



NEW HOPE

Message from the founder

Zena Wengel Ministry, having embarked on a mission of empowering the most disadvantaged members of the blind community in Ethiopia spiritually, and in other aspects of life, has been able to achieve some tangible results in Addis Ababa and Sebeta, mainly through the untiring efforts of two Christian Brothers who are demonstrating unwavering commitment to the cause of the

Ministry as indicated in the main part of the Newsletter.

However, As Jesus said in one of his parables, “the harvest is great, but the laborers few”. This is true in our case; as the number of those who need the support of Zena Wengel Ministry is so great, but we have been able to reach only a few and that, not in a satisfactory way.

We are aware that there are Christian sisters and brothers who support our mission and remember us in their prayers for which we are grateful. In order to accomplish the daunting task before us, we earnestly ask God to open the way for the full realization of our vision and achievement of our mission.

*Berhanu Belay
Founder*

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Newsletter of
Zena Wengel
Ministry

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Sebeta Fellowship

Zena Wengel Ministry began giving a special spiritual service to its members in Sebeta since March 2017 because brother Tafesse has fully committed his time to lead the devotional program there. Our blind members there hold devotional programs every Saturday at Mulu Wengel church.

Brother Tafesse also distributed thirty guide canes which he obtained from Global Cane

Outreach ministry in America. We have more than 70 members who regularly attend the fellowship program in Sebeta. Some of the members live in a condition much lower than subsistence. Their situation is so serious that it calls for quick action. Used clothes and other materials have been obtained from different church members both in Sebeta and Addis Ababa and distributed to them.

Most of the students have no textbooks in Braille to pursue their studies. Tafesse managed to get the soft copy of these textbooks from the Oromia education bureau to transcript them into Braille for these students. Some churches in Addis Ababa have shown their willingness to give financial and material support to these poverty stricken members of our ministry there.

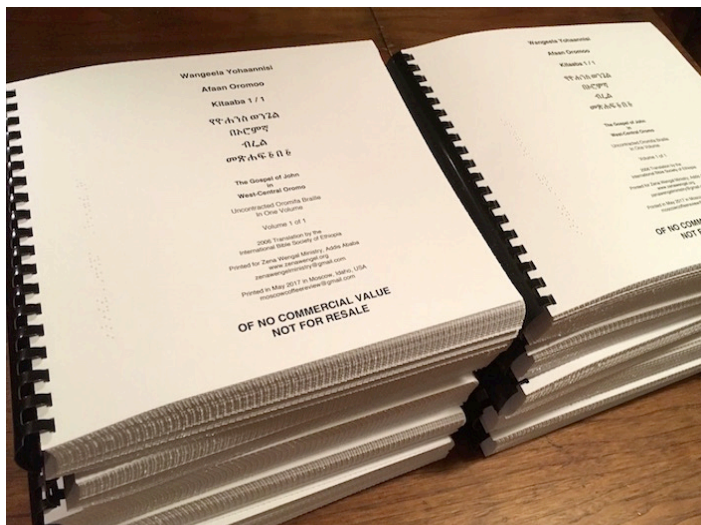




Oromo Braille Scriptures

Brother Matthew Jepsen and his wife Erin transcribed and printed in braille the Gospel of John in Afan Oromo to be used by the fellowship program. He sent ten copies of the Gospel of John to be used for the intended purpose. We therefore would like to express our sincere appreciation and cordial admiration. Braille scriptures are available in English and Amharic, but have never been printed in Afan Oromo before.

The Ethiopian Bible Society has promised to eventually provide 175 Braille Bibles in Afan Oromo to be used in Sebeta and elsewhere in Oromia. The general Secretary of the Ethiopian Bible Society also directed us to the Talking Bible International for further support and the latter has promised to supply our members in Sebeta and Bako audio Bible devices for the work of our ministry all over the country.



Bako Fellowship Forthcoming

We are also preparing to start a fellowship program in Bako. We have been asked by the blind Christians living in Bako to organize them under Zena Wengel ministry. It is believed that there are more than a hundred blind people there, most

of whom are former students of Swedish school for the blind. Mulu Wengel church has promised to give worship place for the devotional program which will start pretty soon there.

Life Testimony - Tariqua Asefa

My name is Tariqua Asefa. I was born in Nazareth [now Adama City] on September 17, 1967 and lost my sight sometime soon after birth. At the age of five, I joined the Sebeta School for the Blind where I studied up to Grade 6. Then I entered Sebeta High School in 1980 and studied there from grade 7 to grade 12.

After completing grade 12, I joined Kotebie Teachers training College in 1986 and graduated with a diploma in Amharic two years later.

Following my graduation, I was employed as a teacher in 1988 and assigned first in Ambo, next Wenji and then Nazret where I am still teaching.

I received the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Savior in 1981. I began church service by singing songs in a choir. Later on, I started singing as a soloist and I still do.

Currently, in my present church, I am busy organizing different choir groups; giving them training and serving as their choir leader. Besides, I am helping children to know the word of God through Sunday school bible and singing lessons so as to make them grow spiritually and



encourage them to be active in the service of the Lord.

I have been giving my service as a soloist with consistency ever since I began my singing role.

As I have been preparing for the production of songs in a VCD, I have given a sample to a producer and waiting for his response. Hence, all of you who happen to read my testimony, please help me with your prayers.