

Dear friends!

Sometimes God sends us to forgotten places. That was how we felt in the week of 21 to 25 August. We were in Haranfama, 12 hours' drive from Addis Ababa. The last 85 km (55 miles) took us almost four hours with the Land Cruiser and our truck needed 12 hours for the same route. No cars go there, only motorbikes, trucks and off-road vehicles. I was the first preacher from overseas to have come there. There was no electricity, no running water and nothing that we would call a toilet. But in such forgotten places we experience the power and presence of God the most. People came with an open, hungry heart and received the Word of God with joy. Paul told the Corinthians that he brought them not only the Word of God but also the power of God so that their faith would not rest on human wisdom but on God's power. The gospel is not just with words but with power. The disciples were not permitted to spread the gospel until they had first received power. Jesus only began his ministry after he had received the anointing and power of the Holy Spirit. God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and then he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil.

We are experiencing the same today. The Lord always confirms his word with signs and wonders when we proclaim it. This was the case in Haranfama. Many testified that they had been touched and healed by the power of God. There was great joy and excitement over the preached word and we could feel people's love for God and for us. They asked us to come again soon. The harvest fields really are ripe.

We have now overcome all the bureaucratic hurdles to importing our sound system. The delays cost an unnecessary €3000 (\$3,300) in port charges for the container. The customs office informed us that we would have to pay at best €45,000 (\$50,000) in import duty and in the worst case €65,000 (\$70,000).

This payment is coming up in the next two weeks. We argued that we were not pursuing commercial interests with this import and that the sound system was to serve exclusively for the spreading of the gospel. Now they are conferring internally and will decide how much it will be; but pay we must. We will see how we will manage that, but just as the Lord supernaturally gave us the money for the sound system (€100,000 / \$110,000), HE will also give us the money for the customs duty.

Years ago I heard Reinhard Bonnke say: "What the Lord orders, he also pays for." A fisherman needs a boat and a net, and we need vehicles and a good public address system. Next we will need a stage as well. So far we have had 161 evangelistic campaigns in Ethiopia and we always have a stage erected. What we have spent on that would have already more than paid for a stage.

Our next evangelistic outreach in Ethiopia will probably take place in October. In November we are in Nigeria again, and in December back in Ethiopia.

Many, many thanks for all your contributions and support. Without you we could not do anything. God needs people who will go and people who will send and support. Both are necessary to bring in the harvest and they will both share the reward at the end.

With rich blessings and best regards!

Ekkehard Hornburg



HEALING TESTIMONIES ETHIOPIA





Her navel grew out and was an inflamed growth that often bled. After prayer, the growth had gone and the navel was normal. She had suffered from this condition for seven years.

She had had a tumour in her lung and had not been able to breathe properly for six years. After prayer she could breathe normally and all the symptoms had gone. She got an undisturbed night's sleep for the first time.

She had a fall two years ago and had been unable to raise or use her arm since then. All the symptoms disappeared after prayer.



For three years he had been deaf in his left ear. He can hear normally again.



The child had had an ear infection