

Spreading the love of Jesus Christ to unreached people groups around the world through:

- Evangelism
- HIV/AIDS Education
- Orphan Care

Gospel For All

"If you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel." Col. 1:23

Summer 2007

Extending a Hand of Hope

by Vivian H. Dersu

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Gospel For All continues to seek out orphans in whose lives we can make a difference, specifically in the areas where we currently have an evangelistic presence. The challenge is always **who** to help. There are hundreds of orphans in our ministry area alone and it is impossible to help all of them; however, it is possible to make a significant difference by changing one life at a time as the Lord leads and as funds are available.

For the past year, GFA has sponsored two girls, sisters, who lost both of their parents. As additional funds have become available and designated to be used for Hand of Hope (GFA's orphan care and HIV/Aids program), we have been praying and asking the Lord to give us wisdom in choosing additional children to sponsor.

A few months ago, my husband and I heard of 8 siblings in the town of Yavello who were struggling to stay together after having lost both of their parents. Since Sam was planning a trip to Ethiopia to visit the various evangelistic works being carried out by GFA, we decided that while he was there, he would attempt to make contact with these children and see if possibly Gospel For All could sponsor them under the Hand of Hope project.

In the meantime, a family who attended our church, Priest Lake Christian Fellowship, was saving some money that they wanted to be used to help out the ministry in Ethiopia in some way. Our church had been collecting various school supplies and other items for our evangelists for Sam to take with him and distribute. Shortly before Sam left for his trip, this family gave him an envelope containing \$125 and said, "It's probably too late to buy supplies, but maybe you can use it to help someone." Suddenly, God brought these 8 siblings to mind and Sam told the family that he would be visiting 8 children who had lost their parents and maybe he could use the money to buy them some clothes. The family liked

this idea, so it was settled: Sam would use the money for these children.

While visiting the town of Yavello, Sam was able to track these children down and meet with them. The oldest sibling, Nesaanet (age 19), told him their story. Their father passed away 5 years ago and their mother passed away last year.



Back (L-R): Aster (18), Galgallo (14), Nesaanet (19)
Front (L-R): Biftu (5), Gemechu (8), Meskerem (7), Ana (10), Wakole (17)

Since then, Nesaanet has had the responsibility of keeping all of her siblings together and caring for them. She dropped out of school after her father died in order to help her mom support the family. She has only been able to complete her education through the 5th grade. Her younger brother, Wakole, is now the man of the house at only 17 years of age. He works a part time job after school in order to help the family get by.

Nesaanet has done a tremendous job taking care of her siblings and making sure they stayed in school. Both parents were Christians and Nesaanet promised them that she would make sure to keep her siblings together and in church. She has sacrificed a lot in her young life and has had to take on more responsibility and burdens that anyone should have to at this age.

It was a joy for Sam to take these children to the market and buy new clothes for all of them! There was even \$50 left over, which Sam gave to Nesaanet for her to use to buy food or whatever else they may need at home.

Gospel For All will begin sending monthly support for these children, which will allow Nesaanet to return to school and ensure that all of her siblings remain in school as well.

It's amazing how God works among His people. Sam had no plans to buy these children anything while in Ethiopia. His only plan was to visit them and see if we could start giving them some assistance every month. God had another plan in mind and allowed Sam to extend a hand of hope through a \$125 love gift!



Sam Dersu buying clothes for Nesaanet and her siblings.

Our Priest Lake Connection

Greetings from Phil Dillingham — Pastor of Priest Lake Christian Fellowship

As a pastor, there is always a sense of security and peace of mind when I know that God has given our church an assignment. The peace of mind comes in knowing that we are doing what God wants us to do and in knowing that He will supply what is needed, even when the task is a large one. Gospel For All is one of those God-given assignments to Priest Lake Christian Fellowship (PLCF), the church I pastor.

Only God could have envisioned bringing Sam Dersu from the small town of Mega in South Ethiopia to America to marry Vivian, the American daughter of missionaries to Japan. Only God could have brought them to PLCF where Sam would eventually become one of our trusted shepherds. Only God could have directed Sam and Vivian to begin GFA and supply what was needed to support its ministries.

And now many from our church are preparing to go to Ethiopia to see and participate in all God is doing there in June 2008. My family, at least four of us, are some of those who are going.

I have been a pastor for 20 years, and this is the first “mission trip” outside the United States I have taken since childhood. PLCF has always been involved in missions. Our church sent out our first missionary to the Philippines when we were only 50-people strong. There has been a wonderful missions story woven in the tapestry of our body since that time.

