



# GOSPEL OUTREACH TO ETHIOPIA

**WOODWARD PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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## ENCOURAGING A NEW CONGREGATION:



Many of the new churches in Ethiopia have been planted because people were touched after a water well was completed in their area. However, this congregation was started after two evangelists from the Awasa church went there to preach. Standing on the right side of the picture are brothers Shimeles and Yonas. They went there first to teach and the people were convicted by the gospel messages presented. While Brother Behailu was in Ethiopia, he and Brother Abebe wanted to go and encourage these new Christians to grow in their faith. They are standing on

the left side of the picture. Soon this new congregation will construct a new building and metal for the roof for the building will be purchased by funds donated by some of you who read this report. New churches are being established in many places. These new churches need encouragement and strengthening and it is wonderful to see this need is recognized and being answered by faithful brethren.

## EVANGELISTS FROM THE BADEWATCHO AND WOLLIETA AREAS:



The Lord's church in the Badewatcho and Wollieta areas are strong and numerous. These brethren came to be with Behailu at the Shone School of Preaching during his recent trip in Ethiopia. It would be difficult to estimate how many years of preaching experience is represented in this picture. Many of them have been preaching for more than 40 years. Some of them have sons and grandsons who are preachers. Some of these brethren preach for more than one congregation. Some of them walked for 6 or more hours to attend this gathering.

Hundreds of congregations in the Badewatcho and Wollieta district are in good hands and well equipped with men like these who preach the truth of God's word.

## BEHAILU WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH IN HOSANA:



Behailu's description of these Christians: "The Hosana congregation: small in number but matured in faith." Hosana is the capital city of the Hyadian Region. Like all cities, people are busy and feel they don't have time for "religion". Unlike those who live close to the land and close to God, citizens in Hosana choose other activities to fill their lives. But throughout the years, this church has been an example of faithfulness. There are hundreds of congregations in Ethiopia like this one; small in number, but matured in the faith."

## **THE CHURCH IN HANGEDA:**



The Hangeda congregation has hundreds of members. If you look closely in this picture, you can see the mass of people standing behind Behailu and these ladies. Behailu was very impressed when the ladies started arriving with large pans full of enjera (bread) to feed those who attended this one day gathering. Behailu is standing with the ladies on the left. Members of the church will make coffee and boil bushels of corn and wheat and other dishes for the attendees to eat. This kind of event is common throughout the churches in Ethiopia. It was a great day for the Hangeda church.

## **FOLLOWING CHAPEL AT THE AWASA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF**



The church auditorium was packed on this day as the students of the School for the Deaf gathered for a picture after chapel. The students are wearing red sweaters. This day was special because there were visitors from America and from the church in Addis Ababa. Some of the members from the Awasa congregation attended. The American brethren were there to distribute the Solar Audio Players to preachers and church leaders from the Sidama District. It was an exciting occasion and will be remembered as a mountain top experience for the ministry in Awasa.

## **GRADUATES OF THE AWASA JR. HIGH SCHOOL:**



Thirteen deaf students graduated from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade at the school in Awasa. They were all promoted to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and are now attending “hearing” government schools this term. There are several things that make this a special accomplishment. First, all of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students passed the examination. In Jr. High Schools in Ethiopia, it is almost unheard of that the entire class passes the exam. Second, these deaf children take the same exam that hearing students throughout the country take. And they all passed! Thirdly, even though they are deaf, they will be accepted into the

“hearing” government high schools. They will have to work harder because they are unable to hear the teacher and when the teacher’s back is to the students, they miss everything he teaches. But, they are used to working hard in school. They will do fine and will help each other. Fourth, this speaks well of the teachers at the Awasa school. The quality of their teaching has prepared these students for the time of testing and their success proves the staff did an excellent job.

## **2016 MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE 55<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF MINISTRY IN ETHIOPIA:**

The Gospel Outreach to Ethiopia started 55 years ago when Carl Thompson and Bob Gowan became the first missionaries from the Churches of Christ to enter that ancient land. The School for the Deaf marks its 53<sup>rd</sup> year in 2016. Congregations in Stockton, El Segundo and Buena Park, California were the original churches that joined together to establish the work. You who read this report have faithfully supplied the financial means and with God’s blessing and your prayers, you have enabled the Gospel Outreach to Ethiopia to become an example of what can be done when God’s people dedicate themselves to carry out His assignment. May God continue to bless us in this New Year.

Kevin and John Ed Clark