

# Addis Ababa Bible Training Institute Report

Guest Writer/Teacher – Don DeLukie with Jean



My wife and I had a great experience at the Addis Ababa Bible Training Institute recently. I had the opportunity to teach the students the New Testament book of Hebrews. All this came about over circumstances that began many years ago. While teaching in Nairobi, Kenya in the eighties I had some individuals attending that would bring a lot of joy to my life. There had been a successful communist takeover in Ethiopia. Some of the leaders of the Lord's church were in temporary exile and decided to attend the course. The course was the book of Hebrews. These men greatly impressed me with their attitudes, moral courage, and unabashed love of the Lord. The main spokesman was Behailu Abebe. He was encouraged by the study and requested permission to translate the syllabus I was using into Amharic for use in Ethiopia. Which I happily granted. And he asked me to come to Ethiopia and teach Hebrews. I was excited and honored at his request. Little did I know the changes coming in my life and circumstances. But I never forgot that invitation and kept it in a niche of my heart.

The school where I was teaching preachers was ultimately closed. A couple of years prior to its demise I re-entered local work and began preaching for the Jackson Street church of Christ in Monroe, Louisiana. Although I am still associated with the congregation, I resigned from full-time duties. I began part-time preaching with the Sterlington church of Christ. I love this great group of people.

Then came the invitation from Dr. Jim Wilson to teach Hebrews in Ethiopia! Ironically, we shared a common alma mater in the past and I had heard many good things about him and his work in both the medical and mission fields. A lot of what I learned of him came from an

outstanding missionary in Kenya named Ken Bolden.

So, I dug out an old telephone directory that contained Bro. Behailu's number. Is it possible after all these years that I might reach him? Yes! I excitedly told him that after all these years I would be filling his requests to teach Hebrews in Addis Ababa. He said he had a surprise for me in that he would be my translator!

Thanks to the support of the Sterlington church, my wife Jean and I made our trek to Addis Ababa. Here we found a well-organized team effort designed to get the maximum use of their great facility. Within the Mekanisa Compound is a thriving school for deaf children, a medical complex, deep-well water system (that blesses the neighborhood with abundant and safe water supplies), a World Bible School center, a local congregation, and beginning construction of a well thought out multi-purpose facility. I've seen very few such useful and practical implementations of such a facility.

Jim Wilson is doing an excellent job of directing the bible institute. He and his wife Deborah go above and beyond in making many sacrifices for the effort. Especially in the arduous travel. (And in the many favors and hospitality shown to us.)

As for the school. What an amazing and competent group of men. All in love with the Lord and his Word. Interested, studious, courteous, and scholarly. I have no doubt that these sacrificing individuals will help chart the spiritual course of the Ethiopian nation. The leadership is multi-level with able men in all duties of teamwork. I thank Bro.

Behailu, Bro. Moges, Bro. Demere, Bro. Habtu, Bro. Abebe, and Bro Dinku.

I think that the Clark family deserves many accolades for their efforts in this great work among the Lord's people. And all those who have contributed to this effort. Some over a period of many years. As we browsed the guest book at the guest house, I realized that some spiritual giants helped build this movement. Some I knew well and some I look forward to meeting.

What beautiful and wonderful people in Ethiopia. What blessings for the many Christians in this part of God's World. What a dream that made reality. I now have substance after many years with thoughts of this work. I now have faces to view in my memory, names to cherish and new prayers to pray.