



GOSPEL OUTREACH TO ETHIOPIA

WOODWARD PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST

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STRENGTHENING THE CHURCHES: (Acts 15:40-41)

Leading brethren from Addis Ababa and Santariera were invited by congregations in the Arbegona Woreda (county) in the Sidama Region to come and conduct a bible seminar to encourage their members to continue to grow in their faith and to strengthen the new congregations in that area.



The Shafamo Ketema congregation was selected to host the gathering. The bible teaching activities started at noon on Friday and concluded Saturday afternoon. Members came from many different places. Preachers and church leaders from Dale, Chuko, Santariera and Addis Ababa participated in the teaching activities. In the upper left picture a portion of the 300+ attendees are pictured in the Shafamo church building. Upper right; Brother Alemayehu (white shirt) is shown as he preached with Brother Seyum interpreting into the Sidama language. On the left, Brother Moges (white shirt) is shown teaching with Brother Tesfaye interpreting. Seyum and Tesfaye are both instructors at the

Santariera School of Preaching. This kind of activity is vital as congregations, new and old, contend with the difficulties they face. (Acts 20:28-30) Modern technology is a blessing in helping church leaders and preachers reach out and communicate with brethren in other places. It is interesting to see in the pictures of Alemayehu and Moges preaching there are smart phones lying on the top of the podium. Also in the upper right picture the brother on the left is using a bible program in his smart phone to follow the scriptures being used by Brother Alemayehu. It is difficult to explain in an understanding way just how far the Arbegona area is from what is considered necessities of modern living. Electricity, good water, all weather roads, medical care, security and police protection to name a few. However, the people of this area prove their need for God and living a happy life are not dependent on the things most of us expect and take for granted. Life for them is changing; smart phones and other devices are indeed a blessing; but we pray the changes that will come will not take them away from the richness of the spiritual life they now enjoy. Pray for our brethren in Arbegona and thank God for them.

STRENGTHENING THE CHURCHES: continued.....



Brethren from Debre Ziet, Sabata and Addis Ababa gathered in Addis for a day of fellowship, food and bible study in early March. The Mekanissa church hosted the event. On the left, the ladies are shown serving traditional food for everyone. Our Ethiopian brethren understand how important fellowships like this one are for the life of their congregations. One

young man was baptized on this day. Brother Abebe, the pulpit minister at the Mekanissa church is speaking to the brethren just before the baptism. The new Christian is the son of Brother Alemayehu Akel, the minister of the Debre Ziet congregation. Alemayehu is shown standing behind Abebe and his son.

DRILLING HAS STARTED ON 20 NEW WATER WELLS:



After a series of delays, drilling on 20 new wells has started. We work under the authority of the Water Bureau of the Southern Region and this year many new regulations were enacted and a new administration was put into place. This was the primary cause for the delay we faced. Hopefully, we will now be able to move forward providing pure water to people who have no clean water to drink. Many of you who read this report have been involved in this project for many years. We have delayed importing a new rig until the operating regulations are completely settled. It may take a year to accomplish all this. Until then, we will stay busy providing pure clean water using our old rig and pray that it holds together for many more wells.

Perhaps you have read about or heard the news concerning the unrest now occurring in southern Ethiopia. We have postponed our normal spring trip there and are praying that the difficulties will be settled by our October trip. Please pray for Ethiopia, its people and especially our brethren as they live with the unsettled situation. We are thankful that our preacher training schools, kindergartens and deaf schools are not affected by the unrest. May God bless you all.

Kevin and John Ed Clark