



ETHIOPIA GOSPEL OUTREACH

Woodward Park Church of Christ
P.O. Box 3836, Pinedale, CA 93650
559 446-2550

April 25, 2023

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS, FOR THEY SHALL BE FILLED. (Matthew 5:6) A report from Brother Moges:



Left to right: Bro. Abebe teaching, Mohammed and Jemal in class, Moges, Mohammed, Jemal and Abebe.

“Two new Christian brothers from Dire Dawa came last week to study with us. Both of them were former Muslims and had studied with Brother Belay, first through the World Bible School (WBS) courses and then in face-to-face bible classes. At their request Belay baptized them and arranged for them to come to Addis. Our classes were for 5 days and for 6 hours each day. On Sunday they worshipped with the Mekanissa Church and then started their journey home. Dire Dawa is about 320 miles from Addis Ababa. The following stories are what they shared with me about their lives:



Mohammed Abdela is 58 years old and was raised in a large Muslim family. He had 24 brothers and 15 sisters. His father had four wives. He has served as a teacher and oversaw Islamic councils and offices in Harar and the Arusi areas at different times. He made two Islamic pilgrimages to Mecca. He served for a total of 30+ years for the Islam religion and was very aggressive and conservative in his faith. He had two wives and ten children. One day a young University student in his area tried to share about Jesus with him. This young man was from area protestant group. Mohammed became upset and beat him badly. After a year or so, Mohammed decided to leave his religion and start going to a Lutheran church. His action created a serious problem between him, and his relatives and they considered him an enemy of their religion. His decision caused him to lose his farmland and both of his wives divorced him. His first wife married his younger brother as a manifestation for the people to consider Bro. Mohammed as a dead person. The second wife moved to another area to start living a new life on her own. He heard that she had married another person. Then his family made a false accusation about him, and the court sentenced him to 2 years in prison. After 9 months they released him after they found the accusation that was made on him was false. After he left prison, he studied with a preacher from a major

denomination and was sprinkled for baptism into that faith system. He continued to study God's word and found the doctrine he had been taught wasn't according to what he was reading. One day he saw some WBS material in his friend's hand and he read it and asked his friend from where he got that material. His friend helped him to communicate with Bro. Belay Kebede. Finally, He met with Belay personally and started to study the gospel of Christ. After he spent some time in study with Belay, he made the decision to be immersed in water baptism. After he put on Christ by immersion, he announced to his church group about his decision to stop working with them, so they stopped his support too. He continued to study with Bro. Belay and to worship with the church and arrangements were made for him to come to Addis to study with us. While he was with the denominational group, he wrote a book called, "What the Holy Quran says about the Bible." He brought two copies of his book for Abebe and for me. Both Bro. Mohammed and Jemal are very happy for the time that they spent to study God's word with us. Both expressed their feeling that they want to study more in the future and both of them look like diligent students of the Word. They will need more help in the future to grow in knowledge of the Word. We are very grateful about their interest to come to Addis to study the Word of God with us!!



Jemal Reta is 30 years old. He was born in Wolo and came from Muslim family. He has a B.A. degree in accounting and a diploma in social work. He worked on a UNICEF project in Dessie for two and a half years and when the project was phased out, he found himself without employment. He moved to Jidda to look for a job and stayed there 4 years. He started a ministry to teach the Quran using the WhatsApp program. During that period, he made a pilgrimage to Mecca. He studied in a 3 month training school and opened a mobile phone maintenance business which flourished. One day a person brought in some stolen equipment for him to repair and while it was in his shop the police came and arrested him for being in possession of stolen property. He spent 7 months in jail and was released because it was determined that the apparatus had been stolen in Mekelle and he had never been to Mekelle. He then moved to Dessie to live with his brother. His brother was a member of a charismatic denomination. It was during this period that Jemal started to read the bible. He soon moved to Harar and tried visiting some of the charismatic churches but as a Muslim he couldn't be happy participating in their confusing style of worship. It was during that period that he found the WBS courses on the internet and that led him to Brother Belay. They spent time in face-to-face study and Jemal was convicted by the truth of the gospel and was baptized into Christ. Through Belay's suggestion, Jemal came with Mohammed to Addis to study deeply with Moges and Abebe."

Moges stated he has great hopes for Jemal's future. He is a very intelligent young man and a now a determined Christian. He is living in Harar but doesn't speak the language of the area, so he is unable to find employment in his profession. He is working as a daily laborer to support himself. Hopefully he will move to an Amharic speaking area where he can grow and flourish as a Christian teacher and leader and find employment as an accountant. We are thankful for Belay and the power of the WBS outreach and for all the brethren in Ethiopia who constantly reach out with the saving message of Jesus the Christ.

WATER WELL DRILLING UPDATE:



Left: Brother Monte Hininger stands with Solomon Tesfaye, our crew leader, as they were in the process of repairing our 1967 Schramm rig at our Deaf School compound in Hawassa. Monte and the crew spent three weeks on this project. Many parts were badly worn and had to be replaced. This rig has served in drilling over 700 new water wells and now is ready for more!! After the repairs were completed, they traveled to a selected drilling location to drill the first new well on the recently signed 60 well project agreement.



The well is located at a place called Hawaja #2. It is in the Aleta Wondo area. They were happy that it was a producing well. After the well drilling was completed, they drove a post into the casing and tightly screwed it in place to keep children (some not so young) from dropping rocks into the well until the pump is installed! On the right the local people brought out food and coffee for the crew. As the well was being drilled a local preacher prayed with the people that water would be found. Pure clean water is badly needed in this area. Our water well evangelists will go to this area when the pump is installed and reach out with the gospel to the people living around the well. This great gift of water is a demonstration of God's love shown through the labors of his faithful children. People's hearts are touched!

Moges reports there is a Church of Christ close by and some of those who use this well will be our brethren. It is not uncommon for the women and girls to walk for hours each day to find a water source and that may be a pond or an unprotected spring or a creek where cattle and other animals drink from and are contaminated with bacteria and every form of water borne disease. Your prayers and faithful support are appreciated.

NEW DRILLING RIG PUT INTO SERVICE IN ADDIS ABABA:



This new drilling rig was ordered from India in February of 2022. After several delays at seaports and customs clearing in Djibouti and customs in Ethiopia it was finally delivered to our School for the Deaf compound in February 2023. Its first assignment was to drill two wells on the compound in Addis. The local water supply in Addis Ababa isn't dependable so having our own water system will be a great blessing. These pictures show the crew drilling the first well. Water was first found at less than 200 feet. However, the flow was low. The drilling continued to 546 feet and a good supply of water was found that will produce close to 10 gallons per minute.



The second well will be located at the bottom of the compound and a new road for the rig had to be constructed. At this writing the drilling is underway. They found a small amount of water at 90 feet and plan to drill down to 550 feet to make sure there is a constant supply of water. The city water was off during the drilling so they had to buy a truck load of water and put it into the two plastic tanks seen in the top right picture. This water is used in the drilling

process. It is planned to use the old rig to drill the 60 new wells in Sidama and then take this new rig for drilling in the next agreement or if the old rig breaks down during the present agreement. It is a blessing to have this new rig and for the hope of continuing to provide good water for thousands of people in the future.

ALL THE GOSPEL OUTREACH MINISTRIES are doing well. There is still unrest in different areas that make travel on the highways unsafe. But in all the villages and areas the churches are growing, and new congregations are being planted. All the deaf schools and kindergartens are operating and filled with students. Thanks to all of you who love and continue to support these great ministries!!

Kevin and John Ed Clark