

God is Working Through Us!

By Vivian H. Dersu

As I continue to travel through this journey of life, I am amazed at how God is allowing me to play a small part in building His kingdom. Growing up in Japan as the daughter of missionaries, I never dreamed that one day my heart would be deeply touched and my life changed by a country I barely knew anything about until meeting my husband in 1993.

In March of 1998, my husband along with our then three year old daughter had the opportunity to visit my husband's homeland of Ethiopia and to meet his family. The two and half weeks spent in Ethiopia made a large impact on my life. My eyes were opened to a world I had only heard about. I could barely comprehend the vast poverty before me at every direction I turned. It was during this visit that God began to place a burden on my heart for the beautiful people of Ethiopia.

We spent the majority of our time in the southern region of Ethiopia and my fondest memories of this trip took place in my husband's hometown of Mega. Mega is a beautiful city surrounded by mountains with the most beautiful star filled night sky I have ever seen in my entire life. Life is simple, yet difficult in Mega. People live very simple lives, yet nothing comes easy. We spent several wonderful days in Mega I returned home with a greater appreciation for what I have.

As the years passed, my burden for the Borana people of southern Ethiopia began to grow; however, little did I ever dream that God would use me along with my husband to found an organization that would be able to make an eternal impact on the lives of the Borana people.

In July of 2004, our family, consisting now of three daughters, was given the opportunity to once again visit our family in Ethiopia. This time we were able to spend five wonderful weeks. We were excited to visit family, but this time our visit also had another purpose — to meet the evangelists that our organization, Gospel For All, was helping to support. Over the course of the five weeks, my eyes were once again opened not only to the physical and material needs of the Borana people, but also their spiritual needs as well.

My heart was touched by the congregation of the Mega Mekane Yesus Church. This group of believers was meeting in a building that was breaking down and beyond repair. The church was overflowing and many people had to sit outside during the service. Across the street were the beginnings of what would one day be their new church building. There was a large structure, with no roof. After talking with the elders we learned that after five years, this was all they had been able to afford to build. The elders pleaded with us to please find funds for them to complete their church. I could see the desperation as well as discouragement in their eyes. You see, over the past five years many mosques had been built in that area and it was sad that funds were not available for one protestant church to be built.

My husband and I left Mega resolved to find a way for this church to be completed. We returned to the USA and started writing letters. I sent out many letters to several churches all over the USA, however, we never heard any replies.

Shortly after our return home, the church we attend gave us the opportunity to share with the congregation about our trip to Ethiopia. Our church, Priest Lake Christian Fellowship is a wonderful group of believers with an incredible heart for reaching the world for Christ. They have been such an encouragement to us since learning of Gospel For All — many of them have given financially to support Gospel For All. We were eager to share how God is working through Gospel For All. When sharing with our congregation, I requested prayer for the Mega church and briefly described the obstacles they were facing. Little did I know that God would use my simple words to answer the prayers of so many.

A couple of weeks later we received a call from our pastor telling us that someone in our church, after hearing about the church in Mega, wanted to anonymously donate \$10,000 in order for the church to be completed. WOW!! Words can't describe how we felt when we heard these words from our pastor. Soon after, several others wanted to contribute and before we knew it, our church had close to \$11,000 to send to Mega!!

We never dreamed that the answer to so many prayers was right in front of us. I am so thankful I listened to God's small voice as He prompted me to share about the dilemma facing the Mega church.

I thank the Lord that He is working through us.....to God be the GLORY!!

Email:
GospelForAll@tds.net

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Hebrews 6:10

*"For God is not
unrighteous to
forget your
work and labor
of love, which
you have
showed toward
His name, in
that you have
ministered to
the saints, and
do minister."*

From the Board of Directors — God's Promises

I will begin by wishing all of you a Happy New Year and a prosperous year. Thank you and God bless you for your continuous support of GFA.

2004 has passed and 2005 has begun....2004 was a good year for GFA, God is doing a lot of work for His glory as you will see throughout this newsletter.

GFA's future is in His hand. Just as our forefathers lived by faith we also have faith that God's work will go forward no matter what.

