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



Fall 2006

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**Reader's Corner** 



## **Hand of Hope** — Reaching out to orphans....many left behind as a result of HIV/Aids





Hand of Hope continues to sponsor Kabale and Kaliti, 2 sisters who lost both of their parents within a five year period. During the short amount of time that we have been sponsoring these 2 girls, significant changes have already begun to take place in their lives.

Prior to becoming Hand of Hope children, Kabale and Kaliti were unable to live together — one lived with their grandmother while the other lived with their uncle. Today....they both live together

and through our financial support are able to receive all the basic necessities of life.

Before becoming Hand of Hope children, Kabale and Kaliti were unable to attend school. Today....they are both enrolled in school and doing well. Kabale is in the 2nd grade and Kaliti in the 1st grade.

Both girls have received medical attention that was needed, especially Kaliti, who was quite ill for some time.

We are thankful for the difference that Hand of Hope is making in the lives of these two to give this same opportunity to other children as well.

May God richly bless those who contributed financially to make it possible for Kabale and Kaliti to have a chance at a better future.



Kabale & Kaliti with their Uncle & his wife who are their caregivers



#### **HIV/Aids Facts**

- There are an estimated 1.2 million AIDS orphans in Ethiopia today.
- 30% of the deaths of 15~49 year olds in Ethiopia is from AIDS
- Just over 10% of the world's population is in Sub-Saharan Africa — 60% of all people living with HIV live in sub-Saharan Africa (25.8 million)
- 3.2 million people in sub-Saharan Africa became newly infected with HIV during 2005
- 2.4 million adults and children died of AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa during 2005
- In Ethiopia girls between the ages of 15 and 24 are six times more likely to be infected than boys in the same age group.



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#### Testimony of Rev. Dawit Yohannes — Borana Outreach Leadership Team

I was born into a Christian family and grew-up in that context in Negelle Borana which is a very remote and rural area in the southern part of. As a young boy, I would have never had the chance to go to school if it had not been for the interference of Almighty God. The way God led me to school is a miracle that I can not forget in my life.

Missionaries from Norway came to Ethiopia to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They came to the area where my parents were living and through them my Father came to know Jesus as his personal Savior. After some time they hired him to be their evangelist and a guard at their mission station. One of the missionaries was a lady and she asked my father if he would gave her my eldest sister to educate her. Due to cultural influences at that time, my father refused her request. She asked repeatedly and my father continued to deny the request. Instead, he asked her if she would take me instead, but the missionary refused. After much negotiation, the missionary

agreed to help my father financially if he would be willing to send me to school. Through her support I attended school up until 6<sup>th</sup> grade. After that my father took the responsibility to teach me and in that way God opened the door for me to get a chance at an education. I thank God for His guidance and the plan He had and continued to have for me over the course of my life.

Even though I grew-up in a Christian family and attended church and Sunday school regularly and was actively involved in the church choir, I didn't come to know Jesus Christ as my personal Savior until 1984 when I went to Arbaminch Vocational Training School which was quite far from where I grew-up. When I arrived at the Vocational Training School, I can say that no spiritual transformation had taken place in my life. My Christianity was cultural or traditional. I had attended church only because my parents sent me to church. I did not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. I attended many Bible studies during my stay at Arbaminch and through them I learned that Christianity was somewhat different from what I knew it to be. God used the Bible studies to help me learn more and develop a relationship with Jesus Christ that changed my life.

Within a year I began to witness to my relatives, friends and neighbors about Jesus Christ and began holding a lot of Bible studies for the youth group within the church. A miracle began to take place and the lives of many Christians were changed. The church grew rapidly and within two years three additional churches were planted in the area where I was born and raised. When I joined this evangelistic movement I was a mechanic by profession and would teach the church youth group in the evenings. My heart was flamed by the Gospel of our Lord

Jesus Christ and that laid a foundation for my rest of my life.

