

Bits of Hope

2013 — ISSUE ONE

What's Ahead?

by Vivian H. Dersu

Hand of Hope Ministries is excited about 2013. Doors are opening up to expand the Children's Program into Kenya and we are exploring the possibility of supporting evangelistic working among the Borana Oromo of Kenya.

In May, Sam Dersu will be leading a small group of men from Priest Lake Christian Fellowship in Antioch, Tennessee, on a two-week mission trip to Ethiopia and Kenya. Plans are for this team to spend time in Ethiopia encouraging evangelists, visiting children in the Hand of Hope Children's Program, as well as helping to build a church in the Teltelle region.

After a time of ministry in Ethiopia, the team will cross the border into Kenya and continue on to the city of Isiolo. In Isiolo they plan to meet with the leadership of Christ Community Church and explore the possibility of forming a long-term relationship with the goal of evangelizing the Borana Oromo of Northern Kenya.

In addition to the May 2013 mission trip, Hand of Hope Ministries is making plans for a team of 15 ~ 20 individuals to go to Ethiopia in July 2014 for a two-week mission trip. The 2014 team plans to conduct either a 3-day Vacation Bible School or a couple of

one-day Vacation Bible Schools in the Mega and Yavello area of southern Ethiopia. If there are enough team members, plans are to hold some sort of outreach to youth in this same area. There will also be opportunities to spend time with some of the Hand of Hope Children and Evangelists.

2013 will be a year of planning and preparation for the 2014 trip. Volunteers will undertake the task of writing curriculum for the VBS and then the material will be translated into the Oromo language. Volunteers will be needed to compile multiple copies of all of the curriculum so that HOHM evangelists will be able to use these materials out in the villages where they minister.

Over the next several months, HOHM leadership will be finalizing plans and organizing details for the 2014 trip. Pray for wisdom as they determine how the 2014 team can best minister in Ethiopia.

Planning and coordinating all of the details for a mission trip requires a lot of time and energy. Pray for volunteers to step forward to help with these needs.

Over the coming year, we will be sharing additional details and needs in regards to the 2014 trip. Please consider

what role God would have you play. Some of us are called to pray, some to give, and some to go. It is a team effort. HOHM is excited to see how God is going to weave all of the necessary threads together to fulfill His purpose.

*** NEEDS ***

- Each team member will need to raise \$4,000
- Funds will need to be raised to cover the cost of VBS materials for approximately 200 children. We are estimating the total cost of VBS to be around \$1,500
- Funds will need to be raised to cover the cost of any other outreaches the 2014 team is involved with (Youth Outreach, Training for Evangelists, Outreach to Orphans, etc).
- We will be collecting school supplies (pencils, erasers and pencil sharpeners) to distribute to the children attending VBS. We would also like to purchase notebooks for the children (these would be purchased in Ethiopia).

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Hand of Hope Evangelists' Updates — Mega Area

God continues to use the Mega Mekane Jesus Church and the four evangelists working under them to reach souls for the Kingdom. These evangelists minister in several villages throughout the countryside surrounding Mega.

Evangelist Nuno Aga's ministry in Melbana was turned over to another evangelist supported directly by the church in Mega. Nuno is now working in the village of Duba Ali. He is passionate about reaching the unreached people in the area with the Gospel. The congregation in Duba Ali has outgrown their small church building and are in desperate need of a building large enough to hold all of the members. God is blessing this congregation.



Halake Salesa
— Serving in Deeda Jaarsa

Evangelist Halake Salesa continues to minister to the nearly 40 church members in Deeda Jarsa. Halake continues to build relationships with people in the community and is excited to see more people come to Christ.



Nuno Aga, his wife, Kabale and their 3 children
— Serving in Duba Ali



Above: Halake Salesa leading worship in Deeda Jaarsa



Above: Nuno Aga (bottom right) with members of the church in Duba Ali.



Right: The Deeda Jaarsa congregation.

Hand of Hope Evangelists' Updates — Mega Area (continued)

Evangelist Dokole Katelo continues to serve in Gayo. Dokole recently reported that, "God is doing great things in our area and peoples' hearts are open to the Gospel." The believers in the area are excited about their new church that is under construction.



Jaldesa Kanchora
— Serving in Wardele

Evangelist Jaldesa Kanchora is one of the younger evangelists serving under the church in Mega. He continues to lead the group of nearly 190 believers in Wardele. It is amazing that this group worships together in an open field with no shelter. Jaldesa has expressed the need for a church building and asks that we pray with him for God to provide the funds to build a house of worship that will accommodate all of the believers. Recently, Jaldesa reported that, "God is moving mightily in Borana land and people are coming to Christ. Thank you for your prayers."



