

SPREADING THE
LOVE OF JESUS
CHRIST TO
UNREACHED PEOPLE
GROUPS AROUND THE
WORLD.

Gospel For All

Summer 2009

Inside this issue:

The Borana's Life Fountain	1
Gospel for Unreached Nations Ministry	2
Through the Eyes of a Photographer	3
Hand of Hope Children's Program	4
Expanding the Hand of Hope Children's Family	5
Come Worship With Me!	6
Blessings in Mega	7
Ministry Updates	8
Life Changing	11
Praise & Prayer	12

The Borana 's Life Fountain

by Vivian H. Dersu

My first encounter with the Borana Oromo of Ethiopia was in March of 1998 when I visited my husband's family in Ethiopia. My husband grew up in the heart of Borana country in southern Ethiopia. From my first encounter with the Borana, I was struck by their hospitality and curiosity of the western world. I was fascinated with their way of life and continue to be amazed by their rich culture.

The Borana are a pastoralist ethnic group living in southern Ethiopia and northern Kenya. They make up two-thirds of the Oromo tribe. Much of the land on which the Borana lives is desert-like with little rainfall and poor vegetation. Water sources are difficult to find and are rarely permanent. This forces them to move frequently in order to be near a water source. Cattle and camels are the Borana's main source of wealth. Cattle are used to pay for religious sacrifices, legal fines, and bride prices. Without a reliable water source, the Borana risk losing their livelihood.

The 'ella' is a traditional Borana water well used to provide water for their cattle during the dry season. Ellas have been around for hundreds of years. These wells run deep and water is retrieved by forming a human chain that draws water one jug at a time passing it from the bottom of the well at the water source up to the top. At the top of the well is a water trough where the water is collected. Herds of cattle come through and drink from the trough. These wells have been referred to as the 'singing wells' because many times the men will sing as they pass jugs of water from the well.

Maintaining an ella requires a lot of work. The trough at the top of the well is made from mud and has to be repaired daily. A mixture of water and termite soil is used to seal the mud trough and hold the water in place for the cattle to be able to drink from the trough.

I had the privilege of visiting one of these wells during my visit to Ethiopia in 2004. It is truly



An Ella in Southern Ethiopia

amazing to see how the Borana men work together to retrieve water for their cattle from these deep wells. The water source is shared among many different herdsman in the area. This is the Borana way of life — sharing with each other — working together.

The ellas remind me of Christ. Just as He is our 'Life Fountain', the ella is the 'Life Fountain' for the Borana people. The Singing Wells are the perfect picture of the body of Christ. God designed His body to be made up of many members, each of us with different skills and strengths, who all need to work together to fulfill God's purpose. We each can serve God alone, but when we come together and join with fellow believers, we can accomplish more than we could dream of on our own. The singing wells are the perfect example of this. Alone, it would take someone a very long time to get enough water into the trough to water their cattle; however, by working together and forming a human chain, the process is much more productive and efficient.

We can learn a lot from the Borana and their culture. At first glance, they are primitive, but when we pay attention and learn more about them, there are many life lessons we can learn through their simple lifestyle.

My prayer is that the Borana will see Christ as their spiritual 'Life Fountain', just as the Ella is the 'Life Fountain' for their livelihood.

Gospel For Unreached Nations Ministry

Gospel For Unreached Nations Ministry, under the leadership of Tsega-ab Bekele, continues to unify the body of Christ in Ethiopia. Tsega-ab's schedule is filled with conferences, leadership training, revivals and evangelistic crusades. God is using this ministry to touch many lives all over Ethiopia. Here is a quick overview of what Gospel For Unreached Nations Ministry has been up to over the past few months.

- **March** — GFUN launched training for 200 native ministers in the remote area of the Sidamo/Bale border. An open-air conference was held for the villagers. After ministering in this area for one week, leaders in the area approached Tsega-ab and requested that a three year Army Bible Training course be held in this area to train and equip ministers and evangelists in the area to better serve the Lord. Within a short amount of time 100 students had signed up for the course! Classes will begin this summer and will be held one week out of every month for the next three years. Pray that God would provide the needed finances and transportation needs.
- **April** — The Yavello Army Bible Training course was held during the first week of April. After that, Tsega-ab travelled back to his base in Awassa and held a Leadership Empowerment Seminar. One hundred twenty key leaders from 13 area churches attended the three-day seminar. One of the participants, Pastor Kashu, had the following to say about the seminar:

"The seminar was full of challenging ideas with a divine call of transformation for the church in our land to fulfill the divine mandate with excellence. I thank God for the boldness and humble spirit I see in our brother Tsega-ab whom God is using in our land. The leadership manuals which he has produced are used for leadership training in our churches in Awassa and become the source of great blessings. Brother, don't lose heart because of various obstacles in your way. May God bless you and your ministry."