This, however, is the first time I have felt called to go. Part of my hesitation in the past has been the cost of sending Americans overseas as opposed to supporting the folks there. All of this has been trumped by God. I am confident that I and PLCF are supposed to

go in 2008. In this there is security, peace of mind, and — I will add — great joy.

To my brothers and sisters in Ethiopia, I so deeply look forward to meeting you. The friends and family you have sent to us here in the U.S. have refreshed us like good cold water. I and our church have been so blessed by them, and you are the good well they have been drawn from. We know the Lord will bless us by being with you, and we wish to bless you spiritually as well. Each of our people who will come has committed to praying for one of the evangelists from GFA. What a joy it will be for each of us to see face to face the people they have been praying for.

I will close with a prayer from 2 Corinthians 13:14: “May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”



Phil Dillingham

Phil Dillingham serves as Senior Pastor at Priest Lake Christian Fellowship in Antioch, TN. He and his wife, Connie have 3 children.

My First Glimpse of Ethiopia

by Scot Mechling

When I was asked to pray about going to Ethiopia, I was not quite sure what to expect. Once I knew that I was going I wondered how God would use me to help his people there. When I arrived I was shocked at the poverty and then humbled by the love of God that the believers there have. If anything, they helped me to look at the world and my life in a new way. They taught me new things through their customs, way of life, and way of being.



Scot, pictured with GFA’s Coordinator and Evangelist, Wario (far left) along with a young believer in Moyale and Zeleke (far right). Zeleke faithfully served as Sam and Scot’s driver during their stay in Ethiopia.

The Ethiopian people were very loving and accepted me in as one of their family. I met many wonderful people and saw many beautiful places. It seemed that with every new place that I traveled, God had a new lesson to teach me to make me a better person and more appreciative of the gifts that He has given me! Ethiopia is a wonderful country with wonderful people. I highly suggest that if anyone has the opportunity to go there that they do so. Ethiopia will forever change your life as it has mine.



Scot wearing traditional Borana clothing he received from the elders of the church in Mega.

Scot Mechling is a member of Priest Lake Christian Fellowship in Antioch, TN. He and his wife, Lissette, have 2 children. Scot recently accompanied GFA Founder, Sam Dersu, to Ethiopia to visit many of the evangelists working among the Borana people of southern Ethiopia.

Gospel For Unreached Nations — Evangelist Tsega-ab Bekele

Gospel For Unreached Nations continues to hold conferences, revivals and training for ministers, evangelists and church workers. During May, they coordinated a Peace Incentive Conference that was held in 12 towns simultaneously throughout southern Ethiopia.

Ethiopia continues to struggle with conflicts between the many ethnic groups. Many times the conflicts result in violence ending with tragic deaths. GFUN's desire for peace in this region was a driving force in their resolve to organize the Peace Incentive Conference.

Many Christians from various churches came together to pull off this historical conference. Government officials welcomed them into their towns. A town administrative officer from Hageremariam who came to the conference said, "We are very happy and challenged by the aim and great impact of the Peace Incentive Conference. We appreciate your concern and prayer for this event. On behalf of the Hageremariam administrative body, I invite you to work together with us toward reconciliation and peace between the ethnic people groups in our town and surroundings."

Government officials from other towns echoed the above comments and were happy to welcome the PIC to their towns

in hopes that this would be the beginning of peace in the area.

Over the course of the conference, many lives were changed. In the city of Yavello, a well known Borana man, who had been a slave to witchcraft his entire life, was transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit. He came to the conference simply for his daughter. She had been paralyzed for nearly a year and unable to do anything for herself. This man had taken his daughter to well known witches, but they were unable to help her. He took her to local clinics and hospitals, but her condition did not improve. He even took her to different private hospitals in the capital city of Addis Ababa, but no one was able to help her.

Out of desperation, he decided to take his daughter to the Peace Incentive Conference being held at the stadium in Yavello. At the end of the service, this man came forward and testified before the entire group that his daughter had been healed during the service. She stood up and started walking without any help!

This Borana man said, "Starting from today, I want to be a messenger of this great Jesus. He is alive! He is alive! He is Lord!" We praise God for the miraculous transformation of this man's life.



Evangelist Tsega-ab



Peace Incentive Conference

Continue to pray for Evangelist Tsega-ab as he leads the work of Gospel For Unreached Nations. Pray that the Lord would continue to work through him to touch many lives with the transforming power of Jesus Christ.



