

# Family Life

Bulletin of the Church of Christ in Falls Church, Virginia

Volume 46, Number 20

May 15, 2011

## Teaching, Preaching, Working, Helping: A Report of a Trip to Ethiopia Where Faith and Gratitude Abound

It is difficult for Americans to grasp the depth of economic poverty of a country like Ethiopia. It may be even more difficult to grasp the fact that Ethiopian Christians have a deep faith, joy and gratitude despite the difficulties of their lives.

Thanks to our brother Habtu Zemech, a native of that ancient African country, Falls Church members have a personal attachment to and insight about the work of the churches there. For the fourth time in less than four years, Habtu has traveled to his home country and below is his report of his trip of March 17-April 3.

He was met at the airport in the capital city of Addis Ababa by his sister Muna and also by Brother Bekele (learn more about him below). The Addis Ababa Church of Christ is key to the work in Ethiopia. This congregation also operates a preacher training school and a school for deaf children, in addition to an extensive benevolence program to children, the elderly, and those with physical or health problems.

After meeting with Brother Abebe, the Addis Ababa minister, and with Moges Wolde (photo below), director of the preachers training school, Habtu met with preaching students to review both their academic progress and also the work of the benevolence program.

As noted above, he met Brother Bekele. The Addis Ababa congregation holds him in high regard for his faithfulness, his desire to learn and to teach, and for his many services to the community. The only thing that was holding back Brother Bekele was the time he spent in transportation to and from work. So Habtu and the brothers decided to build a one-room house on the compound grounds for Brother Bekele to continue his ministry!

That ministry has yielded much fruit, but none any sweeter than that of a young woman named Birke. Birke's story is one of tremendous hardship. She was 3

when her mother died. At the age of 6 she developed a lingering infection which finally resulted in the amputation of both legs when she was 9. Her father was so despondent about his inability to help her that he gave her to a street beggar and then committed suicide. One day Birke attracted the attention of a man who took her to the Ambo Hospital. For the next two years, she received critical treatment for her legs, including artificial limbs. She was then placed in an orphanage, which was a vast improvement but offered no education. Then she encountered Bekele, who helped her get into school. Never having been to school before, she started in grade one even though she was 14. However, she has made astounding progress and now is at the top of her class. Above is the photo of her baptism!

After preaching for the Addis Ababa congregation Sunday morning, Habtu reviewed the radio program which is an essential evangelistic tool in that country. He also learned that a prisoner had requested a radio, so he made a few phone calls. An anonymous donor called and offered not one radio, but 1000!



Bekele with Birke (center), the young woman who now has a future thanks to the work of the Addis Ababa congregation. At right is another member of the congregation. Below, Birke is baptized.



(See *Zemech Trip*, continued on p. 4)

## 2nd Sunday Fellowship Lunch Set for Today; Duty Groups are 2 & 4; There Will Be No Evening Service

Our next **2nd Sunday Fellowship Luncheon** is set for Sunday, May 15, after the morning assembly. **AGAPE Groups 2 & 4** have the "duty" for this event.

This will be a traditional potluck, so each family is requested to bring a main dish plus two of the following three items: a vegetable/side dish, a salad or a dessert.

As is customary, following the luncheon we will dismiss for the day, so **THERE WILL BE NO EVENING SERVICE.**



The **Missions Committee** will meet today after the luncheon. The agenda includes plans for the visit of Gene & Janice Luna in June, for Fellowship & Fireworks July 3 & 4, and for the trip to Torrington, CT., in July.

## VBS Needs YOU!

Below is a message from **Amanda Venkatesan**, Director for the 2011 Vacation Bible School set for Friday night Aug. 12 through Saturday morning Aug. 13. "If you missed the VBS kick-off meeting held on April 17, don't worry. You can read online about the many volunteer roles needed.

Many people are needed not only during VBS, but in the upcoming months - to create decorations and to play. See Amanda Venkatesan with questions."

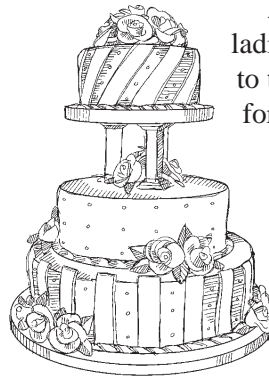


## Teachers Needed!

Volunteers are needed during the Summer Quarter (June 1 to August 31) for grades 1 & 2 on Sunday evening (two teachers), grades 1 through 3 on Wednesday night (1 additional team teacher), and to assist with grades 1 & 2 on Sunday morning for just four weeks. Please contact **Scott Mills**.



