



Dear friends and partners,

As we have mentioned before there is a great need for Christian literature written in Amharic for Ethiopians. This need and the leading of the Spirit are what drive me to continue writing books and booklets on different topics. We also have started putting our previously taped Bible Studies, which are presented in a series, into books. Since the majority of the people we reach are in Ethiopia, most of our book printing is done there. From the conversations I have with our Ethiopia office, some of our books are in their third and fourth printing. They tell me the quantity of books printed varies from ten thousand to thirty thousand. The demand is high. In a society where buying a book is a luxury for the average person, this demand indicates a tremendous desire to learn and grow. We have Christians who live in the country of Eritrea, north of Ethiopia who want to purchase the resources we produce using their currency (Naqfa). The exchange rate however, is only six cents to the dollar.

Though limited, there is no shortage of written materials that promote a quick fix to the Christian life. Some materials are translated from books written in English promoting wealth, health and happiness. That is contrary to scripture. There are very limited teachings in written format that emphasize holy and righteous living. In this post-Christian era in which we live, it seems like the message of Jesus has and is being down played. In Matthew 7:13-14 he says: **“Enter by the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”** Many who claim to be Christians are seen walking the wide road without any quams. It is no different in the Ethiopian Christian community. I know this because I get call after call from those who live that life style and find themselves confused, depressed, discontent and some even suicidal. Paul said in Galatians 6:8 **“For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”**

And so, to help equip our brothers and sisters in Christ, I am currently in the process of writing a book on the Fruit of the Spirit. **“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control”** (Galatians 5:22). This book will cover each fruit with a description of what it means, how it is cultivated and what the obstacles are to having the fruit in our lives. We hope to have it published sometime this year. Please join us in prayer for funds and for mass distribution. Pray that those who read this book may be encouraged and at the same time be challenged by the message to live a life that honors the Lord.

Melese Wognu

"With Knowledge and Understanding..."

The primary challenge of Ethiopian evangelical churches these days, among many, is the lack of “shepherds who will feed their flock with knowledge and understanding”. This is true not only inside Ethiopia but around the world where Ethiopian churches and Ethiopian Christian fellowships exist. We receive many letters, e-mails and phone calls from our daily radio program listeners and from those who come across the Christian resources we produce. Many of the spiritual issues raised have to do with lack of mature Christian leadership and teaching of God’s word with knowledge and understanding. The ones that ‘feed with knowledge and understanding’ are so few that the great number of Christians search for sound biblical teachings. Among these, Ethiopia Gidey is one of them who recently wrote us from Ethiopia. Yes, Ethiopia is her first name but we will call her by her last name in this article.

Gidey started her letter with the bible verse from Jeremiah 3:15; **“And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.”** And here’s her reason. As she described it, the teaching of God’s word that is delivered with knowledge and understanding, aired over EOM’s daily radio broadcast, changed her life. She wrote the following:

To my dear teacher, producer of Yenigat Kokeb Dimts Radio (Voice of Morning Star Radio),

Grace and peace be to you from our Lord and Savior. I am writing to thank you for helping me come to the light of Jesus that freed me from the bondage of darkness I was in. I came to know the Lord three years ago and started following Him. But soon after that, I started feeling guilty because all I do in my relationship with Jesus was not enough to erase my sins. I was de-

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Jack of All Trades, Master of None

“Jack of all trades, master of none” is a figure of speech. The phrase used in its entirety generally describes a person whose knowledge, **while covering a number of areas, is superficial in all of them,....**” (Wikipedia).

It was interesting to have this figure of speech pop into my head one Sunday morning while sitting in church. That morning my mind was preoccupied with different thoughts triggered by an irritating morning I had with my son and his friend who stayed over for the night. As I frequently do I started analyzing why I was irritated. What was it really about? And the bottom line was that I need to change the way I relate to my now adult (18 year old) son who by the way is a mother’s dream.

