

Addis Ababa Bible Training Institute

Report

Reminiscences



The picture above was taken in January of 2002 while my wife Deborah and I were visiting and ministering in Southern Ethiopia. The location was “up the mountain” to the home compound of one of the leaders of the Gobadamo congregation. It is just a few miles from the rural deaf school the church operates at Senteria in the Sidamo region. It was a favorite location for Deborah and me. We would spend as much as a month traveling from Senteria visiting and teaching rural churches in that area.

I mention this because our students are on their longest break of their two-year study program. This is the break between their first- and second-year programs. Thinking of them back in their home areas in various locations around Ethiopia reminds me of the days

when we had more freedom and security to travel and minister in rural Ethiopia. Do pray for the safety and success of the AABTI students in their travels around the country and ministry in their home areas. I pray that the day may come when we Westerners may have the freedom and security to travel throughout the country once again. The picture above triggers the reminiscence of those days. It also makes me wonder how the young girl and young boy in the picture are doing some 22 years later. I have no doubt that their lives are very different today from what they were then.

Our second-year classes begin on October 7th. Joe Boe will be there with his wife Lorry to begin with the Book of James for 2 weeks and then Peter for another 2 weeks. I'll be teaching Jeremiah and then the "Distinctive Nature of the Church" in November. We have teachers from Addis and the states scheduled for all the classes through to the completion of the first two-year program of the AABTI.

Also pray for the success of this effort for Kingdom purposes. We have some very good students who we expect to be great evangelists, church leaders, and servants to the church in Ethiopia. Many congregations in Ethiopia are very mature with excellent leadership and with a spirit of service toward the communities around them. Historically those successes have been in rural areas and some smaller cities in Ethiopia. The population dynamics and demographics have changed very dramatically over the past 20 years. The need now is to recreate that successful church growth in urban areas and not just rural areas. Pray that these men are useful servants toward that goal.

Blessings from myself and the students of AABTI,

Jim Wilson