

## Ethiopia Trip Report from Pastor Dennis Hadley

Thank you for your prayers and loving support. Sherry and I have of course returned safely to San Jose from our trip to Ethiopia. We had a wonderful time for ministry and relationship reunion. I have been overwhelmed by the greetings and welcome I have received since returning home.

Many of you have been asking me to please share about our trip. So although I would love to give you a report in person anytime we can get together, for now I will give a written report on our trip.

Sherry spent most of her first week in Ethiopia (before I arrived) visiting the Transformation Love sponsored children and their mothers. She also took the opportunity to continue to train our 15 Transformation Love volunteer social workers along with Nebiyu, our Transformation Love Child Sponsorship Director at Mekanisa Addis Kidan Baptist Church in Addis Ababa (Nebiyu and some of the volunteer workers pictured). She taught and ministered to all of the transformation love families plus many more HIV affected families that week. We currently have 65 children sponsored and opportunities to help hundreds more.



The day after I arrived I began a two day Pastor's training conference for twenty four Pastors with the Addis Kidan Baptist denomination in Ethiopia (FYI: Addis Kidan means New Testament in English). The first day was spent teaching them how to be a Pastor and what it means to Shepherd God's flock. I spent that day teaching from Psalm 23, 1 Peter 5, and 1 Timothy 3. On the second day I taught them how to disciple people and drew most of my teachings from the gospel of John. I taught them the Disciples Cross illustration and focused on the importance of; keeping Christ in the center of your life, living in the Word of God and how to receive and obey the Word of God through discovery Bible Study method. This is a very important need in the Ethiopian Church. Of course we spent time studying and practicing prayer. I also spent a good amount of time helping them understand how and why to develop small group ministry and how to build relationship in the body of Christ. And we discussed and challenged the church to the great commission and how God has called every disciple into a mission for His Kingdom purpose. I pray that this

training will bear fruit in all twenty four churches and beyond. I was invited to a meeting at the denomination office where they have asked for a continued partnership and training.



While I was teaching these Pastors, Sherry and Rita Hittler (one of our Transformation Love board members) distributed the monthly food and supplies to the Transformation Love families and continued to visit homes and minister to the families personally. During the Friday Good Samaritan Ministry program, Sherry and Rita shared the Word of God to around 200 HIV+ women. That day we (all the Pastors)

joined them to pray over these people and we witnessed God moved in a powerful way.

Throughout the trip, God moved us to teach and preach often. I preached one Sunday at Emmanuel Addis Kidan Baptist Church in Addis Ababa in the midst of a 95% Muslim community. The church is suffering great persecution but they have compassion on the people around them. The area is surrounded by prostitution and

sets next door to the Islamic training school. God gave me a message before I knew anything about this church and the area from Jonah that He wants to reach this community. His word says He is a “gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents in sending calamity” (Jonah 4:2). Much like God sent Jonah to the Nineveh, He is sending the church to the Muslims. I believe God wants them to repent and to experience His love and compassion in the same way.

The following Sunday I preached at a church in the Korah area of Addis Ababa (the same area as Mekanisa Addis Kidan Church). These two churches set in the midst of the poorest of poor in Ethiopia. The Korah area started as a leper colony and still is to some degree but is now filled more with HIV+ families (mostly women and children) who have been cast aside by much of the society. This church, (don't remember the Amharic name but in English it means Gospel Light Baptist) I preached at has been there for a few years but has not been able to minister to the needs of the community. They are begging Transformation Love to partner with them for child sponsorship as we have done at Mekanisa Addis Kidan church. God gave me a message from 2 Chronicles 20 on facing the battles with the enemy in faith. 2 Chronicles 20:15 says, “The battle is not yours, but God's”. After I preached, while walking home with the Pastor of that church, he told me that earlier that morning during their prayer time God had given them a Word from the book of Psalms in which the message was clear that God would take care of their battles and the message I gave them was both instructive and confirming to the church.

The majority of the rest of our time was spent at teaching small group bible studies for staff, children, and families, visiting homes, hearing their stories, praying for the people, delivering gifts sent by sponsors, and getting updates and new pictures. We all had the opportunity to teach Sunday School to the children of Transformation Love as well.

The overall report is wonderful and the ministry is running beautifully. The children's health and nutrition is much improved and their schooling is going very well. Many of these children have become followers of Jesus. We are so pleased with the ministry that Nebiyu and the volunteer workers are doing in the area. We had the opportunity to make plans for our upcoming summer Evergreen Valley Church team mission trip and will have great opportunities to minister to students through a summer camp.



We also made a trip to the city of Dire Dawa, near the borders of Somalia and Djibouti. In this town, working through Mesereite Christo Church we have started a Transformation Love ministry to the “Women of Transformation”. We are reaching out to prostitutes in the community with the gospel and once they have been touched by Jesus, we are helping to retrain them to live out a pure life of freedom. We are developing an amazing program to train and equip these

women to start businesses. We spent a lot of time with the church leadership working out the details of this ministry. Sherry and Rita spent time with the women, ministering to them and developing a workable plan to move forward on our first project, a sewing business with four women ready to begin and ten more in training. We spent a lot of time crunching numbers, shopping business locations, and even pricing out equipment and supplies. The process is education and training, followed by practice in an apprenticeship, then moving into business as a group loan with the goal to begin to make a living while using loan payback to start up the next group of those being trained. The women will participate not only in business together but also in discipleship and mentoring of others allowing this ministry to multiply and grow. Although the challenges are great, we were very pleased with the progress we made during our visit. We were able to appoint Rikik a wonderful young women, (pictured below with Sherry and the first four women), to coordinate this ministry and we feel she has the knowledge and character to properly minister and lead to these women.



In addition to all of this, we had the opportunity to spend a lot of time with three young graduates of Hope Enterprise School in Desse which EVC sponsors. And we spent time with our Church Planting partners from the Horn of Africa. These are just some of the highlights, but our trip was filled with opportunity, joy, love, tears, and many time of prayer and fellowship with our family and friends Ethiopia. We are so grateful to those who assisted us with support for this trip and

those who sponsor Transformation Love ministry. We couldn't do this without you. For those of you who do not know, Transformation Love is a recognized 501-3c non-profit charitable organization established by Sherry and I for Christian ministry purposes. If you would like to get more information go to

[www.transformationlove.com](http://www.transformationlove.com)

We are so thankful for your prayers and support and hope you can join us in praising God for the work He is doing.

*Love Pastor Dennis and Sherry Hadley*