

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

# Gospel For All

January 2006

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## Looking Back As We Move Forward

by: Vivian H. Dersu

It's hard to believe that 2005 has faded into the background and 2006 is already here. With the start of a new year it's a good time to look back and reflect on what took place over the past year.

I am amazed at how God is using Gospel For All to further His Kingdom. When this ministry was officially founded nearly three years ago, our desire was to fulfill God's will in our lives and to be faithful to His calling. We had no idea where God would lead, or exactly how much He would enable us to do; but we did know one thing: God gave us the vision for this ministry and He would do with it what He chose.

During 2004, we started planting the seed and sharing with those we came in contact with about the evangelistic work going on in Ethiopia which we are privileged to be involved with. Some of

those we came in contact with readily partnered with us and pledged their financial support....others didn't. We continued to pray and hold on to the truth that this was God's ministry and not our own. We knew that nothing could be accomplished without Him.

2005 turned out to be a year of steady growth and surprises. Our financial support increased substantially. Receipts during 2005 nearly tripled in comparison to 2004. WOW!!

We are thankful for the new partners who have joined us along the way through faithful prayer and financial support.

With the added financial support during 2005 we have been able to :

- See numerous souls come to know Christ.

- Employ 2 additional evangelists
- Purchase 2 crank tape recorders
- Purchase 6 bicycles for the evangelists
- Fund a week-long workshop for the evangelists on Evangelism & HIV/Aids
- Continue to provide financial support for 7 evangelists and 1 coordinator

Yes, God is good! He is faithful. We look forward to what He has in store for us in 2006 and continue to praise Him for what He has done in 2005.

*"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."*

*1 Corinthians 15:58.*

## Offering a Hand of Hope

by: Vivian H. Dersu

Hope — a simple, four letter word that so many of us take for granted. Personally, it's not a word I've really given much thought to — other than hearing my missionary dad talk about bringing 'hope' to the Japanese people whom he ministered to for more than 40 years sharing with them the 'hope' that is available through Jesus Christ.

Webster's defines hope as "a feeling that what is wanted will happen; desire accompanied by expectation."

Ever since meeting Liben (a young boy left orphaned due to HIV/Aids) during my 2004 trip to Ethiopia, I've given a lot of thought to that little four letter word — Hope. What hope does he have for a future? What hope do the many other children left orphaned by HIV/Aids have for an education? What hope do they have for a bright future? Do they even know what hope is?

It's heartbreaking to think that there are so many children left without hope of a better future.

Inspired by Liben and with a bur-

den from God, I have not been able to get the 'children' out of my mind.

Recently, God's plan is becoming more visible to me and plans are underway for the *Hand of Hope* project. Through this project, we plan to reach out and offer assistance to children orphaned by HIV/Aids in southern Ethiopia. Please pray for us as we move forward with laying the foundation for this project which we hope to implement within the next few months and begin offering a *Hand of Hope* to some of these precious children.

All gifts are  
Tax deductible

Make Checks  
Payable to:

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

## We Serve The Mighty God

by: Samuel Dersu

Exodus 3: 11-14

<sup>11</sup> But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" <sup>12</sup> And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain." <sup>13</sup> Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" <sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

Brothers and Sisters in Christ -- Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

It has been a while since I have written anything, but here I am once again to witness to you what God has done for us through your support and prayers as well as share our plans and objectives for the future. It has been nearly three years now since GFA started, many have come to know Christ, HIV/AIDS training has been given to the evangelists, more evangelists have been hired, God's people have stretched their hand to support the mission of GFA, we have sponsored training and seminars for different church leaders in the area that we work and so on....

When God told Moses to go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt, Moses wasn't sure if he could do this, he wasn't sure if anyone would listen to him; he hesitated and did not believe that he was equipped to do this, but God told him "I am with you". This is a powerful word of confirmation that Moses received. Moses still did not go, even after hearing this word of confirmation he again asked God, ok suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them the God of your Father has sent me to you and they ask me what is his name? What shall I say to them? God said to Moses "I AM WHO I AM"; just tell them that "I AM HAS SENT ME TO YOU."

