

DESSIE MISSION

2017 MISSION TO DESSIE, ETHIOPIA.



A Christmas Mission

Dessie mission started on 20 December, with one-to-one street evangelism. The main proclamation mission was held from Dec 22 – 24, 2017 in the cities of Dessie and Kombolcha. The churches were mobilized for the work of evangelism throughout the year culminating at the proclamation mission.

The Dessie area is generally considered to be one of the most gospel-resistant places in the country. The area is a stronghold for other religions, carrying out an evangelistic mission was a tough undertaking. **Through God's mighty hand**, the mission has had remarkable outcomes.

THE MISSION IN SUMMARY

- 6,720 reached with the Gospel
- 650 gave their lives to Christ.
- 120 street children fed, clothed and given Gospel tracts.
- New believers in a very Gospel resistant area.
- Improved church unity.
- Houses repaired to keep vulnerable families safe.

The number of people reached with the gospel was 6,720 and those who gave their life to the Lord reached 650. Many more were liberated through prayer from dark practices.

Even more so, the passion created in the hearts of believers for renewed evangelism and witnessing is a positive outcome of the mission. The church leaders acknowledged with appreciation **AEE's role for such a meaningful harvest which has not been observed for many years in that part of the country.**

AEE is a precious friend of the church in Ethiopia



Rev Wagnaw is the Regional Synod President of Mekane Yesus Church. He is one of the key leaders in Dessie city. He has been actively participating in Dessie mission activities. This is what he has to say about the AEE mission:

"What is commendable about AEE is its true partnership mentality with the church. AEE sees Christian mission as a joint venture between the church and itself. It comes as a good colleague and not as a boss. It does not dictate but facilitates. In the leadership trainings and other pre mission activities, we have witnessed AEE being a coworker with the church in the kingdom work. All the churches in the city were willing enough to come together for this mission because of AEE's kingdom mindedness and cohesive approach."

TESTIMONIES

1. By now I would have been dead if Jesus hadn't rescued me



Fantaye Asfaw is 23.

"I completed high school and am engaged in a micro business. But for me life has been boring. I hated myself to the extent that I was determined to commit suicide. On one occasion I even bought a rope to hang myself with. But suddenly I heard the good news of Jesus.

A missionary approached me in the city of Dessie and told me about the peace Jesus gives to those who believe in him. That was what I was lacking most. I committed my life to Jesus and in the few days of my walk with Jesus I experienced a marvelous peace of mind. I was a person who was walking in darkness but now I have seen light. I was someone who hated herself but learnt that I am loved by Jesus. I was a person who wanted to die but now I know that Jesus wants me to live with him forever.

From now on, I want to study the Bible, grow in the Christian faith and become a market place evangelist. Becoming a business woman and a witness for Jesus is my strong desire."

2. Now I can see a dawn of hope and life



During door-to-door evangelism, AEE mission volunteers went past an abandoned looking house on the verge of falling down. Inside the house they found a seriously debilitated man sleeping.

Tefera Kassaye, 33, was amazed that people made an effort to enter his shanty house. He was amazed by their love and affection. He says,

"I have been incapacitated for 19 years, with no one to look after me – often I go hungry for days. I couldn't even make use of the wheelchair I received as donation, because I don't have the money to buy new tyres. I was literally hopeless

and with no peace until I heard that Jesus loves me. I accepted Jesus as my savior and since then I have peace like that I did not experience before."

Tefera was very excited to see AEE supporting him through changing his wheelchair tires. He has a renewed hope because his house is to be repaired with AEE's support.

"Now I know I have eternal life and my name is written in the book of life in heaven. I know where I will be going when I die."

3. The name Jesus Christ is totally new to me



Nuru Hussein used to live in the streets when he was approached by missionaries. He accepted the Lord and immediately taken to a church compound.

This is what he says.

“After the death of my parents I became totally hopeless and came out to the street. The street has been my home place for many years. One day some people came to me and told me about Jesus Christ. Though I am 25 years of age I have never heard of this name, Jesus. They told me that he loves me and will take me to heaven. That is a new concept to me because as a Muslim I believed that I will go to heaven through my good deeds.

It has only been a few days since I first believed – but I know that I am now a new creation. The peace I have inside of me tells me this. AEE picked me up from the streets, took me to a church, washed my shabby body, gave me clothes, fed me, showed me love and care. I now look different. From the streets to the church; from following other religions to faith in Jesus. Now, I am on the right track and know that Jesus is the only way to heaven, and have started reading the Bible.

Immediately after my conversion I went to my relatives, (whom I have not seen for many years) and told them about the new life I have in Jesus. They resisted but I will continue to go and tell them. I want my relatives to know Jesus.

My friends on the street say I have become a new person. My wish is to be engaged in some kind of business for a living, attend church and witness about Jesus Christ.”

4. Thank you for considering us as worthy of invitation



Feeding street children and providing them with clothing was a component of the mission. This was done in a well-organised manner.

Church members went out to the streets a week ahead of the mission date and invited 120 street children for lunch with an invitation card. Each one of them was also given a gospel tract along with the invitation letter.

The invitees came to an open field to listen to the word preached. From the 120 children in attendance, nearly 30 accepted the Lord and were prayed for. Lunch was served to each one of them. They were so happy to be

considered “**honoured people**”, and receive an invitation for the meeting and for lunch. They said they will continue to come to church because they have received love and respect from Christians. (This picture shows the process of serving food.)

5. Thank God that I am now safer with my 3 children



Habtam Birlie lives in this shanty house with her three children. The roof is covered with polyethylene plastic; the wall is made from shrubs. She recently became a believer in Jesus through the Dessie.

“After the death of my husband I had to take care of our three children. I traveled from place to place in search of a living. I am a daily laborer, working as porter or on any manual job. Life has become hard to me as a single mother.

One day someone from the church came to where I am staying and told me about Jesus. I believed in Jesus and now I have peace of mind and hope.

The rainy season is a difficult time for me. The wind removes the plastic cover and it becomes as if we are outside in the rain. We could not sleep. Now I am so happy because the roof of this shelter will be replaced by iron sheets with the support of AEE. My house will be “made new”. My children are so happy. I raise my hands to God and say “thank you God” and thank you AEE.”

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 AEE Ethiopia.