## Wedding Shower



All Falls Church members - ladies and gentlemen - are invited to the **Wedding Shower** May 22 for **Robert and Candice Spiess.**

**Levenie Hughes** is chairing the shower, with hostesses **Teresa Bryan, Sally Dasher, Lynda Eubank, Janice McDaniel, Marilyn McDermett and Staci Shannon.** Robert & Candice

are registered at Target. Those who wish to participate in a group gift should give their donations to **Levenie, Lynda or Staci.**

## Agape Group 3 Plans Neighbor Luncheon on May 22

**Agape Group 3 - Westfield Woods** under the direction of **Richard & Rachel Bowles** - will have a Neighbor Lunch on Sunday, May 22, immediately following the morning assembly. Members are requested to bring a main dish plus either a side dish or a dessert. Drinks will be provided. Set up, serving and clean up volunteers also are needed!



## M.S. Pledges Requested by May 22

Pledges for the 2011 **Multiple Sclerosis Walk**, held April 9, are requested by Sunday, May 22. Checks should be made to "N.M.S.S.," but cash is acceptable as well. N.M.S.S. stands for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, which sponsors the event to raise funds for research and treatment of M.S.

The M.S. Keteers captains are longtime veteran **Kevin Thie** - now in his 23 walk - and his daughter **Candy Thie**, who has walked for 17 years. **Dorothy Eckert** and **Jefferson Ford** were fellow walkers this year.



It isn't too late to contribute to the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer, which was held last weekend. To donate in the name of our sister **Benita Harris**, go to [info.dc@avonwalk.org](mailto:info.dc@avonwalk.org). Donations will be accepted until June 30.

## Summer Housing Needed

The church office has received inquiries from two young people who will be working in this area this summer.

**Carter Wright**, from Harding, will serve an internship with a marketing company in Alexandria from June 10 through August 6. He will have his own transportation.

**Julianne Bledsoe** has been recommended to us by UVA Campus Minister **Josh Grim**. She will work with the State Department.

If you have or know of any accommodations, please notify the office.

## College Age Class Begins Today

The following message is from **John Waterston**:

As college students return and interns flock to the DC area for the summer, there is now a place for young adults during Sunday School at the Church of Christ in Falls Church. The class will meet in R. 123.

Beginning today, **Kevin Amores** and **Clark Richardson** will be guiding discussion from the NOOMA series of DVDs by Rob Bell. There will be a 15 minute video followed by discussion and sharing among the class. We look forward to seeing you there! Feel free to bring friends for a class that will get you thinking.

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## Camp WaMaVa Special Collection Set for May 22

The annual collection to benefit **Camp WaMaVa** is set for next Sunday, May 22, during the morning worship assembly. Members are requested to make out checks to "Camp WaMaVa" NOT to Falls Church.

**All area Christians also are invited to the Camp's annual Memorial Day Picnic scheduled for Saturday May 28 from 11 am to about 4 pm, with lunch - free of course - served around noon.**

Area Christians also are asked to defray camp costs by donating supplies such as paper towels or soap or markers. Please use the list below.

The camp is the only such Church of Christ facility in the greater Metropolitan area. This collection represents a continuing commitment to Christian education and reflects the long history between the Camp and Falls Church. The late **Gene May**, a prominent building, and his wife **Barbara** were instrumental - to say the least - in making the camp a reality. Their son **Perry**, a deacon here at Falls Church, and his wife **Yvonne** also have been key supporters, as have been their three daughters, **Megan, Becki and Tatum** who have been campers or counselors. It is the only Church of Christ facility in the greater Metropolitan area.

But it isn't the volunteers or the history that make this unique institution worthy of support.

Rather it is its longterm impact on the lives of the young people who attend. **Sharon Gunselman** is a Falls Church member who grew up in this area and

attended the camp "back when." Below she shares her memories of this special place.

*"A session at Camp Wamava marked my first experience camping as well as my first week away from home. It is indelibly imprinted in my memory as a week of Bible studies, sleeping on the top bunk, riding horses, bonfires, getting a Zero candy bar each day at the Canteen, repeating "O Wa Ta Gu Siam" until it ran together and became "Oh What a Goose I Am," and watching carefully for snakes as well as for the strange hunter who "haunted" the Camp at night. My second session at Camp Wamava came many years later when I worked with Mama Thomas in the kitchen for two weeks while our daughter, Megan, was a camper. A veteran camper now, my memories include cooking a lot of food in a hot kitchen, laughing until my sides hurt as the kitchen staff bounced biscuits that were too hard to eat off the table and tossed them at each other, watching carefully for snakes, trying not to embarrass my daughter too much, feeling closer to God as we enjoyed His world, filling our minds and souls with His word, and praising Him in song. I hope Katie and David will be the third generation of my family to enjoy Camp Wamava as campers, and that they will also have good memories to last a lifetime."*

In other words, the camp is more than something that has been around for a long time. It is an ongoing ministry to the children of this area. Keep that in mind for our collection next week.