Dokole Katelo, his wife, Jatane and their five children.
— Serving in Gayo



Left: Jaldesa and the children in Wardele

Right: Dokole and the congregation in Gayo, standing in front of their church building that is currently under construction.



Testimony from Gayo

My name is sake Chacu and I am 40 years old. I live in Gayo. For an entire year, I was confined to my bed, due to an unknown illness. I went to various clinics and to the main hospital in our region; however, no one knew the cause of my illness or how to treat it. As time went on, things became more complicated and m health continued to deteriorate. I decided to see the local witchdoctor. I gave him four goats, hoping that he could heal me. But still, no improvement. I gave up.

After some time, Evangelist Dokole came to m house and shared with me about Jesus. I accepted Jesus as my Savior and Dokole prayed for me. I received m healing immediately! Now, I am a child of God. More than my healing, I am very happy to know my destiny. Praise God!



Sake Chacu

Hand of Hope Evangelists' Update — Hidilola Area

Evangelists Galaba Tache and Dida Boru continue to serve under the church in Hidilola. Both of them are working to establish churches in the villages of Miyo and Hide. God is at work in this area. The church in Myo currently has more than 50 members.

Evangelist Dida is working in the village of Udon Bolo. He recently reported that, "God is doing great things in every home where we share the Gospel. We are praying for a place where we can meet to worship. Please pray with us to be able to build a church where believers in the area can come together to sing, worship, and share God's word."

The Myo area has suffered a lot over the years from drought and people in this region continue to face challenges to provide the basic needs for their families.



Dida Boru
— Serving in Udon Bolo



Galaba Tache
— Serving in Miyo & Hide



Left: Dida Boru with believers in the village of Udon Bolo.
Below: The church in Myo, where Galaba Tache is serving.



Testimony from Udon Bolu

My name is Kala Halake Wario and I live in the village of Udon Bolu. I am 32 years old, married, with children. For many years I was controlled by evil spirits. I would disturb the entire village and go out and sleep in the jungles outside of the village. Everybody in my village and the surrounding area knew me by my evil deeds.

My uncle, Haro Wario, is an outstanding witchdoctor in our area, but he was unable to help me. At last, some Christians in the area came and prayed for me and I was set free! God set me free from the demonic powers that had controlled me for so long. After witnessing my healing, 5 people from my village accepted Christ as their Savior! Now, I go from village to village testifying that Jesus is my healer. All the glory and honor goes to Him. Hallelujah!



Hand of Hope Evangelists' Updates — Yavello Area



Ermias Shura, his wife Meberat and their 3 children
— Serving in Sadeko

God is doing great things in the Yavello area. Evangelists Ermias Shura and Dido Guyo continue to spread the Gospel in the villages of Sadeko and Dadacha Daba. Ermias reported that “recently, many people are coming to Christ. This entire area is highly influenced by Islam, but the Gospel of Jesus Christ is making a difference in peoples’ lives. We praise God for the 70 people that accepted Christ as their Savior over the past three months.”

Evangelist Ermias Shura is ministering in Sadeko. The believers in Sadeko are in need of a church building in which to meet. At this time, the 180-member congregation is meeting in an open field. They have been doing their best to gather supplies needed to erect a church building; however, they need help. Ermias is praying that the necessary funds and materials would be made available so that the believer in Sadeko would be able to build a house of worship.

Evangelist Dido Guyo is excited about what God is doing in Dadacha Daba area. Villagers continue to come to Christ and there are now nearly 115 members of the church in Dadacha Daba. Dido is encouraged that hearts are open to the Gospel. He is eager to establish more churches in surrounding villages.



Dido Guyo
— Serving in Dadacha Daba



Evangelist Ermias (second from left) and members of the congregation in Sadeko.



Evangelist Dido (in front) and members of the congregation in Dadacha Daba.

Hand of Hope Evangelists' Updates — Teltelle Area

Evangelists Dida Barako, Guyo Tade, and Godana Duba, regularly come together to pray for the gospel work that is going on in their region of Teltelle. Evangelist Dida is excited about how God is moving in the area.

Evangelist Guyo Tade continues to work in the villages of Kalo and Bule Korema. These are very remote villages. Travel to and from these villages is very difficult. Guyo is pleased to report that there are now 81 believers meeting in Bule Korema.



Godana Duba, his wife Dake, and their 3 children.
— Serving in Dalemale & Saarite

Evangelist Godana Duba is encouraged with the growing number of believers in Saarite. Over the past three months, there have been 16 baptisms and the congregation has grown to nearly 120 members.

Evangelist Dida Barako, the senior evangelist in the Teltelle area, continues to minister in the villages of Ghandille and Bule Danbi. Dida is encouraged by the number of new believers coming to Christ. His prayer is that real transformation will take place throughout the Borana region and that the entire region will come to Christ.