Hand of Hope....reaching out to orphans

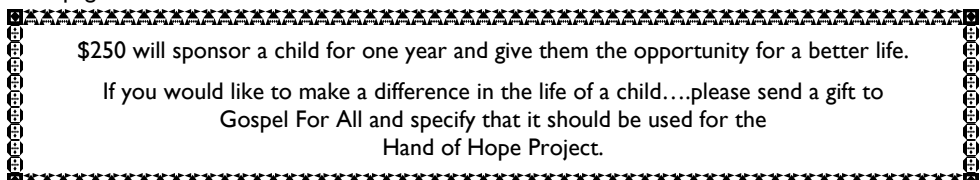


Kabale and Kaliti have been Hand of Hope children for one year! Through this program we are able to reach out to some of the many orphans throughout our ministry area. Kabale and Kaliti are sisters and are our first Hand of Hope children. Both of them are doing well and have been able to live together and attend school regularly since being sponsored by GFA. Kaliti has also been able to get some much needed medical attention and is doing well. Praise God for the difference we have been able to make in the lives of these two sisters.

We praise God for expanding this ministry. This summer we will begin sponsoring 8 siblings who lost their father 5 years ago and their mother last year. Through our sponsorship, all 8 children will be able to attend school and receive assistance for their basic daily needs. Please see the article on page one to learn more about these children.

\$250 will sponsor a child for one year and give them the opportunity for a better life.

If you would like to make a difference in the life of a child...please send a gift to Gospel For All and specify that it should be used for the Hand of Hope Project.



Ministry Updates

Moyale

Wario Galgallo & Guyo Buke continue to serve in the Moyale area, mainly in Dembi. Dembi continues to be one of the most highly populated Muslim areas in the country and is one of the hardest places to preach the Gospel. God continues to work in this area and souls continue to come into the kingdom. Guyo Buke reports that God is working mightily in this area and they are averaging six new converts a week! Praise God! Guyo expressed the need to build a church in Dembi. They are currently meeting in a home, but have run out of room.



Evangelist Wario Galgallo & family

Guyo Buke continues to participate in the 10 month Bible Training Program currently being held for GFA evangelists. Guyo is excited about all he is learning in these classes. He shared the following after completing the class on evangelism.



Evangelist Guyo Buke

“All glory and thanks be to Jesus, the one who has helped me to be His messenger and given me the opportunity to participate in this training! Through this training, I am understanding more and more the message of the Bible. The evangelism course was very interesting. I liked the instructor’s practicality and burden for the work of God. Thank you very much to GFA and all your partners for making this possible. We are praying for you.”

Continue to pray for Wario and Guyo along with their families as they minister in this hostile area. Pray continued protection over them and for boldness to continue to proclaim the Good News.

“Do not tremble, do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim this and fortell it long ago? You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me? No, there is no other Rock; I know not one.”

Isaiah 44:8



Children in Dembi

Dubluk

Liben Wario continues to serve in Dubluk. Please pray for him to be effective in this ministry and that many souls will come to know Christ through his ministry.

The majority of people who Liben is ministering to are either Muslim or traditionalists who follow their own cultural beliefs. These beliefs run deep and make it difficult for people to open up to Christianity. Please pray for the Holy Spirit to break through the barriers set by tradition and culture.



Evangelist Liben Wario

Ministry Updates

Negelle

Yaikob Dima was joined by **Gaalo Elias Huka** in the highly Muslim populated region of Negelle. Gaalo previously worked with GFA in this area before receiving a scholarship to attend Tabor Theology school in Awassa. He recently completed his studies and has returned to work with GFA. We are excited to have this enthusiastic evangelist back on our team.

During a recent visit, GFA founder, Sam Dersu was able to visit the various ministry stations where Yaikob and Gaalo are working. It was a joy for Sam to be able to meet many of the believers in this area and hear the stories of how they came to Christ.

Yaikob recently completed the Church Planting course through the Bible Training Program designed for GFA evangelists by Evangelist Tsega-ab Bekele of Gospel For Unreached Nations. The instructor for this class was Evangelist Abebo Arefcho — a 58 year old man who has planted more than 300 churches among unreached people groups over the past 30 years. Here is what Yaikob had to say about this class.

“In my Christian life and ministry, I have had many good, fatherly men influence me, but Abebo is unique and has a special place in my life. Abebo shared church planting techniques with us that have proven to be very successful for him. He has planted churches in many areas and speaks more than six languages. He was a great inspiration to me and he blessed all of us during the time we spent together. I also want to express my gratitude to GFA for their prayer, support and burden to reach our people for Jesus.”