While I was working as a mechanic I received a call from my Synod (The South Ethiopian Synod) offering me to receive training in Water Resource Engineering. I went to India to receive the necessary training and stayed there for nine months. When I returned home, the Synod assigned me to be a water technician for the Synod. Being a water technician, I had to go to several areas within the Synod premises. I worked as a technician, but I also witnessed about Jesus Christ and preached in different congregations alongside my work. My heart was more with evangelism than with the development work.

After serving as a water technician for three years in the Synod, I was again called by the Synod leaders to be leader of one of the Districts of the Synod where I would coordinate the Evangelism and Humanitarian work of the Synod. I was assigned to be leader over the district of Yavello, located in the southern part of Ethiopia at the heart of where the Borana Outreach Ministry currently is. At this time God brought me into full-time ministry and His future plan for my life began.

From this time forward I served in different areas of ministry. I became a teacher, preacher, leader, church planter and finally a Pastor. My ministerial experiences along the way included that of Sunday school teacher, Choir member and leader, Youth ministry leader, Worship program leader, Coordinator for Christian Maturity Program as well as being involved with the Theological Education by Extension at the Synod level. I was also a member of the decision making bodies of the Synod and the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) at the national level. I attended the Mekane Yesus Theological Seminary and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Theology.

For six years I served as Pastor within the EECMY at the Tabor Congregation in Awassa. The Tabor Congregation is one of the fastest growing congregations in the EECMY. It has been a mission oriented congregation since its establishment in 1996. Within the last ten years, it has planted nine congregations and more than 17 outreach preaching centers. In addition to this, it has started an in-country mission work in January 2004 in an area called the Kefa Zone. This outreach work is conducted within the highly Muslim dominated area of the Arsi Zone.

From the time I came to know Jesus as my personal Savior, I have had a zeal to reach the unreached people. When I was in Yavello leading the district, I did my best to reach the Borana people with the Gospel of our Lord. The idea to reach the Borana people in an organized and systematized way came to my heart when I was in Seminary and was approached by Solomon Yohannes. I agreed to begin and coordinate the work of the Borana Outreach Ministry. This ministry eventually joined hands with Gospel For All and I continued to serve on the leadership team in Ethiopia until this past August when I came to Norway to pursue a Master of Philosophy degree in Religious Education. I will remain in Norway until June of 2008 and God willing will return to Ethiopia to continue the ministry God has given me.

I married Tirunesh Darussa in 1992 and we have two sons, ages 9 and 13. It is my prayer that the almighty God bless the Borana Outreach Ministry and Gospel For All. I am very thankful for those of you who are behind the Borana Outreach Ministry. Without you this ministry can not go further. The input you are giving for this ministry is what we, the leadership team of this ministry and the almighty God never forget. Many lives have been changed through this ministry and as a result have come to know Jesus Christ as their personal savior. God bless you all. Yours in the Kingdom's Ministry... Rev. Dawít Yohannes

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

Evangelist Tsega-ab Bekele continues to serve God through crusades, revivals and training sessions for native pastors, church workers and evangelists.

We thank God for bringing us together with Tsega-ab and enabling us to work together hand in hand. We are excited about the training program Tsega-ab has designed for the evangelists supported by Gospel For All. The training will be held 5 days out of every month beginning in January 2007 and ending up in October 2007. The following courses will be covered:

- Old Testament Survey
- New Testament Survey
- Hermeneutics
- Gospel of John
- Intercessory Prayer
- Missions
- Church Planting
- Culture and Gospel
- Power Evangelism
- Ministry Gifts (Eph 4:11)

Five evangelists will be able to

participate in this valuable training during 2007. Please pray that God would use these courses to better equip these evangelists and that they would be able to more effectively serve the Lord. As part of the training, they will each be given an Amharic version of the NIV Study Bible.

The following evangelists have been selected to participate in the 2007 Training Program:

- I. Yaikob Dima
- 2. Dida Barako
- 3. Guyo Buke

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- 4. Teshome Tadesse
  - Abeduba Arero ( newly hired evangelist to take over the work in Deeda Jaarsa upon Dimtu's retirement).

