



ETHIOPIA GOSPEL OUTREACH

WOODWARD PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST

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MISSION JOURNEY TO NEW AREAS IN WESTERN ETHIOPIA:

Brothers Moges and Alemayehu, along with brethren from Nekemte, recently made a trip to visit brethren in the new area of Benishangule Gumez, which is located in the far Western Region of Ethiopia. On the map the Region is highlighted in red. It is difficult to explain just how remote this area is.



There are few all weather roads and no bridges over many streams and small rivers. Travel by a 4 wheel drive vehicle is limited to trails and paths. Electricity is almost non-existent as is clean water to drink. Travel between villages and areas is done by walking or riding a mule. In the rainy season, the countryside is green, but when the rains stop, the region becomes arid and desert like. In 2011, Abeyot Onaba, right, graduated from the Nekemte School of Preaching. He was from a village called Agelo Besi. After graduation, he moved to Benishangule Gumez to a place called Belesa to farm. He started to preach to the people in this new area and within one year 16 people had obeyed the gospel and the first congregation in that region was established. In the following



three years, Abeyot selected 4 new Christians and sent them to the Nekemte PTS to be trained. The four are pictured on the left. Left to Right: Eyasu Belachew, Jano Begesha, Abate Welteji and Tesegera Abdisa. In the three years that followed these 5 brethren were able to plant three new congregations among the Benishangule Gumez people. Brothers Jano and Abate are the preachers at Belesa. This church has grown to 41 members. Bro. Eyasu is the preacher at the new church at Bore Mado and has 21 members. Bro. Tesegera serves the new church at Korka Meti and they have 23 members. To help you who read this report to understand the

remoteness of these areas; it is a 6 hour walk one way from the first established church in Belesa to Korka Meti. Walking is the only form of dependable travel to and from these areas.



This picture was taken in front of the Belesa church building. Members from the other areas had come to visit while the brothers from Addis and Nekemte visited. They were unable to visit the other two churches because of the long walk to get to them. On the way to visit this church, they were forced to leave



Belesa the team traveled Brother Zelalem Dunfa lives in that as a teacher at our School for the instructor at the Nekemte Preacher Training school. He is now employed by the Electric Power Authority. It was Zelalem who taught and baptized Abeyot Onaba when Abeyot came to the Nekemte PTS.

the 4 wheel drive pickup because it could not cross one of the many rivers that had no bridge. Two of the team had to stay with the truck while the others walked for 1½ hours to arrive in Belesa. On the way to through a small town called Kemesh. town; he had served for many years Deaf in Nekemte and also as an



When the Mission Team was about 25 miles from the town of Kemesh, they called Zelalem to let him know they would be there soon. Zelalem informed them that there was a serious disease that was transmitted by eating meat from the local cattle and he advised them not to buy or eat food from shops in the area. They had some “kolo” and shortbread cookies with them and that is what they had for lunch. Kolo is pan roasted wheat and is a snack food in Ethiopia. Since there was no food in the small restaurants because of the meat restriction in town, they had only roasted corn for supper. Somehow, the following morning, Zelalem’s wife had prepared spaghetti for all the team to eat and they ate along the side the road on their way to meet

with brethren in the town of Agelo Meti, where Zelalem and his wife serves. They were very happy to have good food to eat. In Bro. Moges’ report he said there were no shops open in Agelo Meti because it was Sunday and everything was closed so everyone can go to church.



Brothers Moges, Tesegera, the minister at Korka Meti and Eyasu, one of the Nekemte PTS instructors are pictured walking on their mission trip from one place to another. The dirt trail on the left is very useable to travel over with a vehicle; however because of the rivers they are unable to bring the vehicle to that area. The center picture shows two of the brothers coming up out of one of the river beds which clearly shows it is not passable by even 4 wheel drive vehicles. They passed two young boys on the right on their way to the river with their fishing poles and positive attitude of catching supper. One had a bag on his back to put their catch in.

DEMONSTRATING HOW TO USE THE SOLAR AUDIO PLAYER AT BELESA:



Sunset International Bible Institute in Lubbock, Texas had left a supply of Solar Audio Players to Ethiopia and the mission team brought some with them to leave for the preachers in Benishangule Gumuz to use in their ministry. These units have over 1250 hours of bible courses and sermons, as well as spiritual songs, all in the Amharic language. This tool is a blessing for the preaching and teaching brethren as they use them in area meetings, funerals, open markets, in their congregations and any place where people are gathered. It is a great blessing to see this tool used in such a distant place and for a people so very receptive to God’s word. 50 years ago we went out to another distant place in the Hydia and Kambatta regions of southern Ethiopia. In 1968 we were able to

document only 8 congregations. Now, there are hundreds of churches in those areas, having tens of thousands of members. This brief report introduces another beginning in the new outreach area of Benishangule Gumuz. Only God knows what the next 50 years will bring. You who read this report and pray fervently for the work and have sacrificially supplied the means for God and our brethren to reach out with the saving message of Jesus can know it has all been fruitful in the Kingdom. May God continue to bless you as we all serve Him together.

Kevin and John Ed Clark