

# ON THE ROAD...

Pursuing God's call to encourage, exhort, and equip leaders and congregations

A newsletter from Henry and Millie Buckwalter to family, friends, and prayer partner



## A TIME TO REFLECT

We are in a season that none of us could have ever imagined a year ago. Millie and I truly admire the faith, courage, and perseverance that you as leaders and members in the HFC/ANF Network have demonstrated during this time. Testimonies about prayer meetings via phone and/or Zoom that have united members more than ever is very encouraging. Let's continue to listen to what God is wanting to say to us as we continue on this journey together. Always remember, *"The joy of the Lord is your strength."*

## HFC PASTOR PROFILE

I want to take this opportunity to introduce a pastoral couple that is part of our HFC Network. We are very grateful for their dynamic ministry in Arlington, VA. Here is a little window into their life and ministry.

### Pastor Daniel and Oquba Tesfasselase Leading with Passion

Recently I asked Pastor Daniel Tesfasselase, pastor of Emanuel Eritrean Church, to define his passion. Without a moment's hesitation, he said, "My passion



is to reach unsaved people with the Gospel and to pray for sick people." He went on to describe his vision for the congregation:

"To see people saved, healed, discipled, equipped, and for the church to multiply." While his primary focus has been the approximately 40,000 Eritreans who live in the greater D.C. area and Northern

Virginia, he also hopes to reach out to others and form an international congregation.

Pastor Daniel was born into an Orthodox family in Asmara, Eritrea. Asmara is the largest city and the capital of Eritrea. Eritrea is a country north and east of Ethiopia in the horn of Africa. To the east, it borders the Red Sea. For nearly two decades, there has been religious persecution of certain evangelical Christians in this nation, causing a lot of suffering.

As a young single man, Daniel was looking for opportunity abroad. He moved to Athens, Greece in 1990. He felt a need in his heart for prayer and found a small group of believers. He met a missionary from the U.S. who taught him about the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer. He said, "I started to hear the voice of the Lord and He said, 'Follow me.'" He went on to say, "I had a vision of Jesus. He showed me His hands. Blood was flowing from them." It affected him in a powerful way, resulting in a deep conviction and desire to follow the Lord from that time to the present.



During this time, he planted an evangelical congregation in Athens which he pastored for six years. It was at this church where he met Oquba. She became a follower of Jesus and he had the blessing of baptizing her. Later, they fell in love and

were married in 1995. The Lord has blessed their marriage with two wonderful sons, Nahom, 22, and Joel, 18. **(Picture: Nahom and Joel with some children and youth from the congregation)**

While in Athens, Pastor Daniel began to experience miracles in his ministry. He believes that he received the gift of healing when he was baptized. One notable example was a man dying of HIV who came to him confessing his deep depression and plans to commit suicide. He begged for money to give to his mother to assist with the burial expenses. Instead of giving money Pastor Daniel offered him hope with the Gospel message. The man thought he was too



wicked to receive God's love but ultimately relented and genuinely received Christ. Daniel prayed for his healing and told him to check with his doctor. The next day, the man came back with exceeding joy, jumping up and down stating that all signs of his sickness were gone! As a result of this man's testimony, many came to the church and were saved and healed. **(Picture: Some members of the congregation)**

In 1998, the Lord opened another door for Daniel, and this time to the United States. He received an opportunity for training at a Bible School in Bangor, Maine. After eight months, he moved to Florida. There, he planted a church in Orlando. That congregation, which he pastored for four years, continues to this day.

In 2004, he was invited to pastor a church in Washington, D.C. He pastored that church for three years. In 2007, he felt the call of God to move to Arlington, VA to start a congregation that he has pastored to the present.

Pastor Daniel reports that during this season of Covid-19 he has been busier than ever. Since the congregation was not allowed to meet publicly, he started a phone prayer meeting every day. As a result of this meeting, members invited unsaved

people to join in on the call. Many accepted Christ. Recently, he had the privilege of baptizing 10 of these new believers! Pastor Daniel realized he needed to teach these believers, so for the past four months he has conducted seven hours of training a day via phone, five days a week! He is also involved in a two-hour international prayer meeting that includes believers from around the world.

One unique thing about Daniel is that he knows and can speak six languages. His mother tongue is Tigrinya. He also speaks Greek, Amharic, Arabic, English, and some Italian. (At one point, Eritrea became a colony of Italy, so Italian was taught in schools.)

During our visits to the Emanuel Eritrean Church, one can sense a strong passion for the Lord. Prayer is a basic and vital part of the worship there. People are being healed. A few weeks ago, a man was healed from mental illness. Approximately 45 adults and 35 children make up this community of believers. Not all attend at the same time.

Bishop Leonard and Anna Mary Burkholder give regional oversight to this congregation. In ordinary times, they make visits to the congregation. Bishop Leonard also spends time relating with Pastor Daniel for their mutual support and encouragement. He is very grateful for Pastor Daniel's zeal for evangelism and prayer.

It's a great honor having Pastor Daniel and Oquba as part of the Harvest Fellowship of Churches family. Let's pray that his vision for the church to grow and multiply will be a dynamic reality in the weeks and months to come. To God be the glory!

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On a personal note, while not travelling, we've participated in numerous Zoom meetings and phone calls to keep in touch with leaders and congregations. By way of Zoom, we had a New England regional fellowship and training session; teachings by John and Janet Hannah; ministry in a couple of congregations, etc.

Thanks for your prayers as we continue on this uncertain journey!

For more information about Harvest Fellowship of Churches, you are invited to our website: [www.harvestfellowshipofchurches.org](http://www.harvestfellowshipofchurches.org)