I love the phrase "I AM WHO I AM". God is saying to Moses I am who I am, I am the GOD for your fathers and for you, I am the creator of the heaven and the earth, and I am the beginner and the finisher. Just do what I say, follow the instructions I give you, then you will see my hand in you, then you will see my power in front of your own eyes and in your own heart. It's not just you and the Israelites that will see my power -- all Egypt and the entire world will hear, feel and see what a powerful God I am. It's not only your present generation that will hear, feel and see my power, but from this generation to another generation they will all hear, feel and see my power, from continent to continent they all will hear, feel and see my power. From one tribe to another tribe they will all hear, feel and see my power.

That shows what a mighty God we serve. I'm sure God has shown or spoken to each of us in different ways, but we all felt and heard the same God in our heart. I am pleased to serve the "I Am" -- he is my God, he is my fortress, I don't know what I would do without him, I don't know where I would be today without him. I give all the Glory and Praise to My GOD who accepted me as who I am. Brothers and sisters in Christ, this is the God we serve, this is the "I AM" we serve. As he said to Moses, God is saying to all of us "I AM WHO I AM."

You can see through reading the newsletters that God has done a lot for GFA. This past year alone we hired two more evangelists and are planning to hire more. Our financial income has grown over 200%. I especially give thanks for my church, Priest Lake Christian Fellowship and the surprise gifts from members of this church. I am delighted to be a part of this Godly church. I give thanks for the regular contributions from our brothers and sisters in Chicago, Sioux Falls, Nashville, Denver as well as those in Ethiopia and Norway. God bless you. Most of all God bless all of the evangelists including Tsega-Ab for your commitment to doing God's will. Thank you and God bless you and keep you safe every day. We have been praying for you and we will continue to pray for you and your families.

Thanks for all those who have been praying for GFA -- God bless you. Please continue to pray while we are planning to expand in order to reach many more with the love of Jesus Christ.

Our financial income is 100% directed to the evangelistic work in Ethiopia including support to Evangelist Tsega-ab and his ministry to equip the leaders of the churches and evangelists throughout the Borana and surrounding region.

I would like to say thank you and God bless you for the leadership team in Ethiopia and in the USA for sacrificing their family time and their own materials. I especially ask that God bless our brother Darara Timotewos and my wife, Vivian Dersu for putting together the newsletter every quarter. May God continue to bless Simret Tuffa and Rev. Dawit Yohannes for taking care of all the financial reporting. I am sincerely touched as well as encouraged with their continued service and encouragement that they give to me and I'm proud to know these people and to have them as part of my family. I will say again, God bless them and give them more than they ever could imagine.

Our future looks much brighter than yesterday, as you see it in this newsletter we are planning to start a new project — *Hand of Hope*. As we get more information from the leadership team in Ethiopia we will give you more details on what we are planning to do. We are excited to carry out our mission to play a part in ministering to those affected by HIV/Aids.

Let me end with this verse from Exodus -- again what God said to Moses.

Exodus 6:6-8

<sup>6</sup> "Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment.' <sup>7</sup> I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians.' <sup>8</sup> And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the LORD.'"

*God Bless!*  
*Samuel Dersu*

## Gospel For Unreached Nations — Evangelist Tsega-ab Bekele

God continues to use Evangelist Tsega-ab Bekele through the ministry he founded, Gospel For Unreached Nations. Evangelist Tsega-ab continues to hold revivals, conferences and ministry training schools all throughout southern Ethiopia.

God has given him the unique opportunity to bring together rural pastors from various denominations and give them much needed training in areas such as Bible Study, Sermon Preparation and Basic Ministry.

This past October, Tsega-ab spent a couple of days with all of the evangelists supported by Gospel For All at their first weeklong workshop on Evangelism and HIV/Aids. Tsega-ab felt the Lord leading Him to give them some solid Biblical training in evangelism as well as church planting. He emphasized the necessity of all evangelists to have a greater commitment to God and His vision for reaching the Borana people for Christ.

Tsega-ab enjoyed sharing together with the evangelists, hearing their testimonies and experiencing with them the transforming power of the Holy Spirit and God's Word.

