



By Lloyd Greenhaw  
COUNTRY COORDINATOR  
for ETHIOPIA

Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw minister in the United States, Haiti, Papua New Guinea, Ethiopia, and several other countries in Africa. They conduct missions, conferences, and retreats for adults and youth. They also are involved in prison ministry and work with the homeless.

Nancy and Lloyd live in Texas and have two daughters, fourteen grandchildren, and eleven great grandchildren.



# Spreading the GOSPEL in Ethiopia

During this trip, among other outreaches, Bishop Lesanu-Christos Matheos had us take the Gospel to remote areas of the diocese. We proclaimed the Gospel to unbaptized people just starting their journey to Christ. We felt like true missionaries! We've chosen that story, from the Gumuz tribe, to share below:

We made a several-hour trip to a remote town called Banush, in the heart of Gumuz territory. The Gumuz people are a very primitive and fierce tribe. They have a reputation of violence and murder. We were told the other denominations have not attempted to evangelize them out of fear. About twelve years ago, a group of Comboni nuns went to the Gumuz in another area of Ethiopia and began a medical outreach to them. The love and care these wonderful nuns gave the people led them to Jesus and His Church, and now that region has a good number of Gumuz who are Catholics, but none of the Gumuz near Banush had yet been baptized.

There is not a parish as of yet in Banush. The bishop told us that two young Gumuz men who had gone to school in Bahir Dar had encountered Jesus and been baptized. They then went to the bishop and asked him to send a priest to their village in the mountains. He told them to go first and said that when they had at least forty people interested in the Catholic faith, he would send them a priest. **These young men (pictured below) were filled with zeal for the Gospel, and did just that. The bishop, true to his word, sent his only diocesan priest to them. (Fr. Teklemarian Amanual is also pictured below.) After only a few months of preaching the Gospel there, 280 men, women, and children received the Sacrament of Baptism, just a short time after our visit!**



After the drive, Fr. Amanual left his vehicle at a small village, and we began hiking. We had no idea how far we had to go and expected to arrive there quickly. Boy, were we ever wrong! We walked for several miles up small mountains, down deep valleys, and across several streams—two of which we had to pass over by jumping rock to rock!

When the priest finally said we were close, he pointed at a neighboring mountain with a blue tarp stretched between poles, which was barely visible, and told us that was our destination. We all groaned inwardly. I kept reminding myself that St. Paul had it much worse. When we finally arrived, we were greeted by the whole village. It was quite a sight and made us so glad that we had come. The Gumuz are some of the last of the hunters and gatherers, and by their clothing we could see they were poor. Some of the children had the red hair of malnutrition.



During our time in Gumuz, their "church" consisted of a blue tarp stretched between poles.

I shared with them the basic salvation message and told them they had been chosen by God and that He has a plan for their lives—to bless and prosper them and give them a future filled with hope. I then led them into a prayer of commitment to Jesus. Father asked me to speak on baptism, and I told them that while they were already followers of Christ, baptism was their full incorporation into the family of God. I told them it is more than a symbol; it is a true transformation, as they become a brand-new creation. I told them they would then receive the Holy Spirit, and He would empower them with gifts of healing, preaching, and teaching so they could then go and evangelize others in their tribe.

**Nancy then taught on the necessity of forgiveness, and we did the skit where she carries me on her back and God asks her to forgive me. When she does forgive, she starts dancing and asks them: Did I do that for him or for me? They all say, "For you!" The message got across! During quiet times, you could hear the coughing and wheezing of the children. They have no access to healthcare.**

As it was getting late, we decided to leave so we could get back before dark. We were dreading the walk back, but somehow it seemed easier. I am sure it was God saying, "Good job." That night, we had the pleasure of ministering to thirty young Gumuz men who were attending school in Banush. The Catholic Church generously provides them with room and board at no charge. At the request of Fr. Amanual, I gave the basic salvation message, and Nancy taught on the call to holiness and the moral life. They had many questions, and it was such a pleasure to see their interest in what we taught and respect for the priest and one another. Before we left, we prayed with them for wisdom, understanding, and knowledge, and they were very happy.

**Good things are happening in Ethiopia! ✚**

## A Letter from Bishop Lesanu



After the recent mission, Bishop Lesanu sent a letter to Renewal Ministries. Lloyd writes of the bishop; "He is a humble man and has a huge heart for bringing the Gospel to his people. It is an honor to work with him. He still has only one diocesan priest in an area that is approximately 900 by 750 kilometers!" Excerpts from the bishop's letter are below:

I am writing to give you a praise report on the effectiveness of your prayers. By the grace of the Holy Spirit we are not only seeing a zeal for the New Evangelization among our established Churches, we are also reaching areas and people with the Gospel that have never heard the Good News of God's love and mercy before. Alleluia!

On behalf of our priests, religious, and the Catholic faithful of our diocese, I would also like to thank you for the evangelization programs you facilitated here in several locations. In the town of Pawe, at Nativity Parish, we brought together over 150 of our youth from the main parish and thirteen outstations. They left empowered by the Holy Spirit and with a joy and hope that was beautiful to see. **In the town of Banush, the Renewal Ministries team walked for several miles through difficult terrain to teach and minister to 280 members of the Gumuz People, who are the first in their tribe to accept Christianity. On November 28th, we will baptize all 280! Please receive our personal thanks and prayers. May God bless you richly for your love for us!**

The team's teaching on the basic Gospel message, the Jubilee of Mercy, empowerment in the Holy Spirit, and the five Keys to Freedom have been a blessing from God. This year, you blessed us with two outreaches that have begun a great hunger for the Truth, and we humbly ask you to return twice next year and continue and expand your powerful teaching! We have few resources, and your help has been vital. Be assured of our prayers for you and your work for God.

Yours in Christ,

*Abba Lesanu-Christos Matheos*  
Bishop of the Eparchy of Bahir Dar-Dessir

*This follow-up report regarding the baptisms of the Gumuz tribe appeared online at vaticanradio.com:*

“The testimony of one young believer and the diligent efforts of the pastoral agents of the Catholic Church have brought 300 more children of God home. However, there are still more of our brothers and sisters who have not yet received the Good News of the Lord, and with God's Grace we shall continue to shine the light of Our Lord and spread the Good News.”

— Bishop Lesanu-Christos, as reported by Vatican Radio on Nov. 30, 2016