More than 50,000 people attended an open-air conference in Hossaina during the middle of April. God used Tsega-ab to touch the lives of many people, and hundreds responded to Holy Spirit in various ways. Some accepted Christ as their Savior, others were set free from demon possession, and some received physical healing. Tsega-ab pointed out that the wonderful results of this conference were fruits of the prayers of those who support the ministry of GFUNM through prayer.

- **May** — During May, Tsega-ab was able to minister in the region of Bale. Bale is known as the Land of the Mosque. Approximately 98% of the 3 million population in this region are Muslim. It is very difficult to preach the Gospel in Bale due to the high Muslim population. Many of the Muslims in this area are fanatics and are openly aggressive towards Christians. In spite of this, Tsega-ab conducted a four-day training seminar along with an evangelistic crusade. More than 150 church leaders from seven area churches came together for these events. We praise God for His protection over Tsega-ab and all of those who attended these meetings. God is at work in Bale!



Evangelist Tsega-ab ministering through prayer during a conference.



Conference attendees worshipping and praising God.



Evangelist Tsega-ab (fourth from left) with church elders in the Bale region.

Gospel For All partially supports Tsega-ab's ministry. Please pray for additional supporters to join his team. Continue to pray for Evangelist Tsega-ab as he continues to minister full-time. Pray for God's continued protection over him and his family.

Through the Eyes of a Photographer



In April 2009, Scot Mechling travelled to Ethiopia for the second time. Two years ago he travelled with Sam Dersu to visit and encourage evangelists working under Gospel For All (Hand of Hope Ministries). This time, he made the trip alone. Although he was able to be there for only 10 days, he was able to visit many of the evangelists and spend time encouraging them. He was also able to meet many of the Hand of Hope Children in the orphan program. We thank God for Scot's willingness to sacrifice his personal vacation time in order to serve through Gospel For All.



Scot is a professional photographer and was able to use his gift to capture some amazing scenes throughout southern Ethiopia. Through his pictures on this page, you can experience the beautiful countryside and life of the people among whom Gospel For All is ministering.

Hand of Hope Children 's Program...reaching out to orphans

The Hand of Hope Children's Program continues to expand. Currently, 15 children are sponsored through this program. Bake Chenfo has agreed to assist us with overseeing the Hand of Hope Children's Program. He will visit the children and provide us with quarterly updates on all of the children and will also make sure that each child stays in school. In addition, Bake will let us know if any special needs arise.

Bake will be responsible for gathering information on prospective children who may qualify for sponsorship and for submitting this information to the Leadership of Hand of Hope for consideration. Priority is given to children who have lost one or both parents to HIV/AIDS; however, other children will be considered.

We praise God for the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of hurting children. God has blessed this ministry with finances to sponsor additional children. We continue to receive information on prospective children for this program. Please pray for discernment as we expand the Hand of Hope Children's family.



Bake Chenfo



\$300 will sponsor a child for one entire year and provide them with the opportunity for an education and a **HOPE** for a better future.

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 Children's Project.

Expanding the Hand of Hope Children ' s Family

We praise God for additional funds that have come in for the Hand of Hope Children's Program! We are happy to introduce you to four new members of the Hand of Hope Children's Program!

Lydia, Ribka and Anna Tsegaye have lived with their grandmother, Itenesh Yasim, since losing both of their parents to HIV/AIDS. Lydia is 4, Ribka is 8 and Anna is 10. Itenesh has been struggling to support them by doing odd jobs for people such as fetching water and cleaning houses. Sometimes she resorts to begging in order to be able to feed her grandchildren. Recently, the burden was lessened when a family adopted Anna; however, Itenesh continues to care for Lydia and Ribka.