You may deposit the items in the box in the lobby or bring to the picnic.

**HP 60XL black ink cartridge (3) & HP 60 black/tricolor cartridge (1) for HP deskjet D2660 printer**

paper towels (500 rolls)

large plastic cups (2,000)

black Sharpies (20)

8.5 x 11 copy paper (5,000 sheets)

hand soap (2 gal)

dish towels (30)

toilet paper (1,000 rolls)

pens (30) & pencils (100)

scissors (10)

thick 55-gallon trash bags (500)

brooms (5)

sponges (30)

Clorox/Lysol wipes (100 tubs)

Band-Aids (5 boxes, assorted sizes)

rolls of masking tape (10)

20 x 20 x 1 air filters (20)

dish cloths (20)

vacuum cleaner (used is ok)

***(Zemech Trip, cont'd from p. 1)***

Over the next few days he visited many of the people who receive education or benevolence help from the congregation, and then he and Brother Moges headed to the Jajura preachers training located about 200 miles south of Addis Ababa. They showed a video

“Esther” at the school and then showed the movie “David and Goliath” at the church in the nearby town of Hosanna.



Shinshitcho children enjoying a mango break

From there they went to Shinshitcho where Christians maintain a kindergarden, then reached Mazoria, where they showed the video about “Joseph.”

The next day became a very memorable one. Habtu and Moges went to the Bulgeta congregation which was established as a result of the water well program also run by the churches. Habtu had brought



Bulgeta children waiting for clothes (above) and children who have received new



items (right and below)



Mektas (right) happily displays her new clothes, which she wore in a 3-hour round trip walk from Bulgeta to Shone to thank Habtu for his help.

clothes to distribute to these children, as illustrated in the photos below.

But the truly memorable part happened later, as Habtu and Moges moved on to the congregation in Shone. Mekdas, who had received clothes, was born with feet which turned in. Habtu made arrangements with doctors to perform surgery so that Mekdas could walk properly.

Although Habtu had left town, Mekdas still wanted to express her deep appreciation for his help. So she and another child WALKED from Bulgeta to Shone so she could say “Thank you” again!

***Keep in mind that it is a 1 1/2 hour trip one way!***

Shone was memorable in another way as well. There Habtu addressed a group of 69 preachers from 52 congregations. In the audience was a man who has devoted his life to the work of the church, Brother Mola (pictured below), who has established 147 congregations over the last 47 years!

Habtu and Moges then returned to Addis Ababa where he visited with members of the congregation and wrapped up his trip by teaching and preaching April 3.



Above is a photo of the preachers group at the Shone congregation. Below right is Habtu teaching. Below left is Brother Mola, who has worked with the Ethiopian church for nearly 50 years!



### Prayer Reminders:

Blanca Alvarez, Dot & Haldon Arnold, Antonio Carroll, Stephanie, J. D. & Quan Carter, Ruth Ditto, Maria Fielding, Eloise Fishback, Winnie & Desiree Flint, Randall & Ann Ford, Marcia Fuentes, Larry Goodrich, Frances & Ed Harris, Kim Land (surgery 5/26), Dawn McKay, Alma Milligan, Augustino & Natalina Olango, Lee, Mariko & Elena Price, Bess Smith, Mildred Smith, Ellie & Don Thie, Barbara & Harry Thompson, Otto Tune & his parents, Erica Walker-Chenevert, Roxie Weese, Susan Weese, Peggy Williams & Lois Woods, Ken & Lesya Yeatman.



### Good News:

**Joshua McKay** is home after major surgery. He is doing much better than was expected!

*NOTE: Diana Kuhn has learned that most meals for the family have been covered for May, but that June still has openings. In addition, she will have a large "get well" card at the luncheon today for everyone to sign.*

### Prayer Requests:

**Martha Ashley** asks for continued prayers for **Nancy Kolodner** of the Warrenton congregation. Nancy is scheduled for surgery the end of this month, to be followed by radiation and possibly chemotherapy. She also asks for prayers for her brother **Joe Gantt** in North Carolina. He is undergoing extensive testing due to poor kidney function and anemia.