We are thankful for God's provision in making the finances available to provide this training. Please pray that God would continue to bless this ministry and that this training program can be offered to the remaining evangelists supported by Gospel For All. 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.



**Evangelist Tsega-ab Bekele** 





Liben Wario

**Abeduba Arero** was recently hired to take over Dimtu's ministry upon her retirement. Abeduba is 22 years old and single. He grew up in the traditional Borana religion and accepted Christ at a conference in the village of Romso. Since coming to Christ he has seen a lot of changes in himself. A turning point in His life showed him how much God loved Him and was protecting him. One day, he was walking down the road and asked for a ride from a vehicle passing by, but the driver refused to give him a ride. A few kilometers down the road the car exploded when it hit a land mine. Many in the car were killed. Abeduba realized at that moment how much God was looking out for him and that God had a plan for him to bring others into the kingdom. Please pray for this young man as he works in the Deeda Jaarsa area.

**Liben Wario** has been hired to take over Taadi's ministry in the Dubluk area. Liben is 45 years old and single. He was born in the Arero area. When he was 13 years old, a group of people singing songs got his attention and he went to hear what they were singing and talking about. Liben accepted Christ at that time. When he accepted Christ, none of his family were believers, but today they have all accepted Christ. Liben has been serving in evangelistic ministry for the past 24 years. Over the years he has ministered in Yavello, Arero, Teletelle, Deeda Haara and now in Dubluk. Please pray for Liben as he joins o ur team of evangelists. Pray that God would continue to use him to bring souls to Christ.



Abeduba Arero

Please continue to pray for Wario and Guyo along with their families as they minister in this hostile area. Pray continued protection

over them and for boldness to continue to

proclaim the Good News.

Wario Galgallo & Guyo Buke continue to serve in the Moyale area, mainly in Dembi. Dembi continues to be one of the most highly populated Muslim areas in the country and is one of the hardest places to preach the Gospel. God continues to work in this area and souls continue to come into the kingdom.



**Guyo Buke** 

**God is using the youth from the Moyale area in a mighty way!** During a recent evangelistic meeting held by members of the Moyale area youth group and organized by Wario, a 15 year old girl came to the meeting. The girl, Malicha, had been demon possessed for the past 10 years. She had basically been living like an animal outside in completely unsanitary conditions. Her parents are both heavily involved with spirit worship. At the meeting, the girl asked for prayer and was prayed over and was set free! She felt so much better, she went home and brought her parents back with her so that they could hear what was going on. As a result of the miracle that took place with Malicha, many others in her village have gained interest and some have also come to know Christ!! We praise God for the work He is doing in this area!

Please pray that God would work a miracle in the lives of Malicha's parents and that they would forsake their worship of evil spirits and turn to God!



Wario with his wife, Woyeneshate and daughter Ebise. Wario serves as coordinator of the evangelists.





Left: Malicha; Right, Malicha (center) with her parents

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Teletelle

**Dida Barako & Boba Guyo** continue to minister in the Teletelle region. They continue to work in Gandelle. Please continue to uphold Dida and his family as well as Boba in your prayers.

\*\*We do not have a recent update on the work in this area due to travel and communication difficulties.



Boba Guyo



Dida Barako with his wife, Kable and their 4 children; (I-r) Alema (4), Mehrite (2), Dadacha (8) & Galemo (6)

Dida Baral dren; (I-r) Galemo (6) Yaikob Dima & Malicha Kotolo continue to work in the highly Muslim populated region of Negelle. Please pray for their continued protection as they minister in this difficult region. Continue to pray for their safety as well as the safety of their families.

\*\*We do not have a recent update on the work in this area due to travel and communication difficulties.