During November Tsega-ab held a Key-Church Leader's seminar in Mega, Ethiopia which was the first of its kind to be held in Mega. Participants came from various churches from different denominational backgrounds in the area. There were a total of 57 full-time ministers of the gospel who attended this five day seminar. The seminar was a great success and God really moved in a mighty way. Mega and its surrounding areas are key to reaching many unreached people groups in the southern region of Ethiopia. Tsega-ab was encouraged at the 'new chapter of unity' that was evident among the group attending the seminar. Please continue to pray that these church leaders will continue to work together to further the gospel in this region of Ethiopia.

Tsega-ab held another session of his traveling School of Ministry in the town of Yavello. God is continuing to work through this ministry to better equip rural pastors with solid Biblical training that is so desperately needed.

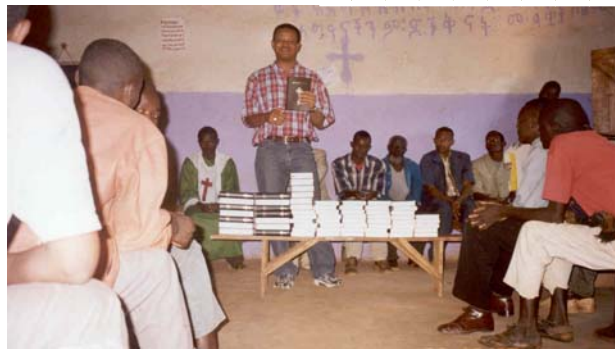
During his weeklong stay in Yavello, Tsega-ab was invited by one of his students to



*Participant's of the Key-Church Leader's Seminar in Mega Worshipping Together*

preach the gospel for a group of prisoners at the Yavello Zone Detention Center. They were able to get a hold of several Bibles and had the opportunity to distribute these among the prisoners and officers at the detention center. A total of fifty prisoners and officers accepted Christ during this meeting...Praise God!!

*Please 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.*



*Evangelist Tsega-ab preaching and distributing Bibles at the Yavello Zone Detention Center*

*"For the mighty One has done great things for me  
Holy is His name."  
Luke 1:49*



*Key-Church Leader's Seminar Participants in Mega, Ethiopia*



## Report on the Evangelism & HIV/Aids Workshop—October 10 ~ 16, 2005

October 10, 2005 marked an important date for Gospel For All and the Borana Outreach Ministry. This marked the beginning of the first Evangelism & HIV/Aids Workshop held in Awassa, Ethiopia. This week long workshop was held for all of the evangelists currently being supported by Gospel For All along with the Borana Outreach Ministry.

Our goal was to give the evangelists a time to fellowship and encourage each other as well as obtain some much needed training on effective evangelism methods as well as HIV/Aids education.

This workshop would not have been possible without the hard work of the Borana Outreach Leadership Team's careful planning and search for the best speakers available to effectively communicate with the evangelists. THANK YOU for your faithful service.

Here is a rundown on the week long seminar.....

### Monday October 10, 2005

Sister Misgana W/rufael spent the entire day with the evangelists. Sister Misgana works with Medan Acts as a counselor for people living with HIV/Aids. Medan Acts is a church-based non profit organization.

Sister Misgana was able to share simple, practical information with the evangelists that would help them as they go back to their places of services. She shared with them the basics of HIV/Aids transmission and dealt with the stigma that is attached to HIV/Aids and the responsibility we as Christians have to love and care for those living with HIV/Aids.

Through her teaching, the evangelists learned of the importance of encouraging pregnant women to undergo HIV testing so as to save the child from contracting this terrible disease. They also learned of the relationship between sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/Aids.

Overall, this was an important day for our evangelists. This was the first many of them had received any training in this area. At the end of the day, they left with a greater knowledge of HIV/Aids and better equipped to educate those in the communities they minister in. This is an important step in stopping the rapid spread of HIV/Aids in many of these rural areas.