Continue to pray for the three evangelists serving in the Teltelle region. Pray that God would continue to soften the hearts of the people in the area.



Guyo Tade
— Serving in Kalo & Bule Korema



Dida Barako
— Serving in Ghandille & Bule Danbi



Dida Barako, far left, with members of the church in Ghandille

Hand of Hope Evangelists' Updates — Moyale Area



Sisay Getachew & his wife,
Badatu
— Serving in Tuka & Aregane

Evangelists Sisay Getachew and Kala Huka continue to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the Muslim dominated region of Moyale. God is using these young evangelists to expand His Kingdom in this area.

The churches in Tuka and Aregane are steadily growing. Pray that these new believers will be strong and grow in their new faith. Pray for Evangelist Sisay as he shepherds these new believers.

Evangelist Kala is working to establish a work in the village of Elamu. He is encouraged to report that the church in Elamu has 35 members!

There are many challenges that both Sisay and Kala face



Kala Huka, his wife Baredko
and their two children
— Serving in Elamu



Right: Members of the church in Tuka.

Light: The Tuka Church



Testimony from Tuka



Bezufikad Shefiraw

My name is Bezufikad Shefiraw. I am 28 years old and live in Tuka. I was a nominal Ethiopian Orthodox church member.

I was intimidated and held hostage by an evil spirit for more than 18 years. Over the years, my family took me to different witchdoctors. They performed various rituals over me, took a lot of money from my family, but there was no improvement. The evil spirits took more and more control over my life and I became a mad-man—totally isolated from normal life.

One day, some Christians took me to church and prayed for me. Finally, I was set free! Jesus Christ set me free from the bondage that Satan had held me in for 18 years. Hallelujah! Tday, I am a child of the Almighty! I am enjoying real life. All glory and praise be to the name of Jesus!

Hand of Hope Evangelists' Updates — Arsi-Negelle Area



Bati Wario
— Serving in Kofole Arsi

Evangelists Tafesse Masebo and Bati Wario continue to share the good news of Jesus Christ in the difficult Arsi region. The work of the gospel is slow in this Muslim dominated region. Evangelist Bati recently shared the following: “In our area, we are able to come together twice a week for a time of worship, prayer, and sharing the Word. It is difficult to be a Christian in the Arsi region. We are seeds of the Kingdom in our land. Thank ou for our prayers.”

Evangelist Tafesse is encouraged with the group of 35 church members in Gubato Arjo. This group of believers pray regularly for the entire Arsi region. Tafesse said, “we are going forward and expecting great things from God.” Continue to pray that God will soften the hearts of the Arsi Oromo people. Pray protection over the evangelists serving in this heavily populated Muslim region.



Tafesse Masebo
— Serving in Gubato Arjo



Hebrews 10:25

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

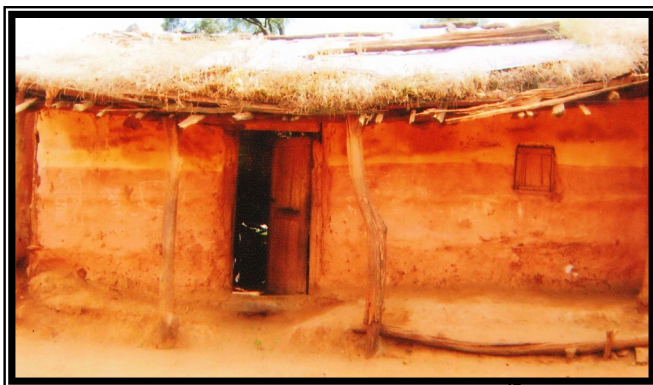
Hand of Hope Children's Program

God continues to bless the Hand of Hope Children's Program. Nearly 50 children are supported through this program. Volunteer coordinator, Bake Chenfo, continues to be the backbone of this ministry. He conducts regular follow-up meetings with the children and their caretakers and ensures that the children's needs are being met. Bake makes sure that the children attend school and encourages them to work hard. In addition to the regular follow-up of children in the HOH program, Bake keeps an eye out for possible candidates to be added to the program.

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Interested in sponsoring a child? \$350 will sponsor a child for 1 year.

For information please email handofhopeministries@gmail.com.
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Last year, we shared about the Abeduba children and the house they were living in, pictured on the left below, that was falling apart and was in need of major repairs. We praise God for His provision! Necessary repairs were made to their home and it is better than it was to begin with! Pictured below, to the right, is the Abeduba children's newly repaired home, made possible by faithful supporters of Hand of Hope Ministries. A portion of the money was raised by Hannah Hendry. Hannah is a fourteen year old girl with a beautiful heart. For her fourteenth birthday, she asked friends and family to give money towards home repairs for the Abeduba children, instead of buying gifts for her. Thank you, Hannah, for your unselfish heart and for contributing towards the repairs of the Abeduba home.

