



GOSPEL OUTREACH TO ETHIOPIA

WOODWARD PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST

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REACHING OUT TO 90 MILLION PEOPLE WITH THE GOSPEL:

The specific focus of every ministry in Ethiopia is to present the gospel of Jesus in word and deed. If you are involved in these ministries through your prayers and financial support, then you are a part of the assignment that Jesus gave and demonstrated during his time on earth. (Luke 4:18-19, Mark 16:15-16, Luke 9:6-11, Luke 3:10-11, Mark 9:36-37) In this letter we will attempt to briefly look at how the instructions Jesus gave us are being carried out. Hopefully you will be blessed.

TOUCHING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN:



Each day more than 800 students come to our Christian schools. Most of the children are from extremely poor families and some come to school hungry. Food is provided for them. Five of our eight schools are Schools for the Deaf. The deaf and hearing are taught together in the same classroom by special education instructors in sign language and in the language spoken in the area where the school is located. Each student in all our schools is taught a bible lesson at chapel time every morning. Our aim is to provide for their needs physically, intellectually and spiritually and to prepare all of them to face whatever life may offer to them in their future.

GIVING A CUP OF COLD WATER:



Pure clean water. Any family that has it in the countryside considers themselves to be among the most fortunate of all Ethiopians. Providing good wells has been one of the finest ministries ever and serves nearly 2 million people. 200 new churches have been established because the hearts of the people have been touched and they want to know what causes people they don't know to love them enough to give them such a wonderful gift. A new 45 well agreement will have been signed by the time you read this report. Thousands of lives have been saved from diseases and even death because many of you have helped provide pure clean water.

TRAINING GOSPEL PREACHERS:



The gospel message must be spoken, understood and obeyed. In Ethiopia there are 86 known languages with nearly 250 dialects of those distinct languages. People can see good works and glorify God in them (Matthew 5:16), but unless they understand what God's message has called them to, they cannot follow his way. To understand the message, someone has to teach them in their own language (Acts 2:6-7). That is the reason the schools of preaching in Ethiopia has been training men of different language groups for nearly 50 years. It isn't uncommon for a man in Ethiopia to speak 7 or 8 different languages. Teaching faithful men to teach other faithful men is a biblical plan. (2 Timothy 2:2) Thousands have been trained as preachers, bible teachers and church leaders. This continues to be accomplished with God's help and the faithful participation of you who understand God's assignment to us. (Matthew 28:18-20) There is much more to do; we have only started to accomplish the assignment God has given us.

ABEBE LENCHO HARKA: A NEW TRAINED PREACHER



Abebe Lencho Harka came to the Santariea School of Preaching from the 1st Shafamo congregation in the Arbegona area. Ten years ago his father, Lencho, was assigned by the government of the Shafamo community to provide protection for a gospel meeting to be conducted there by two preachers from Addis Ababa. The church at Shafamo had been the target of several attacks by some in the community who didn't want them there. Lencho was assigned to be a guard at the conference and being there, he listened to the messages. Following the gospel meeting he continued to think seriously about what he had heard, but didn't do anything until three months ago. Because of the spiritual seed that had been planted in his heart and its effect on his conscience, he came to the church bringing 16 others to study with Worku Funa, the minister at the Shafamo church. All 16 of those who came were convicted by the gospel and were baptized. Among the 16 was his son Abebe. Lencho appealed to the Santariea School of Preaching to accept Abebe as a student. Abebe was accepted and is eager to return home and share the gospel with others, especially young people like himself and to work helping build up the Shafamo congregation.

RETA CLARK: SEPTEMBER 8, 1940 - SEPTEMBER 19, 2015



My beloved wife went to be with the Lord on Saturday, September 19th following a 33 year battle with breast cancer. We had been married for 57 years on September 5th. We have three children; Greg, Kevin and Rena and seven grandchildren.

Reta had walked with me every step of our mutual ministry in the Lord's church; in America and in Ethiopia. She had been and was a teacher for hundreds of World Bible School and World English School students all over the world. She was a Christian in every sense of the word and was a sweet, sweet spirit. She never had a cross word with anyone, not even me.

She will be desperately missed by all who knew her.

John Ed Clark