Continue to pray for Yaikob as he completes the remaining six training courses over the remainder of 2007. Pray that Yaikob and Gaalo would continue to be effective in their ministry and that they would be able to shepherd the group of believers under their care.

Malicha is no longer working with GFA. He has decided to concentrate on furthering his education. Please pray for Malicha as he enters this phase of his life.



Evangelists Yaikob Dima & Gaalo Huka



Gaalo (far left) and Yaikob (center wearing cap) with believers in Bulbulla.

Ministry Updates

Deeda Jaarsa

Dimtu Guyo and **Molu Jillo** continue to work together in Deeda Jaarsa. The believers in Deeda Jaarsa are excited about their new church building (pictured on page 8) that was recently completed. This is one of the first church buildings erected in a rural community such as Deeda Jaarsa. Most churches are built in towns. It is wonderful to know that children in this area will grow up with a church to attend in their own community.



**Evangelist
Dimtu Guyo**

Sam Dersu (GFA founder) along with Scot Mechling (from Priest Lake Christian Fellowship) made a brief visit to Deeda Jaarsa in May 2007. The children of the Deeda Jaarsa congregation blessed them by singing several songs for them. Pray that the children of Deeda Jaarsa would grow up to be men and women of God.

Continue to pray that Dimtu and Molu will be able to work well together as Dimtu gets closer to retirement and prepares to turn the leadership responsibilities of the Deeda Jaarsa church over to Molu.



Evangelist Molu Jillo (holding a soccer ball received from a church member of PLCF) together with GFA Coordinator, Wario and members from the Deeda Jaarsa congregation.

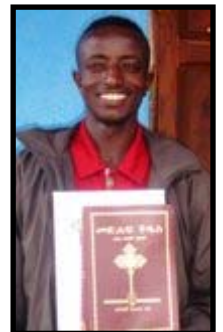
Chareturura

Abeduba Arero continues to work in the Chareturura area. Please pray for this young evangelist as he works to establish a group of believers in this area. Recently, several souls have come to Christ and many of them are now in a follow-up program. Villagers in Keleta have seen the healing power of God. A recent believer had been sick for more than a year before accepting Christ. When he came to services held by Abeduba and was prayed over, he was completely healed! This was a great testimony to all of the villagers who were aware of his extended illness. He had been to many clinics and the local hospital, but no one had been able to help him. We praise God for His healing power.

Abeduba continues to look forward to going to Yavello every month to participate in the Bible Training program. He recently completed the fourth course which was on Church Planting. He shared the following comments with us about this course.

“It has been a privilege for me to attend these life changing training classes. Every month I enjoy going to Yavello, not only for the training, but also for the time it allows for me to spend with other evangelists to evaluate our ministry and encourage each other and receive much needed refreshment. Recently, I was challenged by Pastor Abebo who shared with us the basics of Church Planting. I was challenged not only by his teaching, but by his life as well. As a young evangelist, it was good for me to spend time with him and learn from his experiences.”

Please continue to pray for Abeduba over the coming months as he continues to participate in this training program one week out of every month. Pray for the growth of the church in this area and that the entire community would be transformed by the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



**Evangelist
Abeduba**

Ministry Updates

Mega

Teshome Tadesse continues to serve in Mega and the surrounding areas. He continues to work on developing an effective group evangelism outreach program with the youth in Mega encouraging them to go out into some of the nearby rural communities to share the Gospel with people.

Teshome is one of the five evangelists who was selected to participate in the Bible Training Program during 2007. He recently completed the 5th session which covered the topic, How to Study the Bible. He shared the following about this class.

"I am thrilled because during this recent class, I learned the basics of how to dig into scripture and study the Word of God. I learned that we must handle the Bible with care and look at scripture in the context in which it was written. I realized that I have been teaching many of my own ideas instead of actual Biblical truth. This is a problem throughout many churches in our country. During this course, I learned that I have been abusing the scriptures. I thank God for revealing this to me and for the wonderful teaching I have received over the past five days."

Continue to pray for Teshome to learn a lot from the Bible Training Program. In addition, continue to pray for his ministry to be effective and for God to continue to use him. Plans are underway to build a church in the village of Harakalo. Pray that this would become a reality.