This realization then led to other thoughts about the Christian life. In so many ways we live this life being ‘Jack of all trades, master of none’. What I mean is that we do the Christian things; go to church, attend Growth Group, go on mission trips, go to retreats, follow our favorite speakers wherever they go, feed the poor and on and on it goes. But when it comes to dealing with our inner person especially in relation to our brothers and sisters in Christ, there seems to be a disconnect between what we claim (love our God and our neighbor) and how we live it.

As we all know, loving someone as God commands is easier said than done especially if they are a difficult person. For some, it is even hard to say ‘I love you’; so this love thing is challenging at best, impossible at worst, without God. But there is no way around it for those of us who follow Jesus because the two most important commandments have to do with love.

‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the

second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ (Matt. 22:37-40)

“Whoever does not love his brother whom he has seen **CANNOT** love God whom he has not seen” (1 John 4:20).

Love is patient, love is kind...It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs...It always protects...always perseveres. (1 Corinthians 13:1-8a and 13)

If we truly stop and meditate on just these verses we will see that as my teacher Deb puts it “most of the time we are sleep walking through our Christian life”. True transformation eludes us because we pick and choose what we want to obey and avoid having to look below the waterline. We expect others to get their act together but we rarely stop to think about

our own sin that is masked with good deeds and godly words. **“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? (Jeremiah 17:9)**. Is it any wonder then that our spiritual growth is stunted or things aren’t working out in our lives or we have no more zeal for the things of God or that we are restless and discontented? In 1 Corinthians 13 it talks about the

“...The question then is, do we want to be transformed or do we want to continue staying in our comfort zone being ‘Jack of all trades, master of none’?”

futility of everything we do if we do not have love. And this love of God demands that we love the unlovable because while we were still sinners (unlovable) He loved us. So, we are without excuse.

The question then is, do we want to be transformed or do we want to continue staying in our comfort zone being “Jack of all trades, master of none”? I believe that we do ourselves a huge disservice when avoiding the call to love the challenging person that God **continues** to put in our lives. This is because in the process of loving the person out of obedience we are the one that ends up changing. The other person might not change and that is ok because it is not in our control to change others but to love them. May God help us all. □

Sossena Maybury



Continued from page 1

pending on my own righteousness to gain God's favor. Guilt took over my life. I started getting depressed to the point I wanted to commit suicide. I attempted to kill my self a few times but failed. For eight months, I was suffering from sever depression.

One evening while I was so distraught, I started fumbling with my shortwave radio looking for some station to listen to. I found your program and paused to listen. I heard the spirit of God speak to my heart so clearly for the very first time in the teaching titled "To effectively resist the devil, put on the armor of God". Sir, this is the reason why I started my letter with the verse from Jeremiah 3:15. You see, you fed me God's word with knowledge and understanding. I understood what it means to be forgiven completely. I understood what I have to do to resist my enemy whom I battle with constantly. I learned a great deal what it takes to walk on the narrow path. Today, I am a changed person, no more depression. When I understood clearly and knew that I don't have to do anything at all to gain God's forgiveness, I became free. I thank God above all and I thank you for the shepherd and teacher God sent my way to guide me to His pasture where I found rest. Thank you for your daily radio programs, thank you for the books and bible study booklets, thank you for the taped messages. Thank you for your faithfulness and dedication in teaching the word of God.

I want you to know that I have already contacted your office in Addis Ababa and ordered tapes and other resources. I am enjoying a steady growth in my relationship with the Lord as a result of the guidance I get from your teachings. I also enjoy sharing the tapes and the information of the radio program with those around me. Thank you and God bless you.

*Your sister in Christ,
Ethiopia Gidey*

May you be encouraged as you read this testimony of Gidey; that all the prayers and tears you shed for the lost and for the distressed on the journey to Zion is accounted for in the sight of our father. Please continue to pray that God will provide shepherds who will feed the flock with **knowledge and understanding**. Be encouraged also that your support, whether it be financial, time or talent, is used to impact thousands of lives for the glory of God. □

Please remember the following in your prayers



Praise to God for...

