

## What is GOSPEL FOR ALL? By Samuel T. Dersu

Gospel For All is a non-profit organization founded in September 2003 that is the result of a vision and burden that God laid on our hearts.

### Our Beginning.....

During the year 2000, my wife and I became aware of a small organization in Ethiopia called the Borana Outreach Ministry, organized by Solomon Yohannes. God gave Solomon a vision and burden for reaching the Borana people of southern Ethiopia. He sent out letters to several people asking them to join him with prayer and financial support for this vision and we happened to be one who received a letter.

After much prayer and consideration, we felt God leading us to help support this ministry financially. After supporting Borana Outreach for a couple of years and receiving regular progress reports, we were amazed at how many people were being reached with just a small amount of finances. After seeing what could be done through a few people with limited finances, I

began to think how much more could be done if more finances were available.

God then placed a heavier burden on my heart to form an organization based in the USA that would focus on mobilizing Ethiopian Christians and others around the world to actively participate in reaching the many unreached peoples of Ethiopia with the Gospel of Jesus Christ as well as providing them with much needed education regarding HIV/Aids prevention.

In the summer of 2003 we started the process of becoming a legal non-profit organization and it was apparent from the beginning that God had His hand in this ministry. By September 2003 we were legally recognized as a religious non-profit organization and by the end of the year God blessed and we received approval from the IRS with IRC 501(c)(3) tax exempt status.

### Our Mission.....

To spread the love of Jesus Christ through ministry to unreached groups in various regions of the world through evangelistic efforts meeting spiritual needs as well as providing basic education in the areas of family health, general hygiene and AIDS/HIV.

To mobilize Christians around the world that share this vision and encourage their financial support of missionaries affiliated with Gospel For All.



Samuel & Vivian Dersu

### Our Vision.....

Our mission statement above is intentionally broad. We want to be able to reach as many people around the world (Ethiopia is just a starting point) with the Gospel of Jesus Christ as much as we are financially able.

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### Inside this issue:

<i>What is Gospel For All?</i>	1
<i>Our Beginning...</i>	
<i>Our Mission...</i>	
<i>Our Vision...</i>	
<i>Forming a Board of Directors</i>	2
<i>Our First Planning Meeting</i>	2
<i>God works in miraculous ways!</i>	2
<i>April 2004 Meeting in Des Moines Iowa</i>	3
<i>Borana Outreach Ministry</i>	4
<i>Meet the Evangelists....</i>	4~5
<i>Prayer Requests</i>	6

*"Jesus came to them and He said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given Me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you. And, remember, I am with you all the days until the end of the age."*

*Matthew 28:18 ~ 20*

## Forming a Board of Directors

**Samuel contacted a group of key individuals who would serve as the Board of Directors**

Once Gospel For All became a legal non-profit organization, Sam started contacting different individuals around the United States and shared with them what Gospel For All was all about. Sam was surprised at how receptive many of them were to this idea and how they were interested to take an active role in getting Gospel For All off its feet and running.

We believe that God sends the right people at the right time and our prayers for a Board of Directors were answered when the following men of God agreed to serve on the first Board of Directors for Gospel for All:

**Samuel Dersu  
Solomon Damtew  
Wegene Woldegiorgis  
Tadesse Damte**



*Pray for our Board of Directors as they serve in their leadership roles in Gospel For All*

*Pray for the leaders of the Borana Outreach Ministry as they serve. (see page 4)*

*“Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.”*  
**Mark 16:15**

## Our first planning meeting....

**We organized and held a planning meeting attended by the Board of Directors as well as other key individuals who would take key leadership roles in Gospel For All.**

Once the Board of Directors had been established, we focused on locating other individuals who would play key leadership roles

in Gospel For All. A meeting was planned for April 24, 2004 to be held in Des Moines, Iowa. All of the board members in addition to a few individuals who we hoped would be leaders in this organization were invited to attend.

God blessed this time together and everyone received confirma-

tion that God was going to use Gospel For All to further His Kingdom. Everyone was challenged to do their part in God's plan.

See page 3 for a re-cap of the

## God works in miraculous ways.....

God works in miraculous ways. It was a miracle that we were able to visit Ethiopia and spend five wonderful weeks.

When we found out that we would be able to visit Ethiopia, we realized that the timing was perfect! Gospel For All had been formed and the first planning meeting had been a success, the timing was perfect for us to be able to meet face to face with each of the evangelists that Gospel For All would be supporting.



We left Nashville, TN on Thursday, June 24th on our way to Ethiopia to spend five weeks with friends and family, but more importantly, we were excited about meeting the evangelists

who we had been supporting and who would now be partially supported by Gospel For All .

