August 27, 2018

## FOCUS:  TRAINING GOSPEL PREACHERS



Left: 39th Session of the Jajura School of Preaching students and instructors.  Right: 37th Session of the Santariea School of Preaching students and instructors.  Two sessions each year are conducted at our four Level One schools.  Seventy five to ninety men are trained in the schools every year.  There is a constant need for more preachers to fill the pulpits of the local congregations.

The first Preacher Training School (PTS) was established in Addis Ababa in 1968.  In 1973 the school in Santariea was started.  When the Marxists government assumed control in the mid-1970s, the schools were closed and a system of bible seminars was organized.  These were short term (one or two weeks as situations allowed) and that continued until 1991 when the government changed and freedom to conduct the PTS's returned.  At that time, all the teaching was done using the Amharic language; the national language of the country.  However, in a few years the results of the Ministry of Education policy of requiring every school, public and private, to teach in the local tribal languages of the people living in the areas began to affect our PTS program.  By that time all our instructors were from the areas where the PTS's were located; they spoke the local language and that system continues until now.

The PTS program faces some challenges.  The economy of Ethiopia has improved and a number of trade schools have been established in the cities and rural areas.  These trade schools provide an opportunity for young men and women, following their high school education, to be trained and employed.  Young men that would normally have been farmers were able to find jobs.  This reduced the pool of PTS students that usually came from the farms.  When our PTS's are closed, the instructors travel among the congregations recruiting students, young and old.  The need for preachers remains acute and the schools are still training men.  Please pray for this process to continue.

## TRAINING BRETHREN FROM DIFFERENT AREAS:





On the left are three PTS students from the Oromo Tribe of central Ethiopia. Right: two students from northwest Ethiopia from the Benishangule Gumez tribe. These are exciting times when our preachers go into new areas and among new people to teach the saving message of Jesus. The Benishangule Region shares their western border with North Sudan and probably their ancestors were Sudanese. But, now they are Ethiopians and are our Christian brothers. There still are many different Regions in Ethiopia where the gospel message has never been preached and slowly, one by one, our preachers are reaching out to some. Your involvement makes this possible.

## ESTABLISHING NEW CONGREGATIONS:



Every month preachers travel, mostly by walking, to new places to establish new churches. The one on the left was planted by a graduate from the Nekemte Preacher Training School a few weeks following his graduation. These new churches face many problems. In every area different faith systems compete for the hearts and minds of the people in their respective areas. Religious traditions passed down from one generation to the next are highly respected in the Ethiopian culture. Satan is at work! Please pray for the preachers and the new Christians that they will be strong and able to stand up against the onslaughts.

## SERVING THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN:







Our kindergarten in Shinchicho is an example of the caring and loving hearts of our Ethiopian brethren. Lifting up and preparing these little ones for the future will bless them the rest of their lives. Jesus loved little children, especially the poor. All the great ministries mentioned in this newsletter are made possible because of God's blessing and because of your faithfulness and prayers. Thank you for all you do for his Kingdom. We pray His blessings will continue upon you.

Kevin and John Ed Clark