

# Pastor Gerwin – Ethiopia

*Serving the Lord in Nazareth, ETHIOPIA: East Africa*

3rd Quarter Update 2011

Dear Pastor Wee,

Greetings in Christ's name from the Horn of Africa!

For almost 3 months now East African countries have been in the spotlight due to political instability, climate change and hunger in these places. According to the World Food Organization, there are 4.5 million Ethiopians affected by hunger and most of the people affected are found in remote areas near the borders of Somalia and Kenya. Hunger is commonly experienced by the majority of the people in this country even here in Nazareth. The need is so great.

About the ministry, two of my men are now involved in teaching the Word of God to their own people. Bro Kalbesa Beyene is now my new Sunday school teacher. Despite of his hectic schedule in his research work for his PhD he has still time to study and teach God's Word. While my assistant Bro Demessie Gulelat is now doing well in preaching the Word of God every Sunday. Gradually, I'm delegating the ministry to them so that when time comes they will be ready to handle the ministry here in Nazareth. Though both of these men are active serving the Lord yet they are facing many struggles in their respective secular jobs. Would you include them in your prayers?

Every Saturday afternoon, some of our young people are now involved in teaching Bible stories in our children's ministry. It is a joy indeed to see people you've won to the Lord learn to minister to their own people. But one of the most challenging parts in the ministry is to see how your new convert overcome persecutions. One of our faithful young men is now forbidden to help our children's ministry by his Orthodox parents. It is so painful indeed to see them cry because they have learned to love the ministry but are now forbidden to take part in the ministry.

Our young people's group and children's ministry are also growing. In fact, we had a contest in memorizing books of the Bible and verses, and to our surprise, even small children could memorize in English. Remember, this country has a very low literacy rate in Africa yet they were able to learn so quickly. As a reward to those who were able to memorize, we treated them to one of the most beautiful lake resort here in Ethiopia. When they saw the place for the very first time they were so amazed by the beautiful panoramic view of their own country. For all of them it was their first time to eat full plates of food as well as ice cream in one of the finest resorts and they also enjoyed eating, swimming and playing ball games.

During our 23<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary, most of our married couples joined us, too, to enjoy the goodness of God in that resort as well.

Four new believers have followed the Lord in believer's water baptism. One of them is a 24 year old young man living in a very remote area, where there is no Christians in that place. I was touched when he told me, "Can you give me a Bible because in our village there is no church." We surely need more laborers in this country.

Even though we have a hard time to win these Orthodox people yet when you see them getting saved, you can say that it is really rewarding! And truly, there is rejoicing in heaven over one sinner that repenteth".

Thank you so much for holding the ropes for us,

**Bro Gerwin Alconera and family**

**Prayer Request:**

- 1. Spiritual maturity of the believers.**
- 2. More men to be train in the ministry.**
- 3. Salvation of the Ethiopians.**
- 4. Open Doors**
- 5. More mission partners.**