

**10**ETHIOPIAN
CHURCH
PARTNERS**200**FAMILIES CARED
FOR THROUGH
HBC PROGRAM**143**ECONOMIC
EMPOWERMENT
MEMBERS**7**INDIVIDUALS
RECEIVED
MEDICAL CARE**600**FOOD
BASKETS
DISTRIBUTED

ETHIOPIA NEWS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

The first quarter of 2025 has already been an eventful one for our Ethiopia team! First, we hired an additional staff member named Nigussie to continue developing our Church Expansion Program. Our goal is to identify and bring on 5 new local churches this year to create their own self-sustaining HBC programs, caring for 1-5 vulnerable families in their communities. The target area for these churches is more on the outskirts of the city, where Oromo language is much more common than Amharic (the language spoken in the capital). Nigussie speaks both languages and will be instrumental in working alongside these churches to care for families!

In March, five members of our US-based staff visited Ethiopia. It is always a joy to be in-person with our friends and co-laborers in Christ rather than just seeing one another on a screen! We spent the time visiting several of the churches and hearing beautiful testimonies of hope from the widows in the program who shared how they have been empowered, how they've felt loved and welcomed by the church, and how their lives have changed.

One such testimony was from Chaltu, a mother who has been in the program 4 years, "When my husband left I was 3 months pregnant. He also took many things from the house. I was begging on the streets. I was so desperate I was considering suicide. I thought about leaving my baby on the roadside. Finally I was able to enter the program at the time I needed it most. It brought healing to my mind. Now my sanity is restored, and I have peace. With the loan, I have a business selling coffee and tea. We now are stable."

We also got to meet several of the coordinators from the churches in the expansion program, and it was so encouraging to hear how their congregations are taking up the Biblical charge to care for orphans and widows.

Wholistic Care in Ethiopia

Social Worker, Martha Admasu, has completed training in the area of Communication for all of the caregivers. Effective communication skills are essential to developing strong relationships, resolving conflict, and reaching goals in every aspect of life. The skills they are learning are empowering them to express their thoughts, feelings, and successfully work with others. The youth have been meeting together and are learning about the importance of setting goals and establishing a direction for their future. The training is helping them recognize the importance of gaining knowledge as they develop their talents.



ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN ETHIOPIA

While in Ethiopia, we got to meet with several former graduates and hear how they have been doing in the years since graduation! By the grace of God, they gave a good report of how their businesses continue to provide stable income for their families. They're also still a part of the church savings groups and enjoy community and accountability with the women currently in the program.

