Turning the World Upside-Down

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Does your heart thrill to recount the stories of the early Church?

Mine does, especially when I receive reports from AWR listeners and producers sharing how the Holy Spirit is moving in the hearts and lives of people today. It sounds so much like what we read in Acts when the church was birthed!

The report I share with you reminds me of the account of the Holy Spirit holding Paul and his team from going into Bithynia, and instead how He gives Paul a dream of a Macedonian man urging him to “come over to Macedonia and help us” (Acts 16:5-10). Paul had arranged a different strategy, but God had other more immediate plans to take them to a boundary they had not considered.

At AWR we hear of testimonials of the Holy Spirit’s interventions, in places such as the southern Ethiopian village of Biteti Tsanga, where the Konta people live. They are receiving the message of salvation even across previously unentered mountainous
borders by way of the airwaves—carrying the Voice of Hope to a people waiting to receive it.

Forests cover this region of Ethiopia, and there are chains of mountains and hills which hinder easy access to the village. For this reason, gospel workers are not able to reach this mission critical area. However, chains of mountains do not hinder the Holy Spirit, or AWR’s Voice of Hope. The broadcasts reached this community and touched the hearts of the residents.

Two influential villagers, brothers named Meshesha and Mala, were the first to listen to AWR. Both are farmers, although Meshesha is pursuing his studies at Arbaminch University. While there, a friend invited him to listen to AWR. When he listened to the program, he became more interested and continued listening after returning to his home.

Meshesha said, “There are various programs broadcast by AWR, but what surprised me most is the Sabbath truth. After understanding the Sabbath truth, I convinced my family members, and we began worshiping the Lord on the Sabbath day.”

He also invited his brother to listen to AWR, and witnessed about the truth he had found. Mala and his family accepted this truth. Soon, the two families began to worship the Lord together every Sabbath.

After some time they called their brother who lived in Jimma, a zonal city, to look for Adventists and tell them what was happening in their village. Their brother talked with the district pastor, Pastor Tamrat Aboseand and told him the story of his brothers’ request to be visited by a church pastor.

Pastor Abose was very happy, and he didn’t want to miss this opportunity. He made an appointment and went to their place taking one other minister with him. They met the two families and stayed with them three days witnessing and sharing the good news. A commitment was made to hold an evangelistic effort in the village.

**Divine Results**

The villagers attended every evening and the numbers increased nightly. The program began at 6:00 pm and continued up to 9:00 pm each night. But the people were so eager to hear this truth that they would come early and sit on the floor before the meetings started.

At the end of the meetings, 27 people decided for baptism. Since there was no baptismal pool or river nearby, they had to walk for one hour to a place where they got baptized! Among those baptized, was a young couple who also arranged to marry that day after their baptism!

Just think about it! A simple radio broadcast “turned the world upside down” for families in a remote village in Ethiopia. It was a difficult place to reach, yet today, there are 27 new Seventh-day Adventist believers, thanks to Adventist World Radio’s ministry – and thanks to YOUR support.
Please prayerfully consider this story from the Konta people of Ethiopia, and make a special gift today. There are many more villages, and many more people, who need to hear the Voice of Hope programs that AWR provides, and God is offering us another opportunity to make a huge difference in their lives for eternity.

Thank you for your fervent prayers and continued support for the ministry of Adventist World Radio. God bless you today -- and every day!

In His service,

Dowell Chow
AWR President