



**In Northern Ethiopian many do not know about Jesus and the freedom from religious law that the gift of grace brings**

### **Why Northern Ethiopia?**

The Amhara region has less than 0.2% believers in a population of 25 million. Most of the believers live in urban areas. However, 85% of people are from poor subsistence farming districts that have frequent challenges from conflict and persecution for people who read the Bible.

The **Ethiopian Orthodox** follow a mix of the king's writings and follow traditions of fasting, praying to saints and angels and don't read the Bible for themselves.



### **Baruk's story shows the eagerness to be true to the gospel**

It was great to hear that Baruk started at the Bible College in October. Money was collected for the two-day bus ride. Alongside this, the church members prayed overnight that Baruk would be received with hospitality and trained, despite not having the payment for fees, food or other expenses. He does not even have enough for the bus fare home. I asked why they would send a student, knowing there is an expectation to contribute towards costs. The answer was simple. The people need to know the true gospel to give assurance of God's love. Pastors are needed who are trained to understand Scripture and preach it well. The Bible College in Bahir Dar is one of only 2 small full-time Bible Colleges in the whole region which has the population of Australia.

### **Thank you for your role in making the true gospel known**

We are so thankful for you in partnering with us to enable more Ethiopians to be equipped as leaders of their church. Already we have been encouraged by messages, prayers and financial support. A lovely couple, Marie and Richard, took us

out for coffee so they could get to know us and know how they can pray. It was such a delightful moment.

The next few months we look forward to getting to know many of you as we visit our partner churches.

## Give thanks

- For the opportunity to take a holiday.
- Time spent with our children, grandchildren, parents and friends, who are so very precious to us, especially in light of the many challenges experienced in 2023.
- We have four partner churches:
  - St James Turramurra; Christ Church St Ives; Lower Mountains Anglican; Soul Revival Sutherland Shire.

## Please pray

- As we meet and develop relationships with our partner churches.
- For Ethiopian believers to love others and show the peace the gospel brings in the context of great pressure from conflict and persecution.
- For the Bible College in Bahir Dar – for the new intake of students this year, including Baruk as they experience rapidly rising inflation and civil unrest in the area.

*The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20b)*

*From Anthony and Trudi*

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