

Addis Ababa Bible Training School Report



We are now at the beginning of our sixth week of classes. We are all very much enjoying the process of exploring God's word deeply. The brothers that we are teaching have settled in quite well. We will continue translating our class lectures and discussions for some time to come – possibly through the course of the full 2-year program.

Something that has really impressed me is how well the brothers get along with each other. Their dormitory is very packed and would represent a real challenge to most Americans trying to live together so closely 24/7 for such a long time. But these brothers do truly appear to love and enjoy one another. It is such a blessing to see. Some of them were initially reserved and seemed suspicious of their circumstances and what they had "signed up for." But within 2-3 weeks those reservations appear to have disappeared. Faces that were not vibrant and appearing comfortable at the beginning of class are now smiling and bright virtually all the time. Joe Boe and I both have been impressed by these changes. I had told the men early on I realized the challenges they faced and that one of the things that

would most help them would be to purposefully love and enjoy each other—they all appear to have done that very well.

Academically, they have done very well as a group. There are those who struggle with language. A couple are not even fluent with Amharic so that presents a special problem to them. But they have learned to lean upon one another to make up for the challenges they each have faced. Our first round of exams saw 4-5 failing. But with special effort and assistance from their classmates, they are each passing. This second set of my classes had only one that did not pass the first mid-term exam. He will make things up—language is the problem, and we'll help him get past that.

A week ago, Sunday evening, 5 or 6 of the men shared with the assembly some things about their backgrounds and interests. Behailu quietly summarized for me what each of them had to say. At the end, Behailu observed, “This is such a great group of men—I just love them so much!” We all share that sentiment. Pray that God blesses each of them with hearts to be blessed by and grow from their ongoing study of the word of God. We all do believe there will be some great leaders grow out of this group of students.

The picture at the top of this Newsletter is of the students holding their “Chromebooks.” An NGO in Fresno, California that makes these devices available to educational institutions blessed us with enough for each of the students and a few staff. We populated them with memory cards that hold all of Sunset International Bible Institutes materials for the full two years. This is quite a blessing. There are other suitable resources that we have been able to place on the devices as well. These Chromebooks will likely remain a blessing to these men and the brethren they serve for years to come.

Joe Boe and his wife and I will all 3 be leaving this weekend. Behailu, Moges and Alemayehu will be teaching for the next 8 weeks or so. I will return at some point after the first of the year. I will also be back December 1-10 accompanying Greg Smith who is a Creative Designer/Photographer/Videographer. Greg recently retired from a long career in this field and has worked with several NGO's

developing materials and web presences. We have recently set up a new NGO in the State of Arkansas that will be able to receive donations from donors who would not donate to a “religious” organization. This will allow us to raise funds for the Deaf School, Water Well Drilling program, and the Medical Clinic on the Compound here from such organizations and individuals. Pray that this effort is a blessing to the work here. Fundraising is always a challenge for many groups like this. Lord willing, this will make possible some needed new funding sources.

Blessings to each of you who have interest in this work. We do covet your prayers on behalf of all our Ethiopian brethren throughout the nation of Ethiopia. May God be praised through all our efforts.

Blessings to all,

Jim Wilson