



ETHIOPIA GOSPEL OUTREACH

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August 28, 2017

EQUIPPING GOSPEL PREACHERS: THE FOCUS OF THE OUTREACH IN ETHIOPIA



The Nekemte School of Preaching is one of five training schools located in Ethiopia. Each year, 100 to 110 men graduate from these schools. The men in these pictures comprise the 35th session at the Nekemte School and will bring the total of men trained in Nekemte to more than 350. It isn't possible to know by the way they look, their age, by the scores on the tests they take or their rank in the class at graduation time who will become an effective soul winners and church planters. One of the most successful church planters in the 49 year history of training preachers in Ethiopia was an almost illiterate student who was unable to graduate because he couldn't pass the tests, even when they were given to him orally. He had a burning passion and a committed heart to preach to the lost and leave the rest to God. There will be thousands of souls eternally saved as the result of his willingness to preach; graduation certificate or not. The 10 students standing behind their seated instructors have graduated and only time and eternity will provide their record to be read on that great Day.

Nekemte is in the Wollega Region of Western Ethiopia. It is halfway between the capital city of Addis Ababa and the border of Sudan. The gospel was introduced into that area through World Bible School (WBS) correspondence courses and follow up mission trips made by Brother Joe Boe and others some 25 years ago. A WBS student named Dagnatchew led the way to establish the first congregation of the Lord's church in the Western Region in the city of Nekemte.

THE NEJO CONGREGATION:



The town of Nejo is 122 miles west and north of Nekemte. It has a population of 20,000 and growing. Brother Abeyot Onaba is from Nejo and was taught the gospel by Brother Zelalem Dunfa. He was accepted into the Nekemte PTS. Following his graduation, he returned to Nejo and established a congregation. The Nejo church now has 34 members and their attendance for the Sunday assembly averages 40 in number. The congregation in Nejo is a perfect example of how the Lord's church spreads in the land of Ethiopia. But, this is only the beginning of the Nejo story. Read on.....

TRAINING PREACHERS AND CHURCH PLANTERS FOR THE NEJO AREA:



Left to Right: Brothers Merga Eseta, his brother, Lemma Eseta, Hinka Hundesa, Moti Abdeta and Abeyot Onaba. Merga is the preacher at Nejo. His brother Lemma is the assistant preacher. Both are graduates of the Nekemte PTS, the 22nd and 23rd sessions respectfully. Lemma has been walking 4 hours once a week to a place called Aluma Degero to preach where members of his family live. He has a number of people in a bible study and is confident a new church will be established there very soon. Hinka is from the Nejo church and a graduate of the 28th PTS session. He has started preaching in a new place called Gemta Amuma, which is a 4 hour walk in a different direction from Nejo and very soon a new congregation will be planted there. Moti is also from Nejo and a graduate of the 28th Nekemte PTS session. He and another graduate from the 22nd session have gone to the Muchucho Giorgies area to preach and have baptized 3 people and have planted the church there. Abeyot, also from Nejo went to the Benishangule Gumez area, which is a 5 hour walk from Nejo, to preach and has established 3 new congregations. (See the July 2017 Ethiopia Gospel Outreach Newsletter.) It was Abeyot who first preached and established the Nejo congregation following his graduation in 2011.

This is how it works! When 10-15 men graduate from a Preacher Training School some of them go back to their home congregations. Others go to new places and plant new churches. Every new church needs at least one trained preacher; but usually over time they will send two or three. The extra trained men strengthen the church that sent them and some walk to new areas and establish a new church. This new church needs a trained local preacher.....and the story repeats itself! The Lord set up this pattern of spreading the gospel. Paul told Timothy to teach faithful men who will teach faithful men, who will teach faithful men..... (2 Timothy 2:2) The Lord's pattern of teaching still works!

All of you who pray for and support the Lord's work in Ethiopia are an important part of this Gospel Outreach. Everyday hundreds of souls in Ethiopia are prepared for eternity; God is using you in His plan!

THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:



Serving the deaf children in Ethiopia is a very rewarding ministry. Teaching them and providing food when they come to school hungry demonstrates God's love for them in a real way. We thank God for all of you every day. May God continue to use us all in serving Him more and more in our lives! (Phil. 1:9) The student on the right is very happy he has an avocado to eat with his morning breakfast!