As the newest members of the Hand of Hope Children's Program, Lydia and Ribka will be assured of receiving three meals a day, clothes to wear and a safe place to sleep alongside their grandmother. Lydia and Ribka will be able to continue their education, be assured that their medical needs are met and have the hope of a brighter future.



Gedi Jatani, age 7

Dabaso Legese is 7 years old and lives in Mega. His mother, Shito Niguse, has faced many challenges in her life. Born deaf, she has endured many hardships. Shito was raped as a teenager and gave birth to Dabaso. Since then, she has worked hard to support the two of them by working as a housemaid. Shito has never married and has no other children.

Through the Hand of Hope Children's Program, Dabaso will be able to stay in school and have the hope of a better future. Dabaso just completed the first grade.



(L-R) Lydia, Ribka & Anna



Dabaso Legese, age 7

Come Worship With Me!

I have always had a special fascination with Heaven. What will it be like? What will we do there? How is it that I'm homesick for a place I know so little about? Though the Bible hints at the physical beauty of our eternal home, Heaven remained essentially a mystery to me... until our recent trip to Ethiopia.

Never having travelled to Africa before, I felt severely unprepared for the experiences we might have there. Unrelated languages? Unfamiliar traditions? How would I adjust to those? What would I talk about to people who are so very dissimilar from me? Would we be able to relate to each other at all? Yes, we are all Christians, but I felt more of a bond to other Americans, even non-believers, than I did to Christians in Africa.

I need not have worried.

Something amazing happened when I met my Ethiopian brothers and sisters for the first time. As I was introduced to each one, my heart reached out and was met by an answering pulse, a mutual indwelling of the Holy Spirit. I had never seen these people before in my life, but they were familiar all the same. Our spirits recognized and responded to each other. They weren't strangers; these Ethiopians were my family!

Love for each other was instantaneous. Not the "love" that speaks of doting affection, but the Love that says, "I know you! You are important to me. You are part of me!" We had different skin colors, different hair textures, different facial features, yet we were one body, united in our devotion to the one true God. The contrasts in our cultures made our interactions interesting, sometimes amusing, but our love for our Savior and our esteem for each other brought us into harmony in a way I had not anticipated.

The culmination of that unity came one night when our American team met with the GFA evangelists for a time of prayer and worship. We ate together. We fellowshiped together, sharing needs and victories. And then we praised the Lord together. We stood shoulder to shoulder with our hands lifted to the One who created us all and sang of His glory in both English and Oromo. The feeling of unity was indescribable. There was a merging, a one-ness, that spoke of spiritual victory. I could palpably feel the delight of our Father as His children, American and African, worshipped Him with one voice. Tears pooled in my eyes as I realized the enormity of our act.

Then, in the middle of it all, the Lord whispered into my heart, "This is My Heaven. Welcome Home!" I had to go all the way to Africa, but now I finally understand. Heaven will be the sheer euphoria of standing with my brothers and sisters, our hearts entwined, saturated with the Holy Spirit, united with the Son, to the glory of the Father. Hallelujah!



Janean (standing), teaching a group of children during the Vacation Bible School held by the 2008 PLCF Mission Trip.

by Janean Bollinger



Janean Bollinger with Bake Chenfo in Mega

I am eagerly looking forward to eternity in Heaven. I pray that the time will soon come when my Ethiopian family and I – along with all of God's believers - will stand side by side before the throne of the Lamb worshipping Him. Until then, however, I am seeking out bits of Heaven right here on earth. Come worship with me!

— Janean Bollinger and her daughter, Hannah, were members of the 2008 PLCF Ethiopia Mission Team.

Blessings in Mega

by Randi Wright

I think, for me, one of the main things that blessed me the most was being in Mega for a week. Every day we were there I was so unexplainably happy. We didn't even have to be doing anything really. Just hanging out with the kids, playing extreme volleyball with the teenage boys, including Bake's sons, helping at Vacation Bible School during craft time and having lunch with Bake's family. I loved everything about every day we spent in Mega. As many of my friends know, there were two little girls in particular who got a hold of my heart. Kabeh and Ashu are the two most adorable, sweetest, little girls I've ever met in my life! Every day we had free time in Mega, when I wasn't playing extreme volleyball, I'd be just hanging out with and talking to Kabeh and Ashu. We didn't really understand each other much, but that didn't matter a bit. I'd only known them for a couple of days, but I loved them as if I'd known them my whole life. I can honestly say whenever Sam and Vivian plan another Ethiopia trip, with God's blessing, I will definitely go! I think the city of Mega, that I'm now absolutely in love with, is like Sam says — "God's country" and I'm really looking forward to going back and seeing everyone there.