We are so thankful that we were able to meet with each of the evangelists and hear from them what their needs are and to grasp the burden that God has placed on their hearts. It was also a blessing for us to be an encouragement to them and to let them know that they are not alone in their work, we are working to get many partners

for them here and around the world!!

(Meet the evangelists on page 4!!)



**By Vivian H. Dersu**

## April 2004 Planning Meeting — Des Moines, Iowa

April 2004 was a pivotal point for Gospel For All. Des Moines, Iowa was chosen as a meeting place because it was a central location for those who would be attending the meeting.

All members of our board of directors along with a few other individuals who we hoped would serve in key leadership roles within Gospel For All came to Des Moines for a weekend of planning, prayer and praise.

God was definitely in our midst and everyone left refreshed and with a keen vision for reaching the unreached through Gospel For All.



**Wegene Woldegiorgis, Zerihun Tsegaye & Endale Safaye participate in the planning meeting.**

Attendees came from various parts of the USA. Samuel Dersu flew in from Nashville, Tennessee, Solomon & Tadesse Damte drove from Chicago, Illinois. Wegene Woldegiorgis, Endale Safaye, and Zerihun Tsegaye drove in from Sioux Falls, South Dakota and Aden Halake flew in to join the meeting from Phoenix, Arizona.

Our meeting began on Saturday, April 24th and was opened in prayer by Solomon Dantew. Everyone gave a brief self-introduction and shared the reason for them being at this meeting. It was a blessing to hear these men share the reason for coming to this meeting. Responses included their love for Christ, this was seen as an opportunity to serve God and they understand the importance of spreading the gospel everywhere in the world. They also expressed their desire to be a

part of this organization and through this help Christians come together.

After this brief time of sharing, Wegene Tadesse shared from Esther 3. He shared that there is no question that God brought everyone present to this meeting today and that with each person's commitment, God is able to do anything we ask.

Samuel Dersu then shared about how he and his wife first became involved with the Borana Outreach Program which was started by Solomon Yohannes. He gave a brief background and overview of the history of this work and what it has been doing up until now. Currently there are 5 local evangelists active in this program.

Presently there are three major challenges facing this ministry: 1) Lack of finances to build places of worship; 2) Lack of transportation for evangelists; and 3) Lack of timely reports from evangelists with updates of the ministry.

Samuel then shared why he and his wife decided to start Gospel For All.

1. Felt strongly that Christian Ethiopians should feel and take responsibility for their own people before approaching American churches and asking for their support.
2. We wanted to make it easy for people to actively participate financially in evangelism.
3. There is currently a large Islamic movement in southern Ethiopia and it makes it all the more urgent for Christians to be active.
4. The rapid spread of HIV/Aids in Ethiopia.

5. The desire to have a legal non-profit organization in the USA than can legally send money overseas.

After Samuel finished sharing, everyone felt that before going any further, everyone present needed to make a commitment to this organization and the work in participates in. Everyone present gave a verbal commitment to support this ministry financially and with prayer.

At this point, the meeting opened up for a time of discussion. Following are the major points that were discussed.

1. Discussed the budget received from the Borana Project. Samuel stressed the point that this budget is strictly that of the Borana Project and their needs, not the budget for Gospel For All (GFA). The budget for GFA is based on what we think we can do to contribute towards the Borana Project or any other ministry work.
2. Ways were discussed to attract new members. One idea was to create a video showing the current evangelistic work going on in the Borana region and show this to prospective members. The possibility of a yearly family retreat at which time non-members could be invited to come.
3. It was decided that members would agree to pledge \$300 per year to be paid in December to cover the following year's budget. Of course, gifts above the member pledge are accepted anytime.
4. Future goals were also discussed. At this time, the attendees feel that we should continue to support the Borana Outreach Ministry as long as they provide us with detailed reports of exactly how all money received from Gospel For



**Aden Halake Des Moines**

All is spent. {This is a requirement of the IRS in order for us to keep our tax-exempt status,} We should also receive a regular progress report.

5. All members of Gospel For All should receive a progress report through their Regional Coordinator.
6. Any new activities must be approved by the Board of Directors.

The day closed with a time of prayer and sharing led by Aden Halake. Aden shared from Luke 1:39-42.

We held an informal prayer meeting in the hotel on Sunday morning, April 25th. Zerihun Tsegaye shared from God's word and encouraged all of us to make sure we rely on God for all that we do. A special time of prayer followed and we were all blessed and encouraged with what God spoke to us.

Everyone left feeling encouraged, committed and energized to play their role in Gospel For All.



**Tadesse Damte, Solomon Dantew and Aden Halake at the planning meeting in Des Moines.**

## Borana Outreach Ministry

The Borana Outreach Ministry is a ministry founded by Solomon Yohannes and led by a group of individuals with a burden to reach the Borana people of southern Ethiopia.

