



Watch and Pray Update –January, 2012

This update is a result of the recent trip in November & December of Getaneh, Wosene and 3 American supporters to Kenya. The information below is compiled from numerous reports provided by the travelers and gives a snapshot in each of the countries where W&P is at work.

This ministry is well integrated with strong leaders within countries who have been and continue to work together, supporting each other and sharing strategies to reach predominantly Muslim people. The current ministry trip accomplished much in the coordination of ministries, not only within central Ethiopia and Djibouti but also within the W&P ministries in the Southern Ethiopia Rift Valley area, Somalia and Eritrea. The strategies in Eritrea are somewhat different in that the persecution is not directly from the Muslim organization but from the central government. Every pastor who was interviewed expressed deep appreciation to W&P for their financial, administrative and prayer support without which any of this work would be possible.

ETHIOPIA

The farm workers coordinator who prefers to be called “Sheik” oversees most of the W&P work within Ethiopia as well as counseling and providing training to farm workers in Djibouti and the Pastor overseeing the W&P projects in Djibouti.

The work is defined as both educational and acts of mercy.

Spreading the Word

This program has reached into 6 Ethiopian cities where a group of between 50 and 65 people and those who are responsible for the message about understanding and accepting Muslims. These believers are now doing Muslim outreach including supporting farmers to other Muslim areas of Ethiopia. The trainers must have a Muslim background to be able to speak in Arabic and use the Koran. To date, 235 have been trained and are working with Muslim families. What is more extraordinary is that 5 mosque leaders in Ethiopia have become followers and are leading their congregations to faith.

The financial needs for this ministry include transportation and housing of the trainers and participants. Training of 65 persons costs \$1,000.

Bulbula Project.

History: Bulbula was chosen from 4 Muslim Ethiopian areas as the most promising for this demonstration program. One Muslim farm worker was sent to the area to identify the physical needs of the people. Housing was the greatest need. Over the past 4 years W&P supplied lumber and some labor but used community help to finish 20 houses. This was done before preaching of the word to show believer’s love. Some short term western workers were utilized, however the leadership of the project, included the “Sheik” dressed as a Muslim, who ate and communicated with the community.

Two additional workers trained by the “Sheik” were added to the Bulbula team beginning the educational work and to initiate the water project, piping clean water from the city center several miles distant. The local Muslim establishment attempted to stop the project but the community appealed. The next day this land was appointed to W&P, and the water project was completed. When US funding waned, YWAM worked with the “Sheik” building a fence for the compound as well as a kindergarten and a feeding project for 20 children. YWAM has also consented to construct a worship center and school in the compound.

Currently: Since beginning, this project has reached 2,585 Muslims with the Word. From these, 35 have accepted the faith and are open to working with this project, 45 took water baptism, and 55 are under discipleship training. There are 205 families converted with 350 children. .

The current predominant need in the Bulbula compound is the construction of a hiding place for converted Muslims. In the culture, after conversion, new believers are given three days to change their minds and then suffer physical punishment. The hiding place will safely house them, train them and then send them to other Muslim areas where they are not known.

The hiding place will cost \$50,000 to build and then the residents and trainers will require some monthly support. This will be called a guest house to the authorities. Short term western workers will also be housed there.

Training for 13 Muslim farmers – provide bicycles and back packs. The training lasts for 10 months and cost is \$120/month.

Prayer ministry: In Addis, a prayer ministry for this work was started by Wosene with a local coordinator. Usually 20 prayer warriors intercede 6 days a week for 4 to 9 hours. The intercessors receive frequent updates and training by the “Sheik” and travel to Bulbula to pray every 6 months.

The current prayer coordinator is donating her time. She needs an assistant prayer coordinator. Transportation costs for the prayer team to congregate and to travel to Bulbula are covered by W&P.

Future coordination The Sheik will work with the the director of the Rift Valley evangelism project, sending 1/2 of his farmers to train with with the Rift Valley director in the 1-5-5 model so this model can be utilized within other areas of Ethiopia. Basically, the

model is: 1 leader coaches and trains 5 workers to identify and disciple 5 Muslim families. Except for leader, all of the workers are of the Muslim culture.

Acts of Mercy –

Sponsorship of children. In Bulbula, YWAM is supporting the feeding and schooling of 20 children. W&P is coordinating the sponsorship

Joseph Children Home – In Adama, Ethiopia work currently supported by Grace Baptist Church, 54 children are fed and schooled. Also Grace Baptist supports 20 widows and microenterprises have been started. Cost \$10 each per month.

Djibouti –

Background: Evangelism is different in Djibouti because the government outlaws preaching of the Word.

The outreach strategy employed by the coordinator and his talented wife, who is a beautician, is to show Jesus film in the 4 predominant languages of Djibouti in her beauty salon. Muslim women having their hair done come in groups of 4-5 and spend the day. The film runs continuously. As they talk, the message from the film becomes part of the general conversation. The coordinator's wife has trained 2 converted Muslim women as beauticians. They plan to open shops in other areas of Djibouti.

Currently: There are 12 farm workers living in 3 safe houses. As a result of this ministry 322 people have been reached with the message. 31 have made a decision to be a follower and are being disciplined; 8 have been baptized, and 23 are being prepared for baptism.

In a recently begun project: 16 children are being schooled teaching them English, French and Latin, using the Bible to teach the languages.

Expenses and Needs – There are 3 houses for the farm workers in an unsecure area in Djibouti. One house has been donated by a converted Muslim. Current monthly costs for housing rental is \$360. Transportation costs for the farm workers within Djibouti and for further training in Kenya and Ethiopia is a great need. Each farmer is to get \$50 per month but there is often not this much available for them. The Djibouti coordinator is doing catering on the side to provide for other ministry expenses.

Plans - Start a barber shop for men. Barber chairs are needed- \$110 each. Need TV/DVD. Each cost \$500 (note- the electronics costs are inflated due to importation and taxation).

Somalia

In southern Somalia where Al-Shabaab forces control portions of the country persecution is very prevalent and believers are being hunted down. The famine present in this same area is taking the lives of many infants and elderly people. The Ethiopian army, the Kenyan Army, the Uganda Army and others are all fighting the forces of Al-Shabaab in an effort to bring about peace. In spite of the turmoil believers continue to spread the Word and the community is growing. Pray for the fishermen who strive in this area of persecution to be strong and bold.

In Somaliland-Hargeisa already 18 groups of believers continue to expand their influence through teaching of English and computer training to bring others to faith. Again we must keep all of these workers in prayer.

Eritrea

Approximately 3500 people-men, women, and children remain in prison for their faith. Very little food is provided and virtually no other care---hygiene, medical or otherwise is provided. During the past 8 months or so we are aware of 10 deaths among those in these prisons....from starvation and sickness. The situation these face is beyond our normal ability to grasp. We must pray not only for the imprisoned but also for the Eritrea government to recognize basic human rights and to free these prisoners. We can pray as well for other governments to recognize the inhumane treatment of these and to bring pressure on the Eritrean government.

Please note that the mailing address for Watch & Pray Ministries is changing to

PO BOX 3304 Midland, Texas 79702-3304 Effective February 1, 2012

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever! Hebrews 13:8