Hebrews chapter 11 verse 3 says that "by faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible." In verse 29 we find "by faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned". If we continue reading up to verse 39 we will see a lot about how our fathers in the

Bible did everything by faith. Most of them weren't even alive to see the fruit of their works. They just lived to obey God's promises and by faith they believed that the day would come that someone would benefit from their work. That is why we love to do God's work, we have faith in Him, and we have no doubt that God will carry on our mission to the end. We have confidence that through Him one day our work will benefit millions.

Take a moment to look back over your own life. No doubt you can see how many things you've accomplished today that came as a result of your faith or as a result of the faith of someone else. You may never know who all will bear the fruit of your faith.

Isn't your support of GFA an act of faith? We all have faith that through our sacrificial support of GFA many lives will come to know Jesus. When we first organized GFA we did it by faith

that you all would stand with us. More than that we had faith and believed that God would walk beside us with every step we take.

We have faith because we have Christ in our life.

We have faith because we have come to know Christ as our Lord and Savior.

We have faith because we have seen the goodness of our God.

We have faith because we see God at work in our life.

We have faith because we read the Bible and learned about our father's faith.

We have faith because He promised us that if we trust in Him, He will never let us down.



We have faith because He told us that He loved us more than our own mother loved us.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ -- do you know that there are millions who have never heard of the promises they have with God? Millions of those are dying each day without knowing Christ. In sub-Saharan Africa alone, 24.5 million died due to AIDS alone. Over in Asia more than 200,000 lost their lives just recently, I wonder how many of those knew Christ?

It's our duty to reach those who have never heard about Him. I am blessed to know that there are people like you out there striving to do just that.

God bless you!

Sam

God works in miraculous ways.....

I continue to be amazed at how God works. It is sometimes through the little things in life that we receive confirmation from God that we are on the right track.

I would like to share something that happened to me recently.

Several weeks ago, we received a request from the Borana Outreach Ministry for a digital camera. With a digital camera, they would be able to furnish us pictures of the various evangelistic works taking place via email instead of relying on the postal service which — can take a few weeks before reaching us.

After receiving this request, my husband and I actively started

researching various digital cameras in search of the best possible value we could find. We found several cameras and on more than one occasion started to purchase them; however, we continued to face obstacles all along the way. Whenever we went to stores we weren't completely happy with what we found, and then when we thought we had found the best deal, I went out to purchase it only to find that they were all sold out of the camera we had chosen.

At this point, it looked as if we would never find the right camera and quite honestly, I began to question whether or not the camera was simply a luxury item that we longed for. I know that God wants the best for us; however, I also know that there is a big difference between a want and a need. Was God possibly

telling us that the digital camera was a 'want' that He did not think we needed?

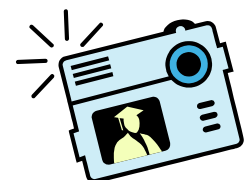
I made one last attempt to purchase the camera, but at the last minute, I called my husband and he advised me to wait. So, I waited. My husband and I agreed that we should wait and at the right time, the price would be right and we could purchase the camera at that time.

A few days later my office had their annual Holiday Party. During the party, many prizes are given away to employees and among these prizes was a digital camera. The time came to announce the winner of the digital camera....all of a sudden I heard, "and the winner of the digital camera is....Vivian Dersu!!" I

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couldn't believe it! The exact camera that I had almost purchased a few days earlier was now mine! My thoughts immediately went to Gospel for All and the Borana Outreach Ministry and I knew that God has supplied a camera to be used for this ministry. Isn't God good?

Through all of this I have seen once again how very much God cares for us and how He wants the best for His children. Isn't it amazing how God continues to work in miraculous ways?



PRAYER AND PRAISE

PRAISE GOD FOR....

- ◆ Protecting the evangelists over the past few month
- ◆ The 100 souls that have come to the Lord through Yaikob's ministry.
- ◆ The family that has come to know Christ through Teshome's witness.
- ◆ The more than 40 souls that have entered His Kingdom through the ministry of Elias.
- ◆ The opening of a church in Gadda.
- ◆ Financial gifts that have been coming in to Gospel For All



PRAYER REQUESTS

- ◆ Pray that bicycles would be provided for the evangelists. The cost of a bicycle is around US\$150.
- ◆ Pray that educational materials will be made available to the evangelists. This includes material for the literacy program that Elias and Yaikob 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.