Malicha Kotolo with his wife, Tare and their 7 children; (I-r) Huka (5), Muse (7), Matiyos (9), Abraham (11), Mariam (13), Guyo (1), Tare, Lashe (3) and Malicha



Yaikob Dima and his wife, Sake along with their 5 children (I-r: Darmo(5), Mariam (8), Tiya(10), Kanan (1) and Nade (16)



**Dimtu Guyo** continues to minister in Deeda Jaarsa. This faithful woman of God will soon be retiring from evangelistic work. Recently, funds became available to replace the simple thatched roofed church building that Dimtu built. Over the past year, numerous repairs were constantly needed to keep the structure from falling apart. Construction has begun on a new building and we pray that the new church building will be completed by early 2007. This has been Dimtu's longtime dream and prayer. We praise God for His provision and look forward to the completion of the building.

As Dimtu's retirement nears, the leadership of this congregation will be turned over to a newly hired evangelist. God continues to work mightily in the Deeda Jaarsa congregation and souls continue to come into the Kingdom. Over the past three months seven people have accepted Christ and have joined this group of believers. We praise God for the way He continues to work in the Deeda Jaarsa





Dimtu (center) with two women from the Deeda Jaarsa congregation.



Prayer meeting in Deeda Jaarsa



Molu Jillo is a new evangelist recruited to work in the area of Chareturura. We are praying that God will use this enthusiastic young man for His glory. Please pray for the ministry of this new evangelist.

(Information regarding his background will be in the upcoming newsletter.)



**Molu Jillo** 



**Teshome Tadesse** was recently married to Tume! Congratulations!! Pray that God would bless this marriage and that Tume would be a godly partner for Teshome. Teshome would like to thank PLCF for their recent gift to him in celebration of his marriage.

The group evangelism work that Teshome has been organizing is going strong. Many young people in the Mega church as well as surrounding areas are coming together and going out into the surrounding rural areas to conduct evangelistic meetings. We will have more details on their most recent evangelistic meetings in the next newsletter. Pray that God would continue to use these young people for His glory!

"My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Colossians 2: 2~3



Teshome with his bride, Tume



**Taadi Bonaya** has served with Gospel For All for the past 3 years in the Teletelle region as well as most recently in Dubluk. God has blessed Taadi with a gift to be able to reach people for Christ and many people have come to know Christ through Taadi's ministry. Over the past year, Taadi has felt God leading him to further his education. Currently, he has a 9th grade education, but believes that by completing High School, he will more effectively be able to carry out God's calling on his life.

God has answered Taadi's prayer and provided the needed finances that will enable him to take a leave from evangelistic work and attend school full-time. After he receives his high school diploma he would like to continue with his education and attend Theology School.



Taadi Bonaya

Taadi appreciates the financial gift that PLCF recently sent to him. In a recent thank you letter to GFA he asked us to convey the following to PLCF: "This is a big thing you have done for me. It makes the transition of my family to Yavello very easy. God bless you guys for all you have done for me. May God continue to bless you in more ways that you ever expect. As you have sent me money, I would love to receive letters from you."

Please pray for Taadi and his family as they settle in Yavello and enter this new phase of their lives.

Thank you Taadi for your faithfulness in serving Christ and your desire to serve Him with excellence. May God continue to bless you and your family as you complete your education. We are confident that God is going to continue to use you while you are in school.



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### READER'S Corner

We would love to hear from you. Please write us with your comments, suggestions or just words of encourage-ment to share with our read-ers. ers. ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

"Thank you for your faithfulness in this ministry. May God continue to bless you more and more." Michael Woche

100% of all gifts go directly to support the ministry in Ethiopia

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# PRAISE & PRAYER

#### PRAISE GOD FOR....



- 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.
- His providing the resources to provide training for 5 evangelists beginning in 2007.
- Providing the finances to erect a permanent church building in Deeda Jaarsa.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray that educational materials will be made available to the evangelists. ٠ This includes material for literacy programs that have been implemented as well as health related materials in the areas of family health and hygiene and HIV/AIDS prevention.
- ٠ 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. ٠
- 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 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 the 5 evangelists who will be participating in the training program beginning in January 2007. Pray that the evangelists would gain knowledge to enable them to be more effective in their ministry.

### 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 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 name is being lifted up every day to our Father.