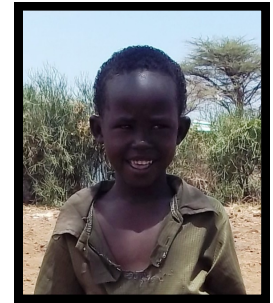


Hand of Hope Children — Kenya



Dadi

Hand of Hope Ministries is encouraged by the possibility of a long-term relationship with Christ Community Church in Isiolo, Kenya. Sam Dersu, HOHM Founder, is making plans to take a small group of men from Priest Lake Christian Fellowship, in Antioch, Tennessee, to Kenya in May to meet with the leaders of Christ Community Church. He hopes to be able to meet Evangelist Godana and discern how involved HOHM should be in this work in Kenya.



Abdi



Wako

Over the last several months, HOHM began to explore the possibility of expanding our Hand of Hope Children’s Program into Kenya. It has become apparent that the need is great. There are many children in this region who have lost their fathers due to tribal wars, bandit attacks, etc. Their mother’s are struggling to take care of their children own their own. Beginning in 2013, HOHM has started sponsoring 15 children in Kenya. The criteria is the same for children HOHM supports in Ethiopia. Children sponsored through this program are required to attend school. Hassan Bagaja, from Christ Community Church, has agreed to serve as a Volunteer Coordinator for this program in Kenya. He is in contact with the children and their caregivers and will be providing quarterly updates to HOHM. We are excited to see how God works in the lives of these children and their caregivers.



Wako



Nasibo

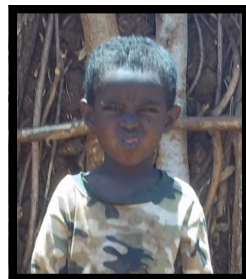
\$350 will fully sponsor one child for one year. HOHM is trusting God to provide sponsors for these children. Initially, funds have been committed from the General Fund to sponsor 15 children. Our prayer is that God will provide sponsors to help off-set these expenses, which will then free up funds to support additional children.



Dido



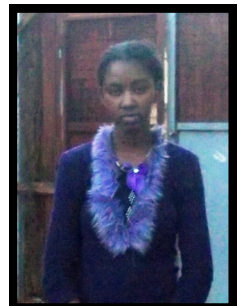
Guracha



Wachu



Loko



Kabale



Boru



Daki



Lata



Jamila



Dida

CCC Evangelists in Kenya



Evangelist Godana Funan Halakhe

Godana Funan Halakhe has been ministering in various villages in the Isiolo area. He is encouraged by several recent converts. The Isiolo region is a highly populated Muslim area and it is difficult to spread the Gospel; however, God is using His healing power to bring Muslims in the Kingdom. Godana recently shared the testimonies of a couple of the new converts.

Eliza, a woman from the village of Kiwanjani was bed-ridden for 3 months. People in her village requested Evangelist Godana to pray for her healing. Godana responded to the request and laid hands on Eliza. Six hours later, she was healed. Eliza accepted Christ and the following Sunday, Eliza went to church and testified about what the Lord had done for her. Praise God!

Abdinasi is from the village of Bulesa. He recently became a Christian after converting from the Muslim faith. Before he came to Christ, he was possessed by evil spirits. Day and night he was under the bondage of these spirits. His life dramatically changed when He accepted Christ as his Savior. For the first time in many years, he experienced true joy and rest. We praise God for touching Abdinasi's life.

Pray for Godana as he continued to be a light in the Isiolo region. Pray for hearts to be softened and that God would draw many more to Himself.



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We welcome input from our readers! Please email handofhopeministries@gmail.com with any comments or words of encouragement you may have.

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Prayer & Praise

Pray for....

- protection over the evangelists as they share God's Word throughout the countryside of southern Ethiopia.
- Tsega-ab Bekele and Gospel For Unreached Nations Ministry as they continue to train church leaders throughout Ethiopia.
- the team of men preparing to go to Ethiopia and Kenya in May to visit Hand of Hope evangelists and children in the Children's Program.
- additional prayer and financial supporters.
- volunteers to come forward both in the USA and in Ethiopia to help with the many organizational and administrative needs of this ministry.

Praise God for....

- doors that have opened up for ministry in Kenya.
- His continued provision for this ministry.
- churches in Mega, Hidilola, Yavello, Teltelle, Moyale and Hawassa who partner with Hand of Hope Ministries.
- the faithful prayer and financial support for this ministry.
- the souls that are coming into the Kingdom.