

Carpenter's Cross Ministries

North Africa Report April 2013

EGYPT

Our three days with Deborah were profitable on several levels. Firstly, it was very good to spend time with Deb and be able to encourage her and pray together. The situation in Cairo is very unsettled and the church people check with each other before making the trip to the church, which is located just behind the central square. Deborah has been attending a local International church on Sundays but is looking at traveling to the central church on Fridays as one of the elders lives close by. If she can travel with them it will be safer. Secondly, we were able to spend time with the 2 IC children's ministry person at the church and were impressed with what they are doing with the children. When asked what they saw as their greatest need, the response was "training" so that is something to pray into.

We did venture into the city on Sunday, (riding the train in a designated women's carriage) and the aftermath of the revolution can be clearly seen, with political graffiti on every wall. Youths, armed with huge sticks or clubs roamed the area, and as we walked to the church the "walls" put up to block off streets during the revolution are still standing. It would seem that it would take very little to spark further violence. We returned to the church that evening and it was quite full. Very moving service as the people worshipped from their hearts. Good word, communion and a baptism. Deborah says that this is where she is ministered to most. Monday was a day to be a tourist and we conquered the wonders of Giza and revelled in sailing on the Nile in a felucca.



Our third day was spent in the DUET office and we were impressed with the excellent projects and management of it - water installations, power installations and literacy programs were opening up communities as never before. We enjoyed meeting Nahla who works with Deborah. Whilst Deborah recognizes her own lack in communicating regularly, we feel that friends and supporters should be encouraged to keep on communicating because this is both needed and appreciated.

ETHIOPIA

Rural Ministry:

We were extremely excited to being able to see the works in several of the villages in the rural areas south of Addis Ababa, as, although this was our third time in Ethiopia, ministry up until now has been totally urban. During our first visit in 2010, God gave a vision of people journeying over mountains and coming to a village of thatched huts. As they walked singing praise songs, people started coming out of the huts to listen, and the men were able to share the gospel. The following year that vision actually happened with a number of Muslims accepting Christ, and today a church meets in that village. So to see the huts as in the vision was extremely exciting and very moving. We shared on having a

vision for all generations, with emphasis on the importance of reaching and training children. People gathered on benches strategically placed in the shade of a spreading tree, with a background of thatched mud huts, cacti fences and mountains. We were surprised at how quickly these uneducated people grasped concepts and principles, entering into the participation areas of the training. We taught in Lole for two days, then spent time in Jila and visited Oitu to see the land set aside for a potential church building on that location.



One of the highlights in Lole was to be present at the official opening of the Water Project. With finance donated by a couple in CityLife Church, and with the cooperation of the local Community and the Water Board, a trench was

hand-dug from the well some 1.5 km away, pipes laid, plumbing installed with the control gauges housed in a small building. A Local person will be appointed to monitor the water usage. One tap is designated for the church people, and the other two taps are for use of the village. Speeches were made, Paulos, the senior pastor we work with in Ethiopia, gave a great message on "Water" and finally the project was declared open by cutting an improvised "ribbon" of balloons!

The impact of the above water project was great, and when we visited Jila village the next day, we were dismayed to find that people there had to travel a round trip of 4 hours for their water. Those who are blessed with a donkey cart can walk beside it down rutted unmade tracks to the well, but others must carry large yellow 2 gallon containers - the 2hr trek back with full containers must be exhausting. We would like to propose a further project for this village, which has also donated land for a church, so that natural water and Living Water will go hand in hand.



Back in Addis we ran two training courses in Children's Ministry (one course for Oromo speakers, the other for Amharic speakers) over four days. Whilst much of the materials were geared to equipping workers to be able to more effectively reach and train children, the principles covered and challenges to leadership integrity were valuable for every leader in the church, and this was confirmed by the feedback received.

Spending time with the Djini family was a special joy - great to be able to travel with Paulos and Ababo, his wife, and hear them share their heart for Ethiopia, and also good to get to know three of the Addis team who liaise with the rural area leaders. Back in Addis we were able to catch up with the children, and spend time with Demi, the pastor's sister-in-law, also on pastoral staff and Abraham - newly weds and very happy!

Weekend ministry was profitable and Paulos requested that we speak on Matthew 18 at all campuses. (This chapter is the Biblical vision for ministering to children and he particularly

wanted the local leaders to catch the vision.). Sue ministered in the Oromo and Amharic services at the central church, and Carolyn ministered in the West Addis church at Barayu and in the East Addis church at Goro. It was encouraging to see a strong positive response in each church and it seems that a definite move can now be made to actually see children more effectively ministered to in each campus.



We would like to thank all our supporters for sending and enabling us to minister in North Africa - it is always inspiring to be around apostolic people and our time with Paulos was certainly inspiring. We so appreciate his wisdom, vision and humility - he certainly is the right man in the right place at the right time for this nation.

Blessings,
Sue Carpenter and Carolyn Boyd