**Dorothy Eckert** requests prayers for former member **Ray Bedford**, whose cancer has spread. He is now under hospice care. We pray for him and his wife **Rita**.

**Joe Garrett** was moved to hospice care last week. We pray for him, for his wife **Zula** and for his daughters **Karen Barrett & Deana Garrett** and their families.

**Adria Owens** requests prayers for healing for **Maleika Lewis**, a high school senior whom Adria used to mentor. Maleika is in a medically induced coma in intensive care after her lungs began to fail. Doctors have not yet determine the cause of or treatment for this disorder.

**Candice Spiess** requests prayers for her grandfather **Curtis Reeves** who will start cancer treatment this week at M. D. Anderson in Houston, TX.

**Ken Yeatman** is experiencing some odd paper work problems and flight arrangement difficulties in regards to coming home from Afghanistan. We pray that these issues will be resolved quickly.

**Augustino & Natalina Olango** needs jobs.

Natalina is willing to clean homes, babysit or provide care for a senior citizen. Augustino also can do a wide variety of jobs including yard work.

### Prayer Needs Due to Storms

We continue to remember those whose families have been affected by natural disasters, including **Bobbi Moffett, Heather Jones, Abby Smith** and former members **Beth Nichols** and **Michelle Noblitt Perry, Bob & Nell Noblitt** and **Larry & Norma Perry**.

### Continuing Concerns

**NOTE:** To keep this list current, names will be published for three weeks then removed unless office is requested to continue.

**All those who need employment or have been affected by economic pressures, (4/24);**

**All who have been affected by the earthquake & tsunami in Japan (5/8);**

**Anneliese Alderman**, dementia (mother of **Rob Alderman**, 5/8);

**Sandra Arevalo**, cancer (sister of **Jose Arevalo**, 5/15);  
**Ben Barker**, on hospice care (former member and close friend, 5/15);

**David Benson**, recuperating from serious skiing accident (grandson of **Francis Harris**, 5/1);

**Ann Boike**, recovering slowly, and **George Boike**, home from hospital (sister & father of **Bobbi Moffett**, 5/15);

**Sean (Richard Bowles' friend)**, showing progress in his health battle (5/15);

**Kimmy Campbell**, completed radiation treatment and preparing for surgery (friend of **Patti French**, 5/8);

**Hugh Casey**, cancer (stepfather of a friend of **Mandy Smith**, 5/15);

**Carrie Coenan**, completing chemotherapy prior to surgery and possible radiation treatment (friend of **Ferm Husteen**, 5/1);

**Jameson**, 7-month-old recovering from a stroke (son of **Suzette Martian & Sam Hudgins**, friends of **Jessica Alvarez Arevalo**, 5/15);

**Kerre Corbin**, last two chemotherapy sessions and doing as well as expected (friend of **Greg & Sally Dalzell**, 5/15);

**Johanna Goetzinger**, recovering from brain surgery and infection (niece of **Ida Goetzinger**, 5/1);

**Nadine Grigsby**, recovering from stroke (mother of **Susan Smith**, 5/15);

**Louise Henderson**, hospitalized (friend of **Mallory McCartney**, 5/1);

**Lynn Huff**, stroke (mother of **Billie Bohannon & Sylvia Sartori**, 5/15);

**James McCollum**, serious illness (friend of **Mary Jo Allmond's** co-worker, 5/1);

**Glen Olbricht**, continuing health issues (friend of **Tom & Kim Land**, 5/8);

**Lenora Pong**, doing well with chemotherapy (secretary at Silver Spiring and close friend to many here (5/1);

**Gilbert "Bud" Richardson**, serious health issues (former member, 5/1);

**Michael Sage**, waiting for test results for work (brother of **Abby Smith**, 5/1);

**Bertha Sullivan**, health issues (grandmother of **Jean Doran**, 5/1);

**Jency Taliaferro**, doing well with cancer treatment but now recovering from broken hip (former member, 5/1);

**Ronan Thompson**, 3-year-old with terminal illness (son of friends of **Mandy & Ben Scandlen**, 5/15);

**Daryl Walker**, heart surgery (friend of **Heather Jones**, 5/1);

**Linda Weatherby**, cancer (friend of **Anna Souza**, 5/8);

**Laurie Whiteman**, recovering from surgery (friend of **Scott & Susan Rosen**, 5/8);

**Carol Wiseman**, terminal cancer (friend of **Jim Bates**, 5/15);

**Karin Yeatman**, undergoing cancer treatment (mother of **Ken Yeatman**, 5/8);

**Zevia**, in remission from leukemia (daughter of **Abby Smith & Mandy Smith's** friend **Lauren**, 5/8).

## General Information

### For Children:

❖ An attended nursery and a nursing mother's room -- located adjacent to the Assembly Center -- are available during our assembly.