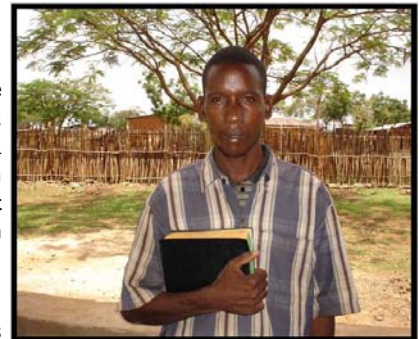


Evangelist Teshome Tadesse

Teletelle

Dida Barako & Boba Guyo continue to minister in the Teletelle region. Many of the people in this area hold tight to traditional religious beliefs and it is difficult to share the Gospel with them. Recently, several of the young people in the area have accepted Christ and have broken away from their traditional, cultural beliefs. People in this area worship a 'rock' up on a large mountain. They believe this rock is sacred. They visit the rock and place butter on it as an offering. Please pray that traditional beliefs will be broken and that the Gospel of Jesus Christ would transform lives in this community.

Recently, GFA's founder, Sam Dersu made a quick visit to Teletelle. Dida told him that this was the first time anyone had come by car to visit them at their ministry station. He said that they have many enemies surrounding them and that now their enemies will know that they have support. Dida was very thankful for Sam's visit. Please continue to pray for Dida and Boba as they work in this difficult region.



Evangelist Boba Guyo



Evangelist Dida Barako & family

Dida continues to participate in the training program held in Yavello five days out of every month. He recently completed the class on How To Study The Bible. Dida shared the following about the class.

"This class challenged me to look at scripture in a new light. During the week I struggled and at times resisted the principles being taught because they were so new to me. I finally surrendered and accepted the teaching and it resulted in a wonderful time of digging into the scriptures and revealing truths I had never seen before. My words can not express how thankful I am for this class. I am willing to correct my traditional and incorrect interpretations of the Word of God. This class has taught me to value Scripture more than ever before!"

Continue to pray for Dida as he completes the remaining classes of this training program. Pray that God would use these classes to better equip Dida for His service.



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READER'S Corner

We would love to hear from you. Please write us with your comments, suggestions or just words of encouragement to share with our readers.

The evangelists with GFA asked for us to convey the following to our supporters:

We want to thank all supporters of GFA for their prayer and financial support that allows us to carry out the calling God has on our lives.

We, who are participating in the Bible Training Program, would like to express our deep appreciation for this opportunity that has been provided to us through the support of GFA. Thank you for your prayers and financial gifts!

*God Bless You All!
GFA Evangelists in Ethiopia*

**100% of all gifts go
directly to support the
ministry in Ethiopia**

All gifts are
Tax deductible

Make Checks
Payable to:

Gospel For All
P.O. Box 293341
Nashville, TN 37229
U.S.A.

PRAISE & PRAYER

PRAISE GOD FOR....

- ◆ His protection over Sam Dersu & Scot Mechling during their recent trip to Ethiopia.
- ◆ His continued protection over the evangelists and their families.
- ◆ The souls that continue to come to Christ.
- ◆ The faithful supporters of Gospel For All who support this ministry both financially and through prayer.
- ◆ Provision of funds to sponsor 8 siblings through our Hand of Hope program.
- ◆ Completion of new church building in Deeda Jaarsa. (picture to the right)



PRAYER REQUESTS

- ◆ Pray for the 2008 PLCF Missions Trip to Ethiopia. Pray that finances would be available for those going on the trip. Pray for us the leadership of GFA as we plan this trip and work out the many details.
- ◆ Pray that educational materials will be made available to the evangelists. This includes material for literacy programs that have been implemented as well as health related materials in the areas of family health and hygiene and HIV/AIDS prevention.
- ◆ Pray for the *Hand of Hope* project that is reaching out to children orphaned — some of which are a direct result of HIV/Aids.
- ◆ Pray for the physical safety of the evangelists and their families.
- ◆ Pray that places of worship would be made available.
- ◆ Pray for the leadership team of Gospel For All that they would have wisdom as they lead this ministry for the Glory of God.
- ◆ Pray for the necessary finances to continue to come in to carry out this ministry.
- ◆ Pray for new partners to join us with both financial and prayer support.
- ◆ Pray for the 5 evangelists who are participating in the training program during 2007. Pray that the evangelists would gain knowledge to enable them to be more effective in their ministry.



THANK YOU

To all of you who faithfully pray for the evangelists by name.

We encourage you to adopt an evangelist and pray for him daily.

Let us know who you are praying for and we will pass this on to the evangelist. This will be a great encouragement for them to know that their name is being lifted up every day to our Father.