He was very warmly received and his teaching was accepted. Until two years ago they never heard of the

Lord's Church. Lemma's visit with them was a very positive reinforcement of the teaching the people had already heard, believed and obeyed. To help you understand the difficulty of traveling into areas like this one; at the end of the road where the bus had to stop, it is a 12 hours walk over the mountain trails to reach the new church at Belesa. Also, it is important to realize that this is a work established through the efforts of our Ethiopian brethren. This is a positive sign that they understand their God given responsibility to preach the gospel to their own people. Your financial faithfulness makes this kind of quality outreach possible.

STRENGTHENING NEW WATER WELL CONGREGATIONS:



Report from Brother Moges: "In March, brothers Seyum Bentesha and Nigussie Berbeto went to visit a water well site congregation at Dibicha. They were able to preach for 30 members and non-members. 10 of those who came to listen were convicted and obeyed the gospel the same day. Dibicha is located on the way to Dilla and is about 8 miles from Chuko. The following week they went to another water site church at Korke Shabe and preached the word of God for 10 non-members and 5 of them obeyed the gospel the same day and the other 5 made a decision to study

more with the area preacher. Korke Shabe is located 10 miles from Chuko on the road to Loka Abaya. (Loka Abaya is a small rural town.)" Brother Seyum is one of the instructors at the Santarrea School of Preaching.

WATER WELL DRILLING UPDATE:

Drilling has been started on the remaining 20 wells of the 40 well agreement we have with the Southern Region Government. As of this writing 7 of those wells have been drilled for a total of 27 completed; leaving 13 more to complete. During the last two weeks the rain in the Kambatta area where we are drilling has temporarily halted the drilling. The rig and heavy trucks can't reach the proposed well sites because of the small rivers, muddy trails and plowed fields. During this interruption our crew is busy installing cement well pads and pumps on the 27 wells that have been drilled. Drilling will resume as soon as the weather permits.

My son Kevin is in Ethiopia at this time doing the work that he and I usually do on our spring trip. Because of my wife Reta's battle with breast cancer and the complications of pneumonia I was unable to leave her. Please pray for Kevin and the success of his trip and for Reta's ongoing battle. And please continue to pray for our brethren in Ethiopia.

John Ed Clark