During their visit to Ethiopia in July 2004, Sam and Vivian Dersu had a chance to meet with Dawit, Darara and Simret, three individuals who play key leadership roles in this ministry. Dawit is a full time pastor of a church, Darara teaches full time at a college and Simret is a wife and mother in addition to running a business outside of her home.

During this meeting, Sam and Vivian were able to better understand the needs that the

Borana Outreach Ministry faces and also get a better understanding of their broad vision for ministering to the Borana people. These leaders do a wonderful job giving guidance and direction to the five evangelists currently working under this organization.

After the meeting, Sam and Vivian were encouraged by the dedication of these individuals who take time out of their already busy schedules to coordinate the Borana Outreach Ministry and give sacrificially of their own finances to support this ministry. It is a privilege for Gospel For All to be able to participate in providing some of

the necessary finances for supporting the evangelists working under the Borana Outreach Ministry.



**Dawit (left) and Darara meet and discuss the Borana Outreach Ministry.**



**Simret takes an active role in the organization of the Borana Outreach Ministry.**

## Meet the evangelists.....

### TAADI



Taadi converted from Islam when he was a teenager. After his conversion, he felt God's calling for him to evangelize his people, the Borana of southern Ethiopia. In preparation for this work, he attended Bible School in Mega, Ethiopia.

After completing his Bible School training, he was hired by the Borana Outreach Ministry and has worked with them for more than two years. Taadi ministers in the Teltelle District. Often times he must travel more than two days by foot in order to reach the areas where he is holding meetings.

Taadi loves the Lord and has a deep burden for sharing the good news of Jesus Christ to the Borana people.

### TESHOME



Teshome was raised in a strong Orthodox family and grew up being very active in the church. He accepted Christ after coming to an evangelical church with a friend.

He has been working with the Borana Outreach Ministry for about six months. He spends his time traveling to many small villages surrounding the town of Mega. He goes into these villages and witnesses to people he meets. He is excited about the lives that God is using him to touch.

Teshome is excited that God has provided him with the opportunity to serve Him. God's love radiates from this young man. His entire countenance brightens when he speaks about what God is doing.

**DIMTU**



Dimtu is one of the strongest women you will ever meet. She is fired up for Jesus and says that she'll never stop spreading His message. Dimtu is among the first of the Borana people who accepted Christ as Savior more than thirty years ago.

Dimtu has been working with the Borana Outreach Ministry for the past two years and ministers in the village of Deeda Jaarsa. Her husband stands behind her one hundred percent in her desire to bring the lost to Christ.

This energetic woman of God has built a church with her own hands (see photo on the right). Sam and Vivian Dersu had the privilege of worshipping with this congregation during their visit to Ethiopia this past July.



**(above) Church built by Dimtu at Deeda Jaarsa**

**(right) Sam and Vivian Dersu with the congregation at Deeda Jaara during their July 2004 visit to Ethiopia**



**ELIAS (left) and YAIKOB (right)**



Elias (left) and Yaikob (right) are both sons of evangelists. They have been working with the Borana Outreach Ministry for over two years in the Negele District. This area is a heavily populated Muslim area and is not too far from the country of Somalia.

These two young men needed help in their evangelistic efforts, so they hired an assistant to help them. They use part of their own salary to pay this assistant. Elias and Yaikob are heading up a much needed literacy program in their area of ministry.

Both of these young men have a strong drive to evangelize the Borana people. They face many obstacles and the work is difficult. Many of the obstacles they face are due to the fact that the area they cover is so broad and there are so many people in need of Christ. Travel is also extremely difficult and they need assistance with transportation.



***We would like to welcome our partners with Gospel For All. May God richly bless you as you support this ministry financially and with your prayers.***

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***Gospel For All***

**Check out our web-site at  
[www.GospelForAll.org](http://www.GospelForAll.org)**

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

- ♦ Pray for the transportation needs of evangelists to be met....some need bicycles.
- ♦ Pray that educational materials will be made available to the evangelists. This includes material for the literacy program that Elias and Yai-kob are starting as well as health related materials in the areas of family health and hygiene and HIV/AIDS prevention.
- ♦ Pray that Bibles will be made available to distribute to the Borana people in their own language.
- ♦ Pray for God to supply a tape recorder operated by a crank for Dimtu.
- ♦ There is a need for posters depicting Jesus' life. This is particularly useful among the many illiterate people the evangelists are ministering to.
- ♦ 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 organization for the Glory of God.
- ♦ Pray for many souls to come to know Christ through the ministry of our evangelists
- ♦ Pray for many partners to join Gospel For All with their financial and prayer support.