- ◆ His guidance in the work He has assigned us to do.
- ◆ His continued provision.
- ◆ The many prayers offered on behalf of EOM.
- ◆ Encouragement we receive regularly—your phone calls, e-mails, notes, and testimonies of God working in the lives of believers...we are grateful to all of you.
- ◆ The generous hearts and hands of EOM's partners.
- ◆ The lives that are touched and transformed by the message of the gospel around the world.
- ◆ Those thousands of Ethiopians who drew encouragement and strength from God's word proclaimed over our radio broadcasts and through the various printed and recorded messages... Glory and honor to our God!!!
- ◆ The good health of EOM's staff and their families.

Please pray for...

- ◆ Dr. Wogu's mission trip from March 25 through April 21. As in the past, pray for safety, plenty of harvest on the field, and for God to be glorified at every meeting.
- ◆ Peace and stability in Ethiopia. Pray for unity in the body of Christ to bring comfort and hope in Jesus Christ to the people in these difficult times. Pray for wisdom for the Church in the developed countries as to how they can help the churches in Ethiopia.
- ◆ The persecuted Christians in Eritrea. Imprisonment and torture of believers still taking place as you read this newsletter. Pray for perseverance, comfort, and victory over the enemy.
- ◆ The rise of godly church leaders who needed encouragement equipping to fill the desperately needed gap of sound bible teachers and shepherds.
- ◆ EOM to have access to resources to train more leaders in the next few years.

Thank you for praying.

Ethiopian Outreach Ministry
P.O. Box 2241
York, PA 17405
U.S.A.
Phone: (717) 846-2041; Fax: (717) 846-9847
E-Mail: eom@eomusa.org
Internet Address: www.eomusa.org

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Dear friends,

We want to thank those of you who responded to our **Ministry Opportunity** column. Because of the support you sent, we continue to effectively execute the mission of proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ that frees people from the bondage of sin. Many followers of Christ are also receiving encouragement from the teachings of the scripture we put out on a regular basis.

Distribution of recorded teachings, printed Bible studies and books, as well as the radio broadcast that reaches millions of Ethiopians every single day of the year—all that and more is possible because of your continued and generous financial support.

To our friends and partners who have not yet had the opportunity to help with the projects and needs listed on the right, we pray that the Lord speaks to your heart on how you can help.

- ➔ Dr. Wogu's **ongoing leadership training**, offered twice a year to local pastors and lay leaders in Ethiopia. (The first of the two in 2009 will be conducted in March.)
- ➔ When you consider **helping with in-house printing**, you enable hundreds of believers in rural Ethiopia who cannot afford to cover the cost of printing to receive Bible study materials at no cost.
- ➔ Your support of **radio programming** will enable us to deliver the comforting and empowering word of God to people denied of their rights to publicly worship the true God of the Bible. You will also enable us to reach those in prisons, hospitals and remote villages.

Thank you again for being part of God's work among Ethiopians.

*** Indicates that the need is continuous**



News and Views is a quarterly publication of Ethiopian Outreach Ministry. Board of Directors: Dr. Melese Wogu, *Executive Director*, Mike Parthree, *President*, Rev. Steve Almquist, *Secretary*, Richard E. Snyder, *Treasurer*, Dr. Nelson Lehman, Richard D. Naylor, Shawle Wehibe

Ministry Opportunity

Sponsor any day or week of radio broadcast *

- One day broadcast -----\$ 60
- Three days broadcast -----\$180
- One Week broadcast-----\$420

Help With In-House Printing Expense*

- One month sponsorship ---\$ 175
- ¼ year printing cost-----\$ 525
- One year printing cost----- \$ 2,100

Assist the effort of developing church leaders in Ethiopia*

- Training facility rental----- \$ 526
- Teaching resource ----- \$ 300
- Scholarship for 50 participants-- \$ 724
- Airfare/Travel Expense ----- \$2539

Needs in the office (Equipment/PC upgrade)

Two computers that need to be upgraded (each \$957) ----- \$ 1,914

This one-time need is met by our ministry partners in Montana. PTL!