



ETHIOPIA GOSPEL OUTREACH

WOODWARD PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST

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105 SEASONED PREACHERS HAVE COMPLETED 30 DAY BIBLE TRAINING SESSIONS:

Our preaching brethren in Ethiopia face challenges every day. They and the churches where they preach are under constant attack. It has always been that way when the disciples of Jesus are busy with His work. Jesus warned his followers, "If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you..."

(John 15:20) As the gospel was preached and the church spread throughout the world in New Testament times, persecution was always present. Sometimes it came from the outside; sometimes it came from inside the church. Paul expressed his concern and offered his encouragement, ".....as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good." (2 Thessalonians 3:13) Church leaders in Ethiopia felt the need to bring preachers back to the Schools of Preaching who had been serving for 20, 30 and even 40 years and provide a time of "refreshing" and to encourage them to "press on". (Philippians 3:12-14) The last 120 days have been used well in accomplishing this purpose.

THE SECOND REFRESHER COURSE COMPLETED AT THE SANTARIEA PTS:



The gospel message was taken to the Sidama Province in August 1968 by a preacher named Fitamo Arfetcho. In September 1968, thirteen men from that area were selected to attend the new School of Preaching in Addis Ababa. The Santariaea School of Preaching was opened in 1992 and twenty preachers and church leaders in the Sidama area have been trained at that school each year. Graduates from this school have taken the gospel to many different areas in the Sidama and Borena regions. They have faced opposition every step of the way, but through persistence and their strong faith, they pressed forward. On the left, ten of the preaching brethren who have been

involved in taking the gospel to distant areas in the south are pictured. During the course, each of them accepted a renewed commitment to train younger men to follow the example they have shown in preaching and establishing new churches throughout southern Ethiopia. (Titus 2:6-8)



Gezahegn Lankamo was one of the preachers attending the Second Refresher Course in Santariaea. Gezahegn has served as the minister of the Hometcho Hondawo congregation for more than 20 years. He attended and graduated from the Santariaea School of Preaching, Session 15 in 2006. He was already preaching at his home church prior to attending the school. He has served faithfully throughout the years and has been an example for others to follow. He is 50 years old. He and his wife have 10 children. He was baptized in 1988 by Brother Kifle Kerefa. Kifle was one of the original 13 men from the Sidama area who were trained at the Addis Ababa School of Preaching in 1968. Gezahegn told Brother Moges the refresher course has provided the encouragement he needed to rededicate himself to the ministry the Lord assigned him a long time ago. His statement reflects the reason the refresher courses were provided.

MATTHEWOS GADA: GOSPEL PREACHER



Matthewos has been a member of the Lord's church since he was a teenager. He was raised in the Gowadamo congregation in Sidama. On the left is a picture of Matthewos when he attended the Addis Ababa School of Preaching in the early 1970's. Center, he is pictured in the 80's with the late Brother Samuel and his son. Samuel was the minister of the

Gowadamo congregation for more than 30 years and mentored Matthewos; taking him all over the Sidama region preaching in new places and establishing churches. I took the picture of him on the right at the Dande church while we visited there last November. He has spent his entire life preaching and teaching the word of God. In April, he attended the 3rd Refresher Course conducted at the Santariaea School of Preaching. He has 10 children and serves as the minister of the Gowadamo church where he grew up. Matthewos is a great example of God's plan presented in 2 Timothy 2:2. He was taught, mentored and has led many other young men to become gospel preachers and follow his example.

These brethren and hundreds more like them have been used by God to accomplish His purpose in Ethiopia. Many of you who read this report have made the ministries possible that equip brethren to preach the gospel and establish more than 1000 congregations. Only God knows how many souls have been saved through your faithfulness. God being our helper, we must together continue; providing the means for all the great work being done bringing hope to a people who would have never known the saving message of Jesus Christ otherwise.

PROVIDING PURE CLEAN WATER:



Thirteen good wells were completed before the seasonal rains came and made it impossible to reach the seven additional selected sites. Our crew, left, continued to drill until they were almost unable to bring the rig out of the drilling areas because of the rising streams and mud. In the center, a completed well serves pure clean water to hundreds of families each day. Right; this young mother is carrying home a 6 gallon plastic jerry can filled with good water for her family. She is happy to carry this 50 pound load, because it has pure water in it and not water that would make her family sick. They have no words to express their appreciation for this great gift to them. Preachers will share the saving message of the "Living Water" with them. Drilling will resume in early October.

We sincerely appreciate all of you who faithfully provide the means to preach the gospel, lift up the lives of the children and provide pure clean water to tens of thousands in Ethiopia.

Kevin and John Ed Clark