

The Harvest

"Like cold water to a weary soul is good news from a distant land." (Proverbs 25:25 NIV)

The Harvest is a monthly publication of EvaSUE dedicated to sharing the latest news with our partners.

Updates

War and the displacement of a number of our students and staff overshadowed our ministry. School had already started, so our plans were greatly affected.

Universities in the North, Northeast and Northwest EvaSUE Regions stopped functioning because of the war. Students from closed universities stayed at home, hopeless and frustrated. We also had staff who, along with their families, were displaced.

In the meantime, ministry continued in the Central, South, Southwest and East regions and parts of the West Region, where universities have remained open. The work of mission and discipleship has continued as usual. Students got saved and baptized on many campuses

Another significant accomplishment was the training of new mission mobilizers and campus staff. The two trainings combined lasted a month and a half. We trained a total of 19 staff workers who plan to start serving at the end of January. It is our hope that they would go and become instrumental to advance God's kingdom by teaching, directing and living a Christ-like life. God is stirring the hearts of young graduates to do the work of His kingdom.



EvaSUE Vision Trip 2021

The 2021 EvaSUE vision trip was held from August 31 to September 28. The purpose of the trip was to serve people within the South Omo Valley using the various gifts and talents of our students. God knows we have some talented and gifted students! In addition to giving them chances to serve their southern neighbors, we also had the aim of inspiring these students to grow in their understanding of God's mission and to see their future vocations in the marketplace as opportunities for mission. With this purpose at heart, we invited 18 students from 11 different universities to participate in a 4-week experience. The 2021 Vision Trip was done in partnership with Better Life for Pastoralists (BLFP), an organization working to develop peaceful and sustainable communities in the Lower Omo Valley, Ethiopia.

Things kicked off with a five-day training and orientation program in Turmi town. The goal of these sessions was to train the participants in topics such as the biblical basis of mission, cross-cultural understanding, and team building. We knew that without proper training, even our passionate, Spirit-filled students could do more harm than good. Included in the training was a field trip to the Daasanach people group, one of the 16 tribes in the Lower Omo. One of the students described his overall training experience by saying; "It was a new experience for me to learn such significant life lessons in a short amount of time through activities and games. I have no doubt these lessons will stick with me throughout my life..."



Prayer Requests

"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." (James 5:16 NIV)

We invite you to pray with us over the following topics;

- Praise God for the relative peace in the country. Some staffs were able to go back to their hometowns after months of displacement.
- Praise God for adding more servants of the Kingdom to the EvaSUE team.
- Please pray with us for more laborers for the harvest, as we still need to fill universities and colleges with kingdom mobilizers.
- Pray with us for more financial partners to join us in the work of advancing God's Kingdom
- Please pray with us for peace and reconciliation in our country.
- Pray for the building project, as it has stalled over the past month due to financial constraints. Currently, the basement work has been finished. We are proceeding to the construction of the Ground slab.

It was also an eye-opening experience to see the Kingdom of God at Daasanach, a society that has been marginalized socially, politically, and economically by the bigger community... I have witnessed that the Lord is doing His great work in that community”.

After the five-day training, the participants were divided into two groups. The first group was composed of architecture and engineering students. These students did architectural designs of dormitories, classrooms, guesthouses, and landscape designs for Turmi Bible College, a few local churches, and a children’s care center.



The second group of the students went to a children’s care center at Key Afer town. The Peaceful Generation children's care center, one of the three major programs of Better Life for Pastoralists (BLFP), provides a safe environment, education, and other care facilities for orphans and vulnerable kids from various tribes of the Lower Omo Valley. The mission of this center is to help the children become a beacon of peace in communities filled with tribal conflict. The EvaSUE students went to this center to serve the children by spending time with them, giving academic tutorials, and studying the Bible with them. The team also did some agricultural work with the kids at the center. Speaking about his time hosting the vision trip participants, Pastor Muga Bezabih, the Co-Founder and Director of BLFP, said: “We are grateful to host this young generation of professional missionaries. ...even though the time was short, these students had the opportunity to serve the church, the community, and the next generation through their knowledge and skills. I believe this Vision Trip could be more effective with better planning and investment by both the sending and hosting organizations.”

Thank You!

Dear Partners,

"In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."
(Philippians 1:3-6 NIV)

The testimony that we shared in this newsletter is one among thousands. We always praise the Lord for thousands of new Christ followers every year, and for tens-of-thousands of students getting disciples, and for the tens-of-thousands of future leaders produced every year. We thank you for being part of this work, and we hope that our partnership will grow in breadth and width in the future.

Robel C. Disasa
General Secretary

Most of the participants of Vision Trip 2021 agree that they registered expecting to "do" many things for the community but at the end of their experience, they realized they gained more than they gave. "Before this trip, my view of a missionary was very narrow...I didn't know that I could be a missionary and a professional. I believed I had to be either one. During the trip, I saw different ways of sharing the good news of God, encouraging and comforting His very own people through my knowledge and skills. It is a blessing to be able to give back...It is a privilege to serve other people." These are the sentiments of one of the participants.

The 2021 Vision Trip was not without its challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ethiopia made it difficult to plan and prepare ahead of time for the trip. In addition to the short preparation time, the follow-up and mentoring from the staff was weak since EvaSUE staff were also engaged with other annual events whose dates overlapped with the vision trip. Several participants dropping out in the middle of their 4-week commitment for a variety of reasons also presented another challenge. After interviewing the students, Abenezer Shimeles, the lead

organizer of the trip, said, "With all the challenges we faced with the planning and implementation of the 2021 Vision Trip, I believe that we have accomplished a lot...the students gained new perspectives about mission and vocation. They have also learned about different people groups in the South Omo. Our students got to serve, but more importantly, they also gained encouragement and growth in their walk with the Lord. One of our hopes is they can go and mobilize their campuses and repeat the same thing in unreached communities around their campuses".



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