



GOSPEL OUTREACH TO ETHIOPIA

WOODWARD PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST

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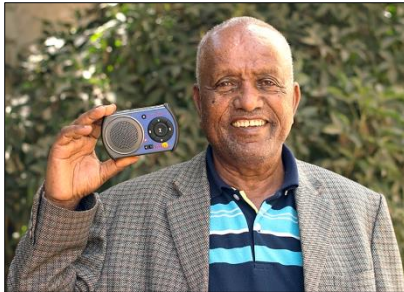
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WE WISH TO ALL A HAPPY, HEALTHY, PROSPEROUS, AND BLESSED 2016!

2016 introduces the Lord's work in Ethiopia into its 55th year of reaching out to that nation with the gospel of Christ. The outreach started with a question; "Does the Church of Christ have a missionary in the country of Ethiopia?" In 1961 we didn't have anyone there and two young preachers, Carl Thompson and Bob Gowan, made the decision to take the gospel to the people of that nation. The rest is history. Many of you who read this report have followed the work all those years with your prayers, encouragement and financial support. God's has and continues to bless the work. Thank you for your faithfulness and may God continue to bless all of you.

SOLAR-POWERED AUDIO PLAYERS HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED:



A team from The Sunset International Bible Institute (SIBI) arrived in Ethiopia on December 1st carrying with them 180 Solar Powered Audio Players loaded with more than 1200 hours of Bible lessons. The same courses taught in the classrooms at SIBI in Lubbock had been translated into the Amharic language. Then each lesson was taught and recorded by an Ethiopian gospel preacher and downloaded every unit. These units were distributed to preachers, church leaders and bible teachers and will be used in hundreds of congregations, bible classes, public places where people are gathered, in the open markets, on the streets, in homes and neighborhood bible studies, college and university campuses, high school classrooms and in many other settings. In the picture on the left Brother Walde Ghorghis proudly holds up his unit. Walde has been an important part of establishing over 300 congregations throughout the Hyadian Region of Ethiopia and serves as the Director of the Jajura School of Preaching. With this new tool he will be able to designate other men to take it into areas in the Soro District where the Jajura School is located and gather men who are unable to attend the school full time and lead the same lesson studies that are taught in the Jajura Preaching School classrooms. He totally understands the value of this tool in teaching the truth of God's word to others. In the center picture preachers and leaders from the Badewatcho, Kambatta, Soro and Sidama Districts proudly hold up their solar units after receiving two days of training in Hawassa on how to use and care for them. Hundreds of years of preaching experience are represented by the preachers in this picture. They will effectively use their solar units to teach the lessons once reserved only for the School of Preaching classrooms. On the right are pictured the SIBI training team, left to right: Brothers Habtu Zemach, Behailu Abebe, Kevin Schwiger, Richard Baggett, Chris Swinford and Bekele Gebru. The investment SIBI and these trainers have made in the Gospel Outreach to Ethiopia will only be measured in eternity.

THREE MEMBERS OF ONE FAMILY OBEY THE GOSPEL:



Three members of one family had been studying with Bro. Shimeles at the church in Awasa. They attended the assembly when the brothers from the Sunset Bible Institute

were there and had made the decision to be baptized. The three were a father and his two adult children. On the left they are standing beside the baptistery; Left to Right, the son Adane, the daughter Tigest and the father, Paulos. Center picture: Tigest being baptized by Shimeles. Right picture: Brother Paulos receiving a Solar Audio Player Unit to use to teach the the new church that will meet in his home. Adane is a student at the Awasa Teacher Training College and has committed himself to assist another member student there in teaching other students. Tigest works for a company in Awasa and her fiancé is now studying with Shimeles and they believe he will soon be ready to follow their obedience. The father, Paulous asked to be accepted at the next session of the Santariera School of Preaching starting in February. Shimeles said that the new brother Paulous was a very respected man in the village just outside of Awasa. Good things are expected from this family in the future.

GOSPEL PREACHING AT THE SHONE PREACHER TRAINING SCHOOL:



Brother Chris Swinford from SIBI is shown preaching at an area wide meeting of the church at the Shone School of Preaching campus. Brother Behailu is interpreting for him. Brethren estimated the audience numbered about 750. They were from the Badewatcho, Kambatta and Wollieta areas. Some had walked for more than 5 hours to be there. A number of preachers from these areas had received a Solar Audio Player Unit during the training sessions in Awasa for use in their personal ministries and area congregations. This audience was much too large for the Shone church auditorium, so large tents were set up to accommodate the number in attendance. Several more solar units were presented to the preachers working and serving in the Shone area. On the left a preacher is being shown by Brother Behailu how to operate the solar unit. This picture captured the reaction of a dedicated teacher of God's word as he places his hand on the side of his face; amazed at the possibilities for his ministry as he uses this great tool.



Thanks to all of you for a very successful 2015.

Kevin and John Ed Clark