



New Life
International
Christian Ministry
Ethiopia

June 2021

FROM THE FRONT LINE

Vision of ‘Harvest’ Brings Hope, Joy to Those Serving Refugees

There’s no doubt that images of refugees arriving at camps with little more than the clothes on their backs affect even the most hardened of us, tugging on our heartstrings and often testing our faith and overwhelming us with feelings of helplessness.

Such is not the case, however, for NLICM’s Dagne Balcha, who was reminded in a recent vision that there are some seasons during which soil is more fertile for sowing and reaping than others, and the same is true when it comes to reaching people for Christ.

*“I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.”
John 4:35*

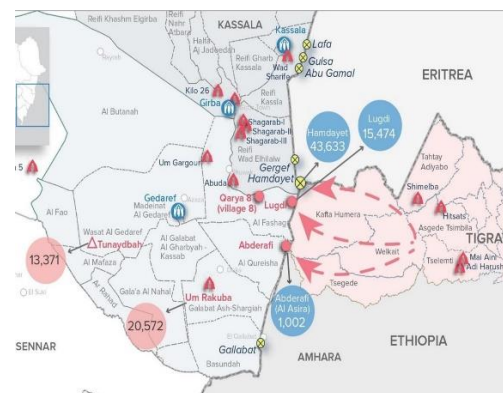
The vision came to him six months ago while at the airport in Addis Ababa, waiting for a flight to Gondar, where he planned to recruit and train missionaries. But his best-laid plans came to an abrupt halt when his flight was canceled, and he was forced to fly into Eastern Ethiopia instead. “I could feel anger building in my heart because my tight schedule had

been changed,” he said. “But then I felt the Holy Spirit open my eyes to see a ripe harvest in this war-stricken field. Suddenly, my heart was filled with joy at seeing harvests coming to the Lord.”

Dagne immediately shared his vision with other pastors and many in the NLICM family, hoping they, too, would see the immense potential in preaching the Gospel in these war-torn regions.

The rest, as they say, is history: Dedicated missionaries were identified, and partners such as The Fellowship Church stepped forward to help raise funds and necessary resources. Together, their shared vision led to a three-day training session in Khartoum, followed by establishment of a training and recruitment center in the small city of Gedaref, centrally located near three refugee camps. (See map illustrating camp populations at top right.)

To date, eight missionaries are now spreading the Gospel in the Um Rakuba and Tunaydbah camps, beginning the fulfillment of Dagne’s vision and paving the way for more to follow!



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MISSIONARY SPOTLIGHT



Girma Birru is a married father of three who came to Christ in 1998 while living in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan. After serving as pastor of a newly planted church for five years, Girma felt the Holy Spirit encourage him to return to Ethiopia. He and his wife Senait—who was then pregnant with their third child—faced multiple challenges, yet through it all, God provided. Girma recently joined NLICM and now serves in South Sudan, where his knowledge of Sudanese culture and Arabic language make him uniquely suited to reach the unreached Ethiopian and Sudanese population.

BY THE NUMBERS

5,176

Heard the Gospel for the first time as a result of NLICM activities in February & March.

282

Received Jesus Christ as their savior!

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray that God comforts believers in the Afar region and that He increases their faith during this time of mourning.
- Pray for our missionaries in the Um Rakuba refugee camp in Sudan who are waging the battle to bring lost souls to Christ.
- Pray that God provides the right piece of land for The Fellowship Church in Gerbe-Guracha.
- Pray that God may open the eyes of believers to see the ripe and plenty harvest and to commit to preaching the Gospel and sending more missionaries.

Church Planting & Missions Updates

Mourning the Loss of New Believers

While NLICM continues to see the fruits of its many labors throughout Ethiopia, it is with a heavy heart that we share the passing of two men who had recently come to Christ during our evangelistic efforts in the Afar region.

Unfortunately, whenever there is uncontrolled violence in unreached parts of the country, we often see people who despise Christianity take advantage of times of political unrest to unleash their hatred against believers and the church, especially against new converts.

Abdul and Kasim both came from a Muslim background before giving their lives to Christ, and as such were seen as targets by some members of the Muslim community. Both men were killed on the same day by what can best be described as a violent mob. They are martyrs for their faith and witness, and we pray that their deaths may ultimately bring more people to the Lord. We also pray that God helps us work in the midst of these troubling times to continue to bring the Good News to the people of Ethiopia. The need is vast, but the opportunity to serve and preach the Gospel is also clear.

Current Needs

Primary financial needs at this time include:

- **Support for 4 trained, native Somali and Ethiopian missionaries** who are ready to serve in Somalia but are awaiting sponsors. **Cost: \$150/month per missionary.**
- **A motorcycle for missionary Girma Birru in South Sudan**, where public transportation is unreliable, expensive, and even nonexistent in some parts of the city. A motorcycle would allow him to reach more areas and touch more lives. **Cost: \$1,000.**

If you're interested in supporting any of these needs specifically, please reach out to us at info@nlicm-ethiopia.org.

Mobilizing Pastors' Wives

One of NLICM's goals in 2021 has been to mobilize the wives of pastors for evangelism. A great example of such mobilization can be seen in the efforts of Bezunesh Megersa, wife of Mergo. Together, she and her husband have faithfully ministered in Fellowship Church in Addis since its founding.

Bezunesh leads a women's group, and during their evangelistic activities within the community, the group was moved by the extreme level of poverty among elderly women and single mothers, in particular. After prayerfully considering how they could help, members of the women's group mobilized their church to help the meet the physical and financial needs of impoverished women while continuing their work of evangelism. To date, Bezunesh and her church have helped four families by paying their rent and putting food on their tables.



Above: Shishege, a single mother of four, is a beneficiary of Bezunesh's holistic missions team. Below: An elderly woman receives food and assistance as part of the team's efforts.