*Left & Right: Evangelists listen attentively during the Evangelism workshop.*



### Tuesday October 11, 2005

Evangelist Gezahaghe Asmamaw shared with our evangelists his experience in winning souls to Christ, he focused primarily on strategies of reaching unreached areas. Evangelist Gezahaghe works with the Rift Valley Mission Ministry which is one of the most successful outreach ministries in Ethiopia. They currently have approximately 150 evangelists serving throughout southern Ethiopia — particularly in Muslim dominated areas.

Evangelist Gezahaghe shared again on Friday afternoon about how his ministry is using a literacy program to reach people for Christ. The evangelists were inspired as they heard of how an evangelist working under this ministry was able to win a Muslim dominated village to Christ through a literacy program. This really encouraged our evangelists to continue with the literacy programs they are currently involved with.

The afternoon was spent with Evangelist Wubshet from Great Commission Ministries (Campus Crusade International). He focused on the importance of prayer and intercession in gospel ministry. His teaching on prayer made a significant impact on our evangelists and they decided to make every Friday a day of fasting and prayer. They also realized the importance of praying for each other and committed themselves to uphold each other in prayer.



*Time of Prayer & Intercession*

### Wednesday & Thursday October 12~13, 2005

These two days were spent with Evangelist Tsega-ab Bekele. Gospel For All has been supporting Tsega-ab in his ministry, Gospel For Unreached Nations that focuses on training pastors and evangelists.

Evangelist Tsega-ab focused his teaching on the importance of personal Bible study and prayer. He also shared basic guidelines regarding church growth and urged the evangelists to stay focused on God in all areas of their ministry. He also stressed the importance of the evangelists setting an example for other evangelists by keeping a positive attitude and placing all of their trust in God. He urged them not to be discouraged, but to be the source of encouragement for other evangelists.

Tsega-ab prayed over the evangelists and the Holy Spirit was able to speak through Him to the evangelists.

### Friday October 14, 2005

Reverend Dawit Yohannes, Senior Pastor of Tabour Evangelical Mekane Yesus Church spent Friday morning teaching the evangelists. Reverend Dawit Yohannes also serves as a member of the Borana Outreach Leadership Team. His church is one of the fastest growing churches in Ethiopia and has become a model for church growth throughout the country. His church is known for sending out evangelists to Muslim dominated areas.

As a theologian and an evangelist who has worked among the Borana for many years, Dawit had many experiences to share with our evangelists. He spent time speaking on the Gospel and the Borana Culture. He advised the evangelists not to despise the culture of the people to whom they preach. He reminded them that their primary goal should be speaking about Christ, but he emphasized the importance of respecting the culture of the people while at the same time setting an example to others by not practicing cultural practices related to the worship of other gods.

He taught that by practicing cultural practices that do not conflict with Biblical teachings, they can show the people that Christianity does not destroy their culture, but they can be a Christian and at the same time keep their Borana culture and tradition. Dawit pointed out that by avoiding cultural practices and traditions conflicting with God's Word, the evangelists can show their uncompromising stand when it comes to fulfilling the commands of the Lord and their intolerance towards every thing associated with evil.



*Our evangelists along with Evangelist Tsega-ab (center back in black shirt) during the week long workshop.*

### Saturday & Sunday October 15 ~ 16, 2005

Saturday morning was a time of prayer and fasting. Time was spent praying on various topics such as asking for the power of the Holy Spirit and His strength. A significant time was spent praying against the spiritual warfare that all of the evangelists are facing. A time was spent in prayer for all those involved with Gospel For All and the prayers ended with thanksgiving to the Lord, who organized this much needed workshop.

Sunday morning all of the evangelists attended services at Tabour Evangelical Mekane Yesus Church and surprisingly the preaching was on John chapter 4 verses 27 through 38. The preacher spoke on one-to-one evangelism and how Jesus used that method to win the Samaritan woman.

Sunday afternoon the evangelists along with the Borana Outreach Ministry Leadership Team went to Wondo Genet Recreation Center for an afternoon of relaxation along with a time for everyone to share how the Lord had worked in their lives over the past week.

Overall the week was a great success. The evangelists left with a request that this type of workshop be held on a regular basis. The teaching was beneficial and the time fellowshiping together and encouraging one another was invaluable.



