

Addis Ababa Bible Training Institute Report

The Tie That Binds and The Ties That Bind



John Fawcett's 1782 hymn "Blessed Be the Tie That Binds" is one of my favorites. I played a Praise and Harmony YouTube version of it to the students the day before this picture was taken. They also very much enjoyed it.

The ties were my wife Deborah's idea and were gathered from the kind brethren from the West 7th Church of Christ in Columbia, TN. The students are thrilled to receive them. We don't usually wear ties to class, but the ties, the recent student break, and other recent events for the church here in Ethiopia made the picture and the title to this Newsletter very apropos.

I'm back in Ethiopia for another month of teaching following the students break that began in mid-December. There were some very good evangelistic experiences for many students on this break. What made it extra special for the students and the churches in Ethiopia was a 10-day down-country "tour" by 4 of our brothers involved with the school here in Addis. COVID had stopped the ability to make such trips in 2020. Following the pandemic, there have been security issues that made road travel quite hazardous. Though the risk is not gone, there is now a greater government security presence as well as

some upgrades to the road system that decrease access to some of the major roadways.

The reports of that trip were wonderful. Some of those reports and touching stories will be in the general "Ethiopia Outreach" monthly Newsletter. For those who don't receive it, you may request to be added to the email list by emailing kevin_l.clark@yahoo.com.

Deborah and I, as well as many others, have been grieving the decreased freedom of travel and access to visits with our brethren outside of Addis Ababa. The brethren "down-country" have also been missing such contact. They were very excited by the recent trip by some of our brothers from here in Addis.

Though the details are just now under discussion, we are planning to have graduation for this class in Addis Ababa after the wet season is over. This will likely be late October, and the students are excited that this will be done in conjunction with a gathering of brethren from throughout the country. Many are hoping that some family members and other brethren will attend. Please be praying that all the elements needed for this to occur will come together.

It has been a true joy to work with this group of men the past 18 months or so. Classes will finish on September 5. Also pray that each of these men are used by God to be a great blessing to the church and the country through their evangelistic efforts.

There are still some special challenges for the work of the church here in Ethiopia. Without sharing the details, I would ask you all to also pray that whatever challenges are faced, they are overcome by the blessings and grace of our Father in heaven.

Blessings,

Jim Wilson and the Students of the AABTI