Randi Wright with Ashu (L) and Kabeh (R).

— *Randi Wright and her father, Randy, were members of the 2008 PLCF Ethiopia Mission Team.*



Randi Wright (center) surrounded by children in Mega.

Ministry Updates



Evangelist Abeduba Arero (pictured to the left), got married in September 2008. Since getting married, Abeduba decided to leave Hand of Hope Ministries and minister under an organization his wife was serving with. We praise God that together, Abeduba and his wife are serving God. We pray that God will bless their ministry and that they will be used to touch many lives with the love of Jesus Christ. Thank you, Abeduba, for your service!

Chareturura

Evangelist Molu Jillo was transferred from Deeda Jaarsa to Chareturura to replace Evangelist Abeduba. Molu reports that God is working in Chareturura. He shared with us about the conversion of an elderly man in the area. The man said that evil spirits had been following him and making him feel uncomfortable. He asked Molu and other Christians to pray for him. When they prayed, the evil spirit left him. Praise God!

Molu asks that we pray for an elderly Muslim man in the area who strongly objects to the Gospel. Pray that God would reveal himself to this man.



Evangelist Molu Jillo
(photo courtesy S Mechling)

Mega



Evangelist Teshome Tadesse
(photo courtesy S Mechling)

Evangelist Teshome continues to work in the village of Haralo, just outside of Mega. He reports that there have been eight new believers over the past few months. People are being healed of various diseases and set free from evil spirits. Praise God! This area continues to suffer from lack of rain. Teshome asks that we pray for rain.

Web

Evangelists in Negele were reassigned to different areas. It was difficult to supervise the work in this remote area; therefore, Hand of Hope Ministries decided to transfer Evangelist Elias Huka to Web. Elias has been working in Web for the past several months and is building relationships with the people in this area as he shares God's Word with them. Elias appreciates everyone who is praying for him and asks that they continue to pray for him.



Evangelist Elias Huka

Ministry Updates

Teletelle

There have been a few changes with the evangelists working in Teletelle. Dida Barako continues to minister in this area; however, Boba Guyo is no longer serving with Hand of Hope Ministries. A new evangelist, Guyo Tadhi, is now serving with Dida Barako. There are 10 villages in the Gandille region of Teletelle where they are working; Dida and Guyo are working in seven of these villages. Dida reports that they face a lot of challenges in this area. Tribal clashes, persecution, and economic difficulties hinder the work of the Gospel; however, Dida and Guyo are committed to being strong in spite of these challenges and work hard to spread the Gospel.



Evangelist Guyo Tadhi

Dida and Guyo plan to build a church in the village of Didibe and have been gathering building materials little by little. In addition to the items they have been able to gather, 45 pieces of iron sheets are needed to complete the simple church building they plan to build. Please pray that God would supply the necessary funds to complete this building.

Evangelist Guyo Tadhi joined the team of Hand of Hope evangelists a couple of months ago. He is single and has a strong commitment to spread the good news of the Gospel. Pray for Guyo to be an effective evangelist in the Teletelle area.



Evangelist Dida Barako

Deeda Jaarsa

Evangelist Dimtu Guyo continues to enthusiastically share the gospel in her village of Deeda Jaarsa. Recently, a young man from this village has joined her and has been travelling to the surrounding villages sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Kalicha Kane was born and raised in Deeda Jaarsa and has a heart to reach the people in this area for Christ. His enthusiasm has given a new sense of life to the Christians in the area.

Continue to pray for Dimtu and Kalicha as they build up the Christians in the area and share the Gospel message with those in surrounding villages.

Kalicha has asked for people to pray for the salvation of his parents, both of whom are against the Gospel.



Evangelist Kalicha Kane



Evangelist Dimtu Guyo
(photo courtesy S Mechling)

Ministry Updates

Moyale

Evangelists Wario Guyo and Guyo Buke continue to serve in Dambi. There are 30 villages in the Dambi area. Wario and Guyo work in 10 of these villages. They plan to begin to work in five more of these villages within the coming months. God is using Wario and Guyo to share the gospel with many people in this region. Over the past few years that they have been sharing the gospel in Dambi, they have faced a lot of opposition due to the strong Islamic influence in the area; however, these evangelists have persevered and through much prayer and by the power of God have brought many souls to Christ. They have seen people set free from demonic possession. Non-believers have witnessed these miracles and are becoming more receptive to Christians in the area.