*Evangelists & Leadership Team arriving at Wondo Genet Recreation Center*

## Ministry Updates

### Elias



Elias has served with the Borana Outreach Ministry for the past two years. Recently, he was given the opportunity to study at the Tabour Evangelical Seminary in Awassa —so he has decided to take advantage of this opportunity and further his education. He is being sponsored by the Mekane Yesus Church. We thank God for this opportunity for Elias and pray that through these studies, he will be even better equipped to share the gospel.

Over the past two years, Elias has been instrumental in reaching many souls for Christ including the opening of a new church. In addition, he has been active with a literacy program. Please pray for Elias as he continues to follow God's leading in his life. THANK YOU Elias for your faithfulness to God's calling on your life and for serving with us over the past two years.

We have been blessed to hire an evangelist to replace Elias in the area he has been serving. We will introduce him in the upcoming newsletter.

### Wario



Wario continues to serve as the coordinator of our evangelists. In addition to his responsibilities as coordinator, he also ministers in Dembi. Dembi is made up of a number of villages. Recently there have been 30 new converts and Wario has been able to share the gospel with many more. This area is a heavily populated Muslim area and is very difficult to spread the gospel.

Please pray for Wario's continued protection and for more doors of ministry to open up for him. We are in the process of hiring an additional evangelist to help Wario in this difficult region.

The recent Evangelism & HIV/Aids Workshop made a significant impact on Wario. He shared the following with Evangelist Tsegab after the workshop:

*"I want to thank God and our partners in the USA for this opportunity they gave me to refresh myself spiritually. I have also gained insight into HIV/Aids and the rapid spreading of this disease around the world as well as among the nomadic and uneducated Borana people to whom I minister. I now feel a great responsibility as a minister of the Gospel to bring more awareness to the people in the rural villages and jungles about this epidemic. Every day hundreds are dying and more than half of the hospital beds in the country are occupied by the thousands of people infected by this deadly disease. More than two million children have lost their parents because of this epidemic. There is no doubt that it is important for us to know and make known to our community what we have learned about this fatal outbreak."*



### Dida & Boba

Boba and Dida have been working in the village of Gandelle. Currently there are leading 10 new believers through a Discipleship Training Course.

Please pray for these two young evangelists as they guide new Christians in the Gandelle church.







### Teshome

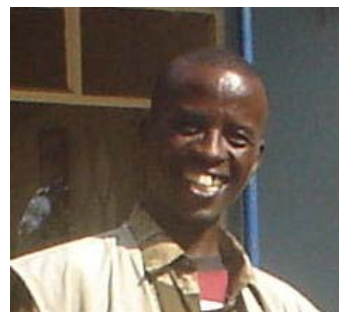
Teshome continues to work in the areas surrounding Mega. He has organized a group of Christians to go into the village of Dhasse to preach the gospel. On a recent trip, 15 people received Christ as their Savior! This group of Christians has also gone into the village of Gurbisuga to hold evangelistic meetings. As a result of this ministry, the church (which had been closed in this village) has reopened and Christians have begun attending services again. The church had experienced many divisions which had caused the church to close — through the ministry of the group Teshome organized, healing and reconciliation has begun to take place among the believers in this village. Please pray that the church in Gurbisuga will grow strong as the healing process continues!

Please continue to pray for Teshome as he continues to find avenues of ministry through group evangelism. Also, pray that the Borana Outreach Ministry could adopt a strategy for group evangelism that would be effective in the rural areas in which the evangelists minister.

### Taadi

Taadi continues to minister in the Magado area and is pleased to report that recently 12 individuals gave their hearts to Christ. Taadi is currently conducting HIV/Aids training to more than 100 people in the Magado area. Please pray that his teaching will make an impact on their lives both spiritually and physically.

Taadi only has a 9th grade education and very much wants to continue his education. Please pray that God would provide a way for Taadi to further his education as he continues to touch lives with the Gospel.



