

Addis Ababa Bible Training Institute Report

Strength in Numbers



Pictured above are the students and staff of the AABTI with Kevin Schwiger who taught for 4 weeks in June to early July. We are all very grateful to Kevin and his elders who allowed him to spend this month away from his full-time ministry work in Michigan to teach these men.

My reference to “strength in numbers” is multi-fold. Yes, the strength of a good class of men doing advanced training to minister in the word is one of those strengths. But I am also grateful for the strength of these men being able to learn from multiple good brothers with far more experience teaching the word to men like these than I.

There have been 6 other men who have taught courses to this class. I am grateful to each one of them, as are the students of the AABTI. They offer differing experiences, depths of understanding of the word and “strengths” in many different senses. I will paste below Kevin’s expressions of working with this group of men and in Ethiopia in general:

My Experience Teaching in the Addis Ababa Bible Training Institute Kevin J. Schwiger | June 10 – July 5, 2024

I am constantly amazed at the many ways God has blessed our gospel outreach to the beautiful people of Ethiopia. Congregations throughout the countryside are being established and strengthened

through the work of sincere men who have become faithful students of God's word. I have been privileged and blessed to participate in this fruitful work since 2008, this being my fifth visit.

Leading up to this trip, I had been told that this was a good group of students; I was not disappointed. These men are dedicated Bible students and work hard in their classes. They work together to help each other understand the course material. One example is a student named Mulatu Kusamu who, after we finished a two-hour study of 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 and a discussion of the apostasy and the man of lawlessness, asked me to "go over that again." I asked him which part, to which he responded, "the whole thing." Not wanting to delay their evening meal, another student, Fayisa Yisihak, said the other students would explain it to Mulatu in their evening studies. The next morning, Mulatu said it was clear, and he did well on the exam.

I appreciate the organization and structure that the S.I.B.I. endorsement and curriculum bring to the preacher training school. It is a blessing to have a systematic two-year schedule of courses that encompasses the whole Bible and subjects essential to preaching the truth, refuting false doctrine, contending for the faith, and following the pattern of New Testament Christianity.

I was able to establish a strong relationship with these men as every day several of us would go for "bunna" (coffee) during our morning break. It was a chance to visit with them outside of the classroom where we talked about their families, their villages, and their churches. They told me about their background, who taught them the gospel, and how they became a Christian. I shared with them my conversion story and what were my favorite subjects when I was in school, and what are my favorite subjects to teach. I pray that I conveyed an enthusiasm and love for preaching and teaching God's word, both to the church and to the lost.

I am encouraged for the future of the church in Ethiopia because of these men. I look forward to hearing of their "work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father" (1Th 1:3).