They are trying to complete a church building in Dembi; however, due to lack of funds, they have not been able to complete the church. Although the building is not completed, they are holding services in it. They do have a roof and much of the mud walls have been completed. However, they still need windows and doors. Please pray that they would be able to raise the necessary funds to complete the church building.



Evangelist Wario (far left) and Evangelist Guyo (seated next to Wario) with believers in Dembi.



Dembi Church

Life Changing

by Hannah Bollinger

Wow. Ethiopia was amazing! So much happened in such a short time. There is so much that I could talk about. It's hard to choose!

Ethiopia touched me in so many ways, both spiritually and mentally. Before I went to Ethiopia I viewed my relationship with God as an "I pray....He listens....everything is good" type of relationship. But, as we traveled all over Ethiopia and mixed with the locals and our brothers and sisters in Christ, I found myself relying on and craving God's presence and understanding more and more. Yeah, I know what you are thinking..."God is here all the time, so what are you talking about?" Well. I never actually "felt" Him standing right there next to me until I was put into situations where I was surrounded by fellow believers, and even unbelievers, like I was in Ethiopia.

I remember one time very distinctly. It was one day after we had finished doing VBS in Mega. We decided to drive all the way out (yeah, even farther) into the middle of nowhere to visit Dimtu's village, Deeda Jaarsa. (Dimtu is the one who gave me my Oromo name, Alema) When we reached Deeda Jaarsa we were immediately surrounded by women, children, and a few men who made us all feel very welcomed. Everybody gathered into their very small church. All of the Ethiopian women sang a couple of worship songs in Oromo. Then it was our turn. Our group stood up and sang some of our own popular worship songs. Even though the Ethiopians couldn't understand what we were saying, they still swayed to the music and lifted up their hands to the Lord. It was really cool! I started to cry, seeing how God could bring two completely different worlds together to praise Him. I could just see Him smiling down on us! That scene will stay with me always...so will the feeling of panic when they asked us to spend the night in their roughly five-hut village. I rather liked my nice hotel room (not like an American hotel) with running hot water and a mosquito net to sleep under, thank you very much! I'm sorry to say that I could have fainted from relief when Pastor Phil very politely declined.

Everybody we met (and even the ones we just passed on the streets) was wonderful! But I especially fell in love with the kids. They were all so eager to just be near us that we couldn't even go to the bathroom without having a train of little children, who were very curious to see what we were doing, following us! I loved them all, but I particularly just adored a little 3 year old girl named Ashu. She followed me everywhere, holding my hand. I was very upset on the last day in Mega when I had to say goodbye to her, but that just gives me one more reason for going back to Ethiopia again!

Well, to sum it all up, Ethiopia was a major eye opener! Not only do I have a renewed relationship with my heavenly Father, but I continually thank Him everyday for all that He has blessed me with: friends, family, a wonderful church, and a comfortable home that I, sadly, quite often take for granted. I loved every minute of my time in Africa (even though when we landed in London, on the way back, the first thing I did was pay a little visit to Starbucks!) and look forward to one day returning!



PLCF Mission Team Members worshipping at Dimtu's church in Deeda Jaarsa.



Hannah Bollinger working with the kids during craft time at VBS in Mega.

— Hannah Bollinger and her mother, Janean, were members of the 2008 PLCF Ethiopia Mission Team.



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PRAISE & PRAYER

PRAISE GOD FOR....

- ◆ Scot Mechling's recent trip to Ethiopia to visit and encourage the evangelists and orphans associated with Hand of Hope Ministries.
- ◆ 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 additional children through our Hand of Hope Project.



PRAYER REQUESTS

- ◆ Evangelist Yaikob passed away in October 2008. Pray for his wife and four daughters as they face life without their husband and father.
- ◆ 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, 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 for the leadership team of Gospel For All (Hand of Hope Ministries), 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 funds to be available to provide ongoing training for our evangelists.



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.

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 and his family 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 names are being lifted up every day to our Father.