

Addis Ababa Bible Training Institute Report

December 18, 2025

What Comes Next?

A central part of being human involves the concern about and common thought of the mind prompting the question “What Comes Next?” I would love to tell you with certainty “What Comes Next?” for the AABTI and the work in Ethiopia, but current circumstances dictate a more measured and equivocal response.

These first two years of the AABTI were blessed with a commitment to fund these past two years. Life’s circumstances often dictate a change in resources and commitments. That is the case at the present time. This is regarding the funding for the AABTI program as well as the overall funding for the work in Ethiopia. The work has been blessed by the care and oversight of the work by the Woodward Park Church of Christ in Fresno, CA, and particularly John Ed Clark for literally decades.

Before proceeding on the above topic (to be resumed in the next paragraph), let me tell you that our Graduates are hard at work in various areas. There are 4 of them who will be coming to Addis in the next month or two to work together in an urban church planting effort. The Falls Church Church of Christ has committed just over \$20,000 yearly to this effort. It is a very great need. Pray for this effort.

Regarding the funding issues overall, there has been a gradual decrease in donations over the past several years. The past two years has seen a gradual erosion of the “reserves” available to fund the ongoing needs of the work in the context of decreasing donations. Since early summer this year, the reserves have been tapped out and there has been an increasing deficit. This impending pressure was seen years ago and in conjunction with the pressure from the City of Addis Ababa and its commitment to improving its image and our property’s central presence along their major emphasis “Corridor Project,” led to additional pressures.

If you have been looking at these Newsletters you will have likely noted the “new building” arising from a deep hole chiseled into the rock between the current Deaf School and Lesotho Street. Lesotho Street is the western extension of the

“Corridor Project.” It is also a street and area that houses numerous Embassies and Chancellery’s. This means we are in the “high rent district.” No one could have foreseen this development when Emperor Haile Sellasie and his family donated the property where the Deaf School and the “hub” of our mission efforts domiciles. Pictures I have seen make clear it was undeveloped land at first.

Yes, the property, the Deaf School, the offices, water well project warehouse, Guest Houses, and residences for many of our staff, etc. are just “things” and not central to the Kingdom focus of the work. Yet, without them, it would be a real challenge to effectively enable all the efforts expended to bless and grow the church as well as the many humanitarian efforts the work in Ethiopia is and has been committed to.

I mentioned the leadership of the work seeing this growing challenge over the past 3-5 years. As a part of that and due to the city’s pressure, architectural plans and pursuit of funding sources for a multi-purpose building were drawn up. The intent is to enable an “in-country” funding source to supplement the decreasing donations received here in the US. We were very blessed to have some generous giving by several individuals. Following this Newsletter but pasted below into this single document is a letter from Chuck Combs who has been helping to raise the needed funds for this multi-purpose building.

Additionally, a separate NGO was setup in Arkansas as a “secular” NGO to allow donations from entities that are constrained in their giving to religious organizations though they would be able to give to an NGO seen as a “secular” NGO for its humanitarian work. The funding needs of the Deaf Schools, the Water Well Drilling Project (over 700 wells since the early 2000’s), and the Medical Clinic on the Campus of the Mekanisa Deaf School are rolled into this new entity. You may visit the website of <https://www.eastafricare.org/> .

Now that I’ve “muddied the waters” with all these differing entities, let me try to clarify and identify the entities, their needs, and how you may give to each of them.

For the overall efforts for the church and evangelism in Ethiopia, send funds to:

Woodward Park Church of Christ

6345 N. Poplar

Fresno, CA 93704

For the AABTI, place a sticky note on your check indicating it is for AABTI Support.

(Note: funds sent to the above address will be deposited into accounts of the Woodward Park Church of Christ and made available to the work in Ethiopia)

For EastAfriCare, it will be discussed by Chuck Combs, and the address and other details will be posted in his letter. Please take the time to review the www.eastafricare.org website no matter what your interest.

Subject: Your Gift Today Will Be *Doubled* — And Secure the Future of Our Work in Ethiopia

Dear Friend of Ethiopia Gospel Outreach,

For more than six decades, Ethiopia Gospel Outreach has been dedicated to uplifting disabled and destitute children, expanding access to clean water, supporting education for the hearing impaired, and providing essential health services across Ethiopia...all in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Today, we stand at a pivotal moment — one that will determine the future of our mission for generations to come.

I'm writing to invite you to an extraordinary opportunity.

Your donation today will be *matched dollar-for-dollar* by a generous donor. The commitment they made is to match every dollar up to two million. If we achieve 100% of this opportunity four million dollars will go straight to this critical project.

[The deadline we face is March 31, 2026](#)

This means your gift will have *double the impact* in advancing the most important project in our organization's history: the construction of a self-sustaining, mixed-use building in Addis Ababa.

This 21-story development is more than a building — it is the foundation of long-term sustainability for every program we operate. When completed, it will generate reliable annual revenue to cover **over 90% of our development work** across Ethiopia. This includes:

- Education and support for hearing-impaired and vulnerable children
- Water development initiatives
- The Reta Clark Medium Clinic for health initiatives.
- Employment and entrepreneurship for disadvantaged communities

What your support makes possible

Because of the generous matching donor, every contribution you give right now:

1. **Ensures the continuation of our mission work in Ethiopia**—especially during a time of global economic instability.
2. **Accelerates the completion of this project**, allowing us to take advantage of uniquely favorable conditions in Ethiopia’s construction market.
3. **Eliminates the need for ongoing fundraising for our current programs**, freeing resources and energy to expand our reach and serve even more people.

Much of the project groundwork is already complete: site secured, architectural design finalized, permits obtained, and foundational shoring in place. We are ready to move into full construction — but we cannot take the next steps without your help.

This is the moment that secures the future of the work we have been called to in Ethiopia.

For more than 60 years, donors like you have made our work possible. Completing this project means that the children, families, and churches of Ethiopia will no longer depend on the uncertainties of year-to-year fundraising — instead, they will benefit from a strong, stable, and permanent resource. ***This project will provide operational funds for the ongoing work of approximately one million dollars annually.***

Will you give today and double your impact?

Your matched gift will bring us closer to finishing a project that will transform lives and eternity not just today, but for decades to come.

This request is not intended to replace your generous donations to Ethiopian Gospel Outreach. Until this project is finished, we depend on the annual gifts to fund our many works in Ethiopia. Our intent is to share an additional opportunity if you choose. Even if funding this opportunity is not an option, please pray for this effort. We know and believe that God will bless this work as He has for the past 60 years.

To learn more, partner with us, or make your matched contribution, please contact Habtu Zemech at Habtu@comcast.net or by phone at 703-862-5603. He has been a vital worker with Ethiopian Gospel Outreach for over 25 years. You can donate any amount online at [East Africare](http://EastAfricare.com) or by mailing a check to the address below:

East Africare
P.O. Box 412
Fort Smith, AR 72902, U.S.A.

Thank you for your compassion, generosity, and belief in a brighter future for Ethiopia. Together, with God's will, we are building more than a structure — we are building hope, dignity, and lasting opportunity. We will be sending more information about the work to you soon.

Warm regards,

Ethiopian Gospel Outreach

EastAfriCare