Located in eastern Africa near the Red Sea, Ethiopia is one of the oldest nations in the world, tracing its roots to biblical times. It is the only African nation never to have been colonized, and until recently, all its emperors claimed lineage to King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. Ethiopians were the first to domesticate camels and donkeys. They also lay claim to one of only two indigenous alphabets in Africa. The Danakil Depression, one of the world’s rare lava lakes, is the hottest spot on the planet.

Ethiopia is an agricultural country. Coffee was discovered in Ethiopia and remains its chief export. It is also a source of gold, oilseeds, and vegetables. However, a surging population has put more pressure on the land and increased the risk of food shortages. Of the 108 million Ethiopians, 80% live in rural areas.

A common Ethiopian greeting is the shaking of hands and bumping shoulders together. Sixty-three percent of the people are Christian, while another one-third are Muslim. HIV and other infectious diseases have taken the lives of many older Ethiopians, which means many children have lost at least one parent. That makes rural and youth outreach more critical there.

Lutheran Hour Ministries conducts outreach in Ethiopia through media and interpersonal channels.

**Ministry Response**

There is tremendous opportunity to share God's love and reach out with the Gospel in Ethiopia. Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM–Ethiopia) responds to the spiritual hunger across this African country through a variety of strategies:

**BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSES.** Bible Correspondence Courses (BCCs) are LHM–Ethiopia’s most popular program. BCCs introduce the Gospel to people who don’t know Jesus and reinforce a biblical understanding for people growing in their faith. When someone responds to an outreach activity, LHM–Ethiopia will typically invite the respondent to begin a BCC as the next step in his or her spiritual journey. Courses are offered in the Amharic, Oromiffa, and Hadiya languages. To date, over 150,000 Ethiopians have enrolled in LHM’s courses.

continued >>
LIVE EVENTS. Special events provide fun, pressure-free environments for demonstrating the love of Jesus to those who attend, offering more information to those who do not know Him or are new to the faith. People from all walks of life, especially in the rural areas, are drawn to our Christian film showings. We also conduct rallies, where we bring the Good News to thousands of people at once.

YOUTH MINISTRY. Today’s young people will become tomorrow’s leaders in Ethiopia. Religious programs are not allowed in schools, which makes youth outreach more critical. LHM–Ethiopia hosts sports activities, contests, and even tree planting, all geared toward elementary, high school, and college students. These events offer a fun way to provide Christian guidance to help young people make healthy life decisions. We also offer Bible Correspondence Courses for those who want to learn about Jesus.

PRISON MINISTRY. Incarceration can bring regret, repentance, and sadness. Our personal visits carry Christ’s hope into a difficult season as we lead devotionals and distribute booklets to address felt needs. Individuals who want to learn more about Jesus can receive our Bible Correspondence Courses.

HOLISTIC OUTREACH. Meeting people’s personal needs puts Christ’s love into action in tangible ways. It can open the door to tell them about the Savior who motivates those actions. With that in mind, we serve widows, women living in poverty, the elderly, HIV victims, and those undergoing mental rehabilitation programs.

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS. LHM–Ethiopia works with local church leaders to conduct Equipping the Saints (ETS) workshops, which provide Christians with practical ways to carry the Gospel into their communities. After attending these sessions, believers feel more confident sharing the Good News with their neighbors and inviting them to their congregations. We continue to keep in touch with the participants to help them apply what they learned.

Impact

WORDS OF GRATITUDE: Testimonies of How God Has Used Lutheran Hour Ministries in Individuals’ Lives

“Since your programs are vital, it has brought many changes in our land. May the Lord help and multiply His grace to you so that you may reach the whole world through this lesson. It is a very important and useful BCC lesson.”

“Since the beginning of the ETS training, what I have learned is very important. It has helped us to follow the Lord’s way of life and be strong in our faith. It has given us direction as to how to follow the LORD. May the riches of Heavenly Father be with you all. I am now very much ready to serve the LORD.”

“The film show is very exciting and awakening. It raises us from our weakness.”

“I am very much blessed with the BCC lesson you gave us. It has helped me to read my Bible. It has helped me to know more about Jesus Christ. It has helped me to know about prayer and how to pray.”

“I am very much pleased with the workshop you gave to us. It is something that edified my spiritual life.”