



# ETHIOPIA GOSPEL OUTREACH

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## THE TIMES, OUR CONCERNS AND OUR PRAYERS:

At the time of this writing it would be safe to say that all of our lives have been impacted the last few weeks by the events around us. The threats to our health and finances and especially to our worship assemblies have raised our concerns more than any time I can remember in my lifetime. Many of us are "senior citizens" and have been asked to "shelter in place" in our homes until this emergency subsides as we are the most vulnerable of all. Through it all we can be thankful we live in a country that has the best health care in our world. More than that we can be thankful that God is in control and we place our trust in Him to see us through the present times. We all need to constantly pray for our brethren in other countries like Ethiopia where health care is almost nonexistent for the millions living in rural areas. All of East Africa is being impacted by the spread of the COVID-19 virus and it will be a disaster there. Some countries are already on lockdown; allowing no one in and no one out. By the time you read this Ethiopia will probably have been added to that list. In time, this crises like others in the past will fade and life will return to some kind of normal. We seek your prayers and please know you have ours. God help us all.

## TEN NEW WATER WELLS COMPLETED IN BADEWATCHO:



Good things are happening in Ethiopia. An agreement for 30 new wells has been made with the Southern Region Government. Ten of those wells have been completed in the Badewatcho area of the Hydia Zone. Twenty will be drilled in the Sidama Zone around our Preacher Training School and School for the Deaf in the Santariea area. Estimates indicate that over 300,000 people will benefit from these new wells. The hearts of the people will be touched by this wonderful gift as the love of Jesus will be demonstrated to them in this very real way. In the pictures above on the top left is the first well in the Badewatcho area that was put into service this month. On the right is a hole which fills up slowly from a small spring and the people used this water to drink previously. It was much too small to supply an adequate amount of water.



L to R:  
A cool drink,  
an old watering  
hole our drilling  
crew, Solomon,  
Demoze and  
Negussie

## PREACHING IN THE WATER WELL AREAS:



**Bro. Tegegn Shekula** is now preaching in two new areas called Sedeka and Fura in the Sidama Zone. This is interesting because it has been several years since we drilled water wells in these areas. People who have been touched because of their great gift of good water haven't forgotten the love they were shown by providing pure clean water for them. From the place he lives it takes him two hours to walk to each of the places. They are in different directions. He goes once each week to each new place after he found people interested in studying the word of God with him. He is praying for souls to be saved and added to the church and that a new congregation will be established in

both places.



**Bro. Tafese Hankito's** home congregation is in Wenenata and is located on the main highway that leads to Kenya. He has been preaching for 30 years. He is dedicated to take the saving message of the gospel to all who will listen. At this time he is concentrating on two new places in the Sidama Zone. The first is called Doya Dao. To reach this place he must take a public bus to a town called Antate and then walk two hours to reach Doya Dao. He is a very effective preacher and found people ready and willing to study God's word with him. He travels once each week to teach and believes in a short while the people will respond to the gospel message and be baptized and a new church established. The second place he is now reaching out to is called Argoda Rodento. This place is two and a half hours walk from his home in Wenenata. This is a remote area and no bus transportation is available. He walks there once each week at the time the people have appointed for him to come.



**Bro. Nigussie Birbeto:** This water well site preacher is also focused on teaching in two new areas in the Sidama Zone. The first place is called Korke-Shaba. He helped establish this church two years ago and it has been under constant attack by denominational preachers in the area. Most members of this new congregation have remained strong and faithful. It is a one and a half hour walk from his home and he goes there once each week to study with them and to encourage them to remain faithful and true to God's word. Nurturing a new church is very important and Nigussie is dedicated to helping them. The second place Nigussie is focused on at this time is called Hengechicho. He makes the two and a half hour walk every Saturday to study with the people there. He has 14 people in the bible study at this time and believes the power of the Gospel message is penetrating their hearts and they will soon obey the gospel and a new congregation will be planted.

## UPDATE ON NEW DEAF SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION:



Construction on the new building for the Makanissa School for the Deaf is moving slowly forward. We continue to be amazed how much of this work is done by hand! There are no backhoes or trenchers and not even wheelbarrows to use! All the foundation digging you can see was done by pick and shovels. They have a hand tool to help them bend the rebar as needed. The big footings will soon be completed and there are commercial cement trucks with a cement pump to get the concrete to the place it is needed. This is a massive undertaking for us and is absolutely required by the government. Our deaf work is the key

to maintaining our permit in Ethiopia to preach the gospel and to provide the other humanitarian ministries for the people. We extend our deep appreciation to those who have provided financial support to help in this ongoing project.

**COVID-19 IN ETHIOPIA:** Our fears are gradually becoming a reality in Ethiopia. As of this writing they have 11 confirmed cases of the infection. The Prime Minister has already shut down all schools, public gatherings and most flights coming into the country. With the lack of medical care in the rural areas only God knows what will happen as the disease spreads. A recent case was diagnosed 300 miles away from the capital city. Your prayers are requested for all the people of Ethiopia during this time of uncertainty.

Thank you all for your prayers and faithful support of the Lord's work in Ethiopia. The opportunities to preach the message are unlimited and our brethren are committed.

Kevin and John Ed Clark