

## Report on Grace Bible Church's Partnership with Harvest in Ethiopia

*Note: Partnership began between GBC and Harvest with congregational vote on March 2009*

By Demelash Lemma – Country Coordinator, Ethiopia

Greetings the hard way. Sometimes we have no electricity, no internet connection and the likes. Even my attempts to talk on telephone and get updated reports about different seed projects were difficult. Sorry for that. I am not fully satisfied with the pictures the churches sent but they are better than nothing. However, the training sessions have been very moving and I have deeply touched with radical shift and commitment of especially the Pentecostal churches. Instead of just praying and asking for God to meet the need of their community, they are now doing their part. I am sending two pictures.

The first picture below shows a child with broken hand. The family wasn't able to take the child to hospital for treatment due to lack of \$35.00. Providing the funds was the seed project which I encouraged the church to do on the spot. The church raised the funds in two days. Praise God the child is now in good progress. Had this church not responded to the need of this family, the result could be disastrous.

The second picture shows a seed project in which the church helped a needy lady in the community to sew for living in stead of looking handouts from neighbors. She knew how to sew but couldn't afford to buy the sewing machine. After our training, the church community identified this lady and supported her with \$225 to purchase the machine. Now she is applying her skill and supporting herself. The church became her refuge at time of need when there is no one else to turn to. Her family is praising God as they see God's care and love in their time of brokenness and need.



Demelash Lemma



Picture #1—Boy with hand in cast



Picture #2—Woman with new Sewing Machine

Finally, I have attached a list of the training sessions I have made through the Harvest Ethiopia office. I thank God for the assistance of my trainees, Pastor Bezalem and Solomon from Emmanuel church. They have trained a huge number of people from that church and the church is impacting the community around them. The trainees are now practicing seed projects. For example, each local church is now supporting at least 5 orphans, or senior citizens and they are opening Kindergarten schools next to the church buildings. Bezalem had a wonderful training session for 60 key leaders on July 10 & 11 at Jimma town.

Blessings  
Demelash Lemma

<b>No</b>	<b>Types of trainings</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>No of people participating</b>
1	<i>Vision conference</i>	<i>March 1,2008</i>	<i>Addis Ababa</i>	<i>23</i>
2	<i>Regional TOT</i>	<i>April 06-10,2008</i>	<i>Addis Ababa</i>	<i>35</i>
3	<i>National ToT</i>	<i>May 9-10,200</i>	<i>Addis Ababa</i>	<i>12</i>
4	<i>National TOT</i>	<i>July 17-19,2008</i>	<i>Awassa</i>	<i>60</i>
5	<i>National TOT</i>	<i>August 7-9.2008</i>	<i>Nazareth</i>	<i>30</i>
6	<i>Vision casting</i>	<i>April 2,2009</i>	<i>Addis Ababa</i>	<i>7</i>
7	<i>Vision casting</i>	<i>April 16,2009</i>	<i>Addis Ababa</i>	<i>8</i>
8	<i>Vision casting</i>	<i>April 30,2009</i>	<i>Addis Ababa</i>	<i>7</i>
9	<i>TOT (Master trainers )</i>	<i>May 29-30,2009</i>	<i>Addis Ababa</i>	<i>18</i>
10	<i>TOT (Master trainers ) Continued</i>	<i>June 5-6,2009</i>	<i>Addis Ababa</i>	<i>18</i>
11	<i>Regional TOT</i>	<i>June 12-14,2009</i>	<i>Awassa</i>	<i>150</i>

**Awassa** The Awassa church is located 295 km south of the capital, Addis Ababa. This church has strong Pentecostal background and experienced strong persecution during the Communist era in Ethiopia. Two of the senior pastors spent over 10 years in jail. Soon after their release, the church began growing from hundreds into the present number of nearly 2,500.00 in the last 15 years. However, the church had used "traditional evangelism" so long, that community needs have been neglected. The communities around are in a great need. The church leaders were eager to support community outreach but were afraid and didn't want to get out of the traditional way of doing things.

By God's grace, the senior pastor's wife participated in the regional Training of Trainers' session in the capital. Soon, she embraced and shared the vision of demonstrating God's love with the proclamation of the Gospel. She shared with her husband and other leaders. As a result, the church where her husband is pastor invited me to train them and others on Friday June 12-14/2009. 225 key church leaders actively participated.

At the end of the training, they did seed projects in groups. They raised \$385.00 (5,000 Birr) on that day. Out of those funds they provided;

1. A sewing machine (equivalent to Ethiopian 3,000 Birr) to a woman so that she can support herself and her family.
2. Prepared school materials to help one orphan boy to send him to school;
3. Provide one time food support for a disabled women living around the church;
4. Provided funds for a boy with a broken arm to go to hospital for treatment.

**Baherdar** Bahir Dar is located North part of Ethiopia. The Regional Evangelical Church Fellowship Secretary participated on the Regional Training of Trainers. He caught the vision of local churches blessing their communities with their own resources and was burdened to share it among the churches he serves. Soon after, he led the training he had received in 3 major towns (Enjibara, Gondar and Bahir Dar) for 110 church leaders. These leaders carried out seed projects to bless their communities. Then they travelled to Nazareth, where training has already been done and wonderful seed projects practiced. There took seed projects to a new level and engaged in micro-finance seed projects. Members of the church began contributing money to address both social and economic needs in their community. As a result, they provided economic resources and trained needy people to work on sheep raising, and micro-businesses such as baking local bread (which is called 'enjera') for selling to near-by restaurants. As a result of the churches activities, World Vision Ethiopia saw what they were doing and has partnered with them.

**Nekemt** Nekemte is located 350 kms South West of Ethiopia. Similar to the above, the Secretary of the Regional Evangelical Fellowship, one Bible teacher and another pastor participated in a regional Training of Trainers which I conducted.

In a very coordinated way these leaders began sharing what they have learned and have expanded the training in their areas. They have trained 498 church leaders from a near by regions. These are Fincha, Shanbu, Bako, Nekemte, Getema, Arejo Gudetu, Geda and and also trained 18 missionaries.

The major seed projects in the area were helping a widow on her farm, house maintenance, and collecting clothes from members to distribute to needy people.