



# ETHIOPIA GOSPEL OUTREACH

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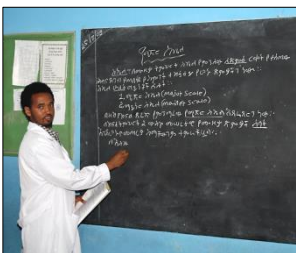
## **".....HE SUPPORTS THE FATHERLESS AND THE WIDOW....." PSALMS 146:9**

The big famine in Ethiopia started in 1983, but the world didn't notice until 1984 after the BBC came into the Northern provinces and made a documentary showing the ravaged population and land. Drought and war had combined to cause a human disaster far larger than words could describe. Multitudes were dying each day. Within a few months the Lord's church was feeding thousands of starving people daily at two large feeding centers; one in the Rift Valley in a village called Jido and the other about 200 miles north of Addis Ababa in a mountain village called Fursi. When the Fursi Center opened, an average of 39 people a day were dying and being buried in an open trench grave. There were no funerals and no one to claim the bodies or to remember those who a short time before had been a part of the vibrant rural



communities that had become the "dying fields" in that lingering human tragedy. By the summer of 1987 the crises was ending and only a few people were left in our two centers. Fursi was in a Muslim area and one day Muslim leaders came and took everyone out. In Jido everyone left except 9 children whose families had died and they had no place to go. We kept them at the Jido center and hired a caretaker to take care of them. One day she resigned and left that same day. The decision was quickly made to transfer the nine young ones, 8 boys and 1 girl, to Addis. Behailu and Alem took the girl into their home. Hanna is with them in Seattle today. A dorm was assembled for the boys and Brother Moges' mother became their cook and house mother. Brother Alemayehu (upper left), the preacher at the Mekanissa

congregation became their "father" until his death a few years later. That was the beginning of our orphan's home on the Addis Ababa School for the Deaf compound.



We can't call it an "Orphanage" because that brings a lot of rules and regulations on us; we call it a "Children's Ministry". We have had as many as 17 young men and today we have less than 10; the number fluctuates with the needs presented. Some of the original orphans are still with us and serve in various positions in the mission. Bekele, right center in the green shirt,



was one of the original 9; he is a preacher, a certified accountant and is our driver when we travel to the countryside to visit schools and churches. Tamaru, left is a teacher in the Deaf School. Eyob, center, is also a teacher. Recently we remodeled the boy's home and added some new furniture:



Left: the kitchen and dining room building. Center: the dining room with new table and chairs. Right: the boys at dinner time. This facility has been used since we started the children's ministry in 1987.



A new electric enjera (bread) maker was added to prepare the traditional sour dough flat “pancake” type bread. This bread is served with every meal. Right, a new electric hot pad was added to prepare the wot (stew or sauce) which is served every day. The wot can be prepared in many different ways and tastes. These are the staple foods in the Ethiopian culture.

The work with the orphan and abandoned boys has been a great ministry over the years. The 15 or more years they live with us, while they “sit” at the feet of some of the greatest spiritual leaders and gospel preachers, prepares them for the abundant life Jesus spoke about in John 10:10.

**“.....those who had been scattered went about preaching the word.....” Acts 8:4**



Following the completion of the one month Bible Seminar conducted by Brothers Joe Boe and Kevin Schwiger, these brethren coordinated evangelistic outreaches into 9 different areas in the Southern Region. 15 congregations were visited and many people attended the assemblies. Seventy one people responded and were baptized and added to the Lord's Church. Also from the distant area of Dawro, reports were received telling that an additional 54 responses had occurred. Twelve of these 54 had been studying the World Bible School Correspondence courses in their home areas. This marks the beginning of a new outreach revival in the Southern Region!

### **SISTER TAGESECH, LOVING WIFE OF BROTHER WALDE GHORGHIS PASSES:**



On October 8, 2017, Sister Tagesech went home to be with her Lord. She and Brother Walde had been married almost 50 years. They had 10 children, more than 40 grandchildren and several great grandchildren. Brother Walde attended the Addis Ababa School of Preaching in 1968 and then became a teacher in our School for the Deaf. They were married during those early years and moved to Matoria in 1971 where Walde became the director of our new School for the Deaf. They lived in Matoria for the next 21 years. Their 10 children were born during that period. Then they moved to Jajura where Walde had grown up and he became the director

of the new Jajura School of Preaching. They continued to live in Jajura until her passing. Brother Moges preached the funeral sermon that was attended by more than 5000 people. Tagesech served with Walde until her death which was brought on by the complications of diabetes and a stroke. Her loving kindness and loyalty to her family and the church will be remembered by all who knew her.

Thanks to all of you who faithfully pray for and support the Lord's work in Ethiopia.

Kevin and John Ed Clark