Through the eyes of a child....

By: Megan Derartu Dersu
(age 10)



I visited Ethiopia in July of 2004. During this visit I had two feelings within myself: happy and sad. I felt happy to see my relatives in Ethiopia and sad when I saw how these people were living. Some people I saw had built mini houses made out of whatever they could find, like pieces of plastic, wood, old cloth and old tarps found on the ground.

There were also lots of kids without parents roaming around looking for food or money somebody might have dropped. Many kids would follow my family in packs, they would even follow the car as long as they could. At first I thought it was cool to have them follow me every where, it made me feel like I was a famous person, but as time went by I began to get annoyed by it.

After seeing all of this....it made me think how lucky I am to live in America and have everything that I have.

Currently with our evangelists.....

ELIAS



Elias is currently serving the Lord in Adhessa. Over the past few months God has used Elias to bring 30 people into His Kingdom. Elias needs an additional evangelist to help him reach the people of Adhessa for Christ.

Before serving in Adhessa, Elias served in Gadda for about seven months. On November 14, 2004 an important milestone was reached in Gadda. A ceremony marking the construction of a new church in Gadda was held. The Gadda Mekane Yesus Church, with 60 active members has now sent out its own evangelist. Please pray for the three elders of this congregation as they lead this group of believers.



Above: Elders of new church in Gadda

Below: Gadda Church



New Gadda Church Worshipping Christ!!



TAADI

Taadi continues to work in the Teltelle area. Over the past six months Taadi has been ministering in Gandhelle, 22 km from the town of Teltelle.

God has been working in Gandhelle. Over the past six months more than one thousand people have heard the gospel and forty people have come to Christ and accepted Him as Savior.

Please pray for Taadi as he continues to minister to the people in Teltelle District. Plans are underway to construct a church. Pray that God would provide the necessary funds for this to become a reality. There is also a need for an additional evangelist to be employed to work in this area.

TESHOME

Teshome continues to work in the town of Mega as well as Harallo (15 km from Mega). In the past 6 months, Teshome has had the privilege of leading an entire family to Christ. Praise God!!

Please pray for Teshome as he witnesses to those he comes in contact with day to day. Pray that many souls would come to Christ and that one day a church could be planted in Harallo.



DIMTU



Dimtu continues to faithfully serve in Deeda Jaarsa. Over the past six months God has used her to share the gospel with more than 500 people, 48 of these came to know Christ and accepted Him as Savior.

Dimtu faces many challenges, the church she built is a hut and she longs for a better building to be constructed. There is also a severe water problem and a water well needs to be constructed near the church.

Please continue to pray for Dimtu and the many individuals she ministers to on a daily basis. There is much work to be done in this area and an additional evangelist would be a great help.



Members of the church in Deeda Jaarsa worship together.

Yaikob is working in the town of Bulbulla. Over the past six months 100 people have accepted Christ as their Savior. Yaikob needs an additional evangelist to be employed to help him in reaching the people of Bulbulla and the surrounding area.

As the number of believers grows in Bulbulla, there are plans to build a church to facilitate the congregation.

YAIKOB



Left — Yaikob (far left) with believers in Bulbulla

Our Partners.....

We would like to thank our partners for their support of Gospel For All. May God richly bless you as you continue to support this ministry financially and with your prayers.

Please pray that God would send more partners our way.

FUNDRAISING PROJECT



Bicycles are needed for the evangelists..... Our goal is to raise \$1000 to purchase 5 bicycles along with spare parts....We currently have \$150.

If you would like to contribute...please send in your contribution marked "Bicycle Fund".

Balance Needed: \$850

P.O. Box 293341
Nashville, TN 37229

Fax: 615-213-0479
Email: gospelforall@tds.net

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Check out our web-site at
www.GospelForAll.org