



# **ETHIOPIA GOSPEL OUTREACH**

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## **A TIME TO PRAY:**

Many of you who read this report pray for Ethiopia. Your fervent prayers are needed especially at this time. It seems today in many places all over our world life is becoming more difficult. That is true in Ethiopia and our brethren there have requested all who love God and His work in their great country to pray that He will touch the hearts of all their people and restore peace.

## **TRAINING TEACHERS FOR THE DEAF:**



Training new teachers for our 5 Schools for the Deaf has become a necessary task the last few years. It is done during the "Summer Break" each year. (Actually, in Ethiopia this is the rainy season and they call it the winter.) Ten men and women will become new teachers for the semester starting the first week of October. The man in the green shirt on the left of the picture is already a teacher in Hawassa. He is there to help with translating sign language from the Amharic signs to the signs used for the Sidama language. The Ministry of Education in Ethiopia obtains grants from other countries to help them improve their

education system and they pass on large raises to the teachers in their schools. At the end of last semester it was announced that school teachers will receive a 50% increase in pay this year. This isn't the first time that has been done and when it happens we lose a number of our teachers. Teachers in public schools are subject to being sent to remote areas where life for them is difficult, so many of our teachers stay with us. We do not have funds to provide these kinds of pay increases. We are concentrating on sending our young people to the Teacher Training Institute following their high school graduation in hope they will be loyal to the ministry vision we promote among our teaching staff. Five of these new teachers are long time members of the Lord's church.



Two of the sign language trainers are also long time teachers. On the left, Dawit Gosaye, grew up at the Mekanissa School for the Deaf. Both his parents were deaf and graduates of the school. He is very a very capable sign language trainer; as it was the language used in his home. On the right is Brother Mekdes. He has been a teacher for the school for almost 40 years and is fluent in both the Amharic and International Sign Languages. He is very loyal in his

service to those less fortunate. These two brethren represent the kind of spirit we need to present as we reach out to our world.

## **OUR DEAF STUDENTS ON A FIELD TRIP TO A BICYCLE FACTORY:**



Providing an education for the deaf is a very important ministry. Many of you who read this report sponsor children attending our schools. After graduation, a few deaf students are able to go on to college while most try to enter the labor market. The rate of unemployment in Addis Ababa is in double digits and for the “handicapped”, it is much higher. One of our aims is to lead our deaf students to the understanding they are very employable. In the picture on the right a worker in the factory demonstrates the art of assembling a spoked bicycle wheel. Industrial companies are flooding into Addis Ababa and field trips like this one show our students what jobs may be available for them. A deaf employee would flourish in an assembly plant like this one. They wouldn’t waste time “talking to other workers” or being detracted by noises or other things that interfere with the quantity and quality of what they produce. The director of the school, Muse Alemayehu (blue shirt) explains to the students using sign language what the factory worker is saying. Field trips like this one are a very important part of the overall educational process of our deaf ministry in Ethiopia.

#### **UPDATE ON THE WATER WELL DRILLING PROJECT:**



Heavy rains are preventing our crew from drilling at this time. These pictures were taken a few weeks before the rainy season started. We have eight more wells to complete on the present agreement and then hopefully a new agreement will be signed with UNICEF and the Southern Region Water Bureau for 20 to 40 additional wells. Please pray for this very important ministry. With the unrest in the south, plans for additional projects has come to a stop. UNICEF has indicated they are ready to work with us as soon as the rains stop in mid-October.

The gospel outreach is alive and well in Ethiopia today. The Preacher Training Schools will start a new session the second week of October. The Deaf Schools and the Kindergartens will open at the same time. Our Ethiopian brethren are busy with the Lord’s Work! Thank you for your faithful involvement in saving the lost and lifting up the hopeless. (Luke 4:18-19)

Kevin and John Ed Clark