



New Life International Christian Ministry Ethiopia

March 2021

FROM THE FRONT LINE

Tamrat and Elsabeth's Story: God's Provision Amid Persecution

In August of 2019, Tamrat and his wife, Elsabeth, didn't even know NLICM existed. All they knew was they were at the end of their proverbial rope.

As a missionary in the town of Abderafi (180 miles outside the city of Gonder), Tamrat had set out to serve and share the Gospel within his largely unchurched community. He knew it would be no small undertaking, given that one of his predecessors—the man who himself introduced Tamrat to the Lord—had been stoned to death, and the subsequent missionary had left after finding the relentless persecution too much to bear. And now Tamrat found himself in a similar position—he and Elsabeth had been disowned by family members, fired from their jobs, and beaten and threatened by those they were dedicated to serving. As Tamrat explained, he had come to the point where he could no longer watch as his wife and other persecuted Christians slowly starved. Yet it was at this point of apparent defeat that the couple's prayers would be answered.

Shortly after they met with their sponsoring church in Gondor to tell them they could no longer lead the ministry in Abderafi, NLICM's own Dagne Balcha learned of their situation while visiting the area. And the rest, as they say, is history.

Dagne soon met with Tamrat and knew immediately that he—and NLICM—was meant to help. After meeting with church elders in Gondor, Dagne said God gave him a plan: not only would NLICM help support Tamrat, but it would also provide Elsabeth with financial resources (\$600) to start a business that would help connect her to the community while providing support for their family.

Now, more than a year later, Tamrat and Elsabeth are able to provide not only for their family—baby daughter Meden was born last year—but also for persecuted members of their community. The Gospel is being shared, and many are coming to Christ. Said Elsabeth: "I would like to thank The Fellowship Church, NLICM and all who support this ministry. You are our miracle."



Elsabeth's cosmetic business (above) provides not only a source of income but also connects her with women who come to the shop to share their burdens, ask for prayer, and even attend discipleship classes.

Top left: Pastor Dagne, Tamrat, Elsabeth, and one of the church elders in Gondor.

CONTACT US

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NLICM is a 501(c)(3) organization.
Donations are tax-deductible.

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MISSIONARY SPOTLIGHT



Roba Birbirsa is a married father of three who accepted Christ 15 years ago, at a time when there were no other Christians in his village. Feeling called to evangelize to those around him, Roba joined his church's evangelism team and served in various ministries in surrounding areas, including Alula. Despite ongoing challenges ranging from COVID-19 to political unrest, Roba is determined to continue serving the Lord, trusting His promise as given in Matthew 28:19-20.

BY THE NUMBERS – JANUARY 2021

2,447

Heard the Gospel for the first time as a result of NLICM activities in January.

173

Received Jesus Christ as their savior.

52

Were baptized as a result!

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for God's grace and providence in effectively serving our local churches.
- Pray for our missionaries in the Um Rakuba refugee camp in Sudan, as well as for missionaries—and their families—throughout Ethiopia who are waging the battle to bring lost souls to Christ.
- Pray for the expansion and strength of our hub churches.
- Pray for God's intervention in our underground missions and especially in Muslim areas where we face serious challenges and oppositions.
- Pray for our upcoming events.

Church Planting & Missions Updates

Planting, Training & Evangelism

NLICM continues to see the fruit of its many labors! Just a few highlights we'd like to share from January and February:

- **Two missionaries have been sent to the refugee camp in Northern Sudan**, where more than 60,000 have fled due to war. By the grace of God and thanks to their efforts, a temporary shelter for worship has been erected and many are being reached by the Gospel and have accepted Christ as their savior.
- **The newly established Fellowship Hub Church in Arba Arat Mazoria** (northeast of Addis Ababa) struggled to find a location in which to gather following closure due to the initial COVID-19 outbreak. However, even during this difficult time, a church member offered a site on which a temporary shelter for worship could be erected, and the church is now growing and able to continue its ministry!
- **Missional church and leadership training continues**, enabling participants to work toward establishing autonomous local churches.

Current Needs

Our primary need at this time is:

- **Support for missionaries.** Due to the war in northern Ethiopia, many people continue to be displaced, and some of our missionaries are among them. Churches are often ransacked or destroyed, and Christians often have no choice but to escape for their lives. Yet amid this crisis, we need to send five missionaries who are willing and speak the language. (The average cost of supporting a new missionary is **\$125/month** or **\$1,500/year**.)

If you're able to help NLICM meet this immediate need, please reach out to us at info@nlicm-ethiopia.org.

Alula: A Success Story

Two years ago, an evangelism team from The Fellowship Church—in cooperation with the local MKC church in Wonji Gefersa—preached the Gospel in the unreached community of Alula as part of its outreach efforts. During that visit, a family of three gave their lives to Christ. Since then, that number has risen exponentially, with more than 150 people accepting Jesus as their savior.

Led by missionary Roba Birbirsa, the congregation has officially begun the process of becoming an autonomous church! (Read more about Roba in the Missionary Spotlight at left.)



Above: The original building in which Alula residents met to worship two years ago. By contrast, below, members of the growing congregation now worship in a newly constructed building made possible by the generous donations of many.

