



ETHIOPIA GOSPEL OUTREACH

WOODWARD PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST

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DEAF MINISTRY IN ETHIOPIA: 1963-2017



Mark records the reaction of those watching when Jesus healed a deaf man, "They were utterly astonished, saying, *'He has done all things well; He makes even the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'*" (Mark 7:37) Jesus had love and compassion for all people especially the hopeless and the children. The crippled, the blind, the deaf.....all were brought to Jesus because He was their only hope. Today, Jesus still provides hope for the deaf in Ethiopia through all of you who pray for and faithfully support this wonderful ministry. 2017 introduces the 54th anniversary of our first School of the Deaf. Over 5000 children have attended and

graduated from the Mekanissa School for the Deaf. 295 are enrolled this term. We can't restore their hearing, but with God's blessing and your participation we can provide hearing aids for every child able to use them; we can educate them and teach them how to communicate. We can prepare them to go on to a higher education and to become gainfully employed. Most important of all, we can teach them about Jesus. Through your involvement, it can still be said by all people who watch, "He has done all things well....."



Elsabeth (left) understands God's assignment for her. She is one of our teachers. She came to our school as a small girl; she was deaf and had no communication skills. She was poor and without hope. The little girl in pink is where Elsabeth was 40 years ago. Elsabeth gently guides her through the simple concept of learning to communicate by teaching her sign language and by holding her hand to help her put all the marks together to make a letter and then a word. In the first two years of school an amazing transformation happens. Elsabeth will lead her through everything her handicap has caused her to miss and to a place she had no idea existed. She will become a confident bright young lady like thousands of other students who have found answers to all the questions she had in her mind the day these pictures were taken. Elsabeth could teach in a government school where her financial benefits would more than double. But Elsabeth and many of our other teachers who are deaf, understand their calling; "to proclaim good news to the poor and to set the oppressed free....." (Luke 4:18-19)

WATCHING THE PROGRESS OF A NEW CONGREGATION:



This church is located in the Western Region of Ethiopia at a place called Haro. Five years ago, Brother Lemma, one of the teachers at the Nekemte School of Preaching, went there to teach. Brothers from the Sire congregation had reached out to this area and invited Lemma to come. Sire is a town on the main highway from Addis Ababa and 60 miles east of Nekemte. Lemma reported it takes him 6 hours riding a mule to reach the Haro area from Sire; there are no roads; only trails where people and animals walk. Since that first visit, Haro has grown to 65 members. They had been meeting in the building covered by a blue plastic tarp directly behind the brethren in the picture. They needed a new building because the old building was packed. They asked for help to pay for the corrugated metal roof and they furnished the wood and labor and will stucco the outside and inside with clay, mixed with straw. They are ready to grow now. Brethren from this church have been trained at the Nekemte School of Preaching and are serving in this growing congregation.

THE WATER WELL EVANGELISTS: ESTABLISHING NEW CONGREGATIONS



Report from Brother Moges: "We had good and constructive meetings at Shone (left) and in Jajura (right) with the water well site preachers and the teachers of the respective Schools of Preaching. They face many challenges; one is from denominational churches in the areas and also from the anti-institutional preachers of the Church of Christ. Even with these obstacles they remain focused on Kingdom business. I believe we will see more fruits the coming days. Over all I see more coordination and team spirit in the Badewacho, Wolieta and Kedida Gamella areas which are led by Bro. Molla and other brothers working with him. We were encouraged also as we saw renewed individual efforts and dedication of brothers in the Soro areas."

Our deep appreciation goes out to all of you who faithfully pray for and financially support these ministries that serve, lift up and prepare the people of Ethiopia for an eternity with our Lord. We extend to all of you our wishes for a Happy, Healthy and Spiritually Blest 2017.

Kevin and John Ed Clark