❖ For ages 2 through pre-kindergarten year, Children's Worship is conducted in rooms 223 and 221. Children are dismissed after communion.

**Recordings:** Recordings of sermons at Falls Church are available for no charge on our web site after about four days. Recordings also are available in CD format for \$5.00 and may be ordered by completing a CD order envelope located in the foyer.

### Assistive Listening System:

Personal sound receivers are available for hearing enhancement in our Assembly Center. Our ushers will be happy to supply one of these aids for your convenience upon request.

## Schedule of Services

### Sunday

Bible Classes 9:30 am  
Morning Assembly 10:30 am  
Evening Assembly 6:00 pm

**Tuesday** - Ladies Bible Class 10:15 am  
(October through April)

**Wednesday** Bible Classes 7:30 pm

**Office Hours** 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

### Contact Information

6149 Leesburg Pike  
P. O. Box 1036  
Falls Church, VA 22041  
Office Phone: 703-820-1346  
Fax: 703-820-1348  
Email: office@fallschurchcoc.org  
Website: www.fallschurchcoc.org

### Elders

Joe Bryan Steve Dasher  
Wayne Doran Bill Kincaid  
Jim Lane Oliver McDaniel  
Kevin Rachel Joseph Tucker

### Deacons

Roberto Alvarez Jose Arevalo  
Matt Benskny Ben Bohannon  
Ignacio Espinoza Perry May  
Joshua McKay Scott Mills  
Saul Reyes Kevin Thie  
John Waterston Ken Yeatman  
Habtu Zemech

### Missionaries

Gary & Sue Babcock, Kent County, RI  
Pedro & Mireya Batres - Nicaragua  
Clarence & Pam Campbell - South County, RI  
Henry & Rosa Gutierrez - Nicaragua  
Gene & Janice Luna - WBI/Guatemala  
Deanna Meredith - Concepcion, Chile  
Omar & Tana Palafox - Leon, Mexico  
Recardo & Monica Reyes - Cuernavaca, Mex.  
Don & Esther Roarabaugh - Torrington, CT

### Staff

Mike Tune, *Pulpit Minister*  
Josh Byrd, *Youth Minister*  
Mary Ann Kincaid, *Secretary*

## Statistics

### Sunday, May 8, 2011

Bible Study 186  
Morning Assembly 311  
Evening Assembly 126  
Contribution \$11,489  
YTD Average \$11,710  
Budget Goal \$11,577

### Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Classes No Count

## Nursery Attendants

### May 15, 2011

**Morning**  
Sonia Garnett  
TBA

**Evening**  
NO EVENING  
SERVICE

### May 22, 2011

**Morning**  
Rachel Bowles  
Marsha De La Cruz

**Evening**  
Jennifer Timar

## Children's Worship

### May 15, 2011

2/3 S. Gunselman, C. Waterston  
P-K Jackie Arevalo, Wendy Ward

### May 15, 2011

2/3 Karen Beck, Stephanie Carter  
P-K A. Venkatesan, K. Dowdy

## Worship Today, May 15, 2011

<i>Hymn #2</i>	<i>We Praise Thee, O God</i>
<i>Hymn #3</i>	<i>Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah</i>
<i>Hymn #844</i>	<i>Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah</i>
Prayer	Wayne Doran
<i>Hymn #176</i>	<i>Lamb of God</i>
Communion/Collection	John Bowden
<i>Hymn #647</i>	<i>Soldiers of Christ, Arise</i>
<i>(Children ages 2 through pre-K dismissed to Children's Worship)</i>	
Bible Reading ( <i>Revelation 1:4-6</i> )	Jim Shoehard
Bible Lesson	Mike Tune
<i>Hymn #909</i>	<i>There's a Fountain Free</i>
Announcements	Jim Lane
Introduction of Visitors	Caleb Shoehard
Prayer	Caleb Shoehard
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Song Leader	Marty Sims
Ushers	Jose Arevalo, Kevin Thie

**There Will Be No Service This Evening.**

May servers: Gary Allmond, Richard Bowles,  
Bill Furr, Jimmy Gallagher, Gary Widner

**Wednesday, May 18**  
**Song Leader - Oliver McDaniel**  
**Prayer - Richard Bowles**