### Dimtu

Dimtu continues to serve in Deeda Jarsa and the Lord continues to use her. Recently there have been 14 individuals who have come to know Christ. Even though Dimtu looks old, she is still fresh spiritually and energetically serves the Lord. She believes that the secret behind her success in ministry is your prayers. She urges everyone to continue to pray for her ministry.

She recently heard that Gospel For All had located and purchased 2 crank tape recorders for her ministry. This is something she mentioned to Sam and Vivian during their 2004 visit to Ethiopia and has prayed for ever since. She jumped for joy when she heard that her prayers had been answered.

Please pray that God would provide someone to take these crank tape recorders to Ethiopia as they can not be sent by mail (the cost to mail the package exceeds the cost of the taper recorders themselves and many times it is difficult to guarantee packages to arrive at the intended destination).



Dimtu lifts her hands in praise as she heard about the crank tape recorders purchased for her ministry. Here she is pictured with the other evangelists during their week long workshop.

### Yaikob



Yaikob continues to faithfully serve in Bulbulla. This is an area with a heavy Muslim population and it is very difficult to spread the gospel.

Pray for Yaikob as he continues to work with new converts and focuses on getting them grounded in the Word of God.

Please pray for God's continued protection over him in this hostile area.

Dimtu had the following to say after the Evangelism & HIV/Aids Workshop —

*I don't know how I can thank my redeemer for this privilege and uplifting teaching I have gained through this workshop. My heart is even more on fire to touch others with the love of God. What a wonderful Savior and Lord I serve!! Regardless of my weakness, He wants to use me for His glory. I am so thankful for Gospel For All for making this workshop possible and blessing us through this. Thank you. I will serve my Lord Jesus Christ until my last breath. He chose to enter into my life when I was a young girl. By His grace and love, He has carried me through many difficulties and is now using me to preach His glorious Gospel."*



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***Gospel For All  
would like to say  
THANK YOU  
to....***

- The many individuals who have faithfully prayed for this ministry over the past year.
- The many individuals who have given sacrificially through their financial support over the past year.
- Priest Lake Christian Fellowship (Nashville, TN) for their continued encouragement, prayer and financial support over the past year.
- The board of directors of Gospel For All for standing with us.
- The leadership team of Borana Outreach Ministry for coordinating and overseeing the work in Ethiopia.
- The evangelists....who labor daily to spread the gospel and minister to the Borana people.
- Our brothers and sisters in Norway who have partnered with us to support the Borana Outreach Ministry.

## ***PRAISE & PRAYER***

### **PRAISE GOD FOR....**



- ◆ Funds provided for training evangelists in the area of HIV/Aids prevention. Our first Evangelism & HIV/Aids Workshop held in October 2005 was a great success....Praise God!!
- ◆ 2 Crank Tape Recorders were purchased along with some flip-charts depicting various Bible stories.
- ◆ His continued protection over our evangelists.
- ◆ The souls that continue to come to Christ.

Praise God for the following individuals who gave sacrificially to raise \$2600 so that the church in Mega could have new furniture and other needed supplies for their building.  
**GOD BLESS YOU!!**

**\*\* Tsegaye Berhanu \*\* Kashu Tuffa \*\* Kuku Tuffa & family \*\***

**\*\* Desta Hundessa \*\* Kassech Regassa \*\* Menalu Abebe \*\***

**\*\* Getu Sintayehu \*\* Wogane Berecha \*\* Simeneh Mengistu \*\***

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

- ◆ Pray that educational materials will be made available to the evangelists. This includes material for the literacy program that Elias and Yaikob have started 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.
- ◆ 2 crank tape recorders were purchased in the USA....please pray that God would provide a way for these to be delivered to the evangelists in Ethiopia, as these can not be sent by mail.
- ◆ Pray for the *Hand of Hope* project that will be reaching out to children orphaned as 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 organization for the Glory of God.



### **Special Requests From Borana Outreach Leadership Team**

- Pray that we would diligently work at obtaining a license for this ministry in Ethiopia
- Pray that God would provide an individual for us to hire to serve as administrator of our ministry.
- Pray that we would run the ministry wisely and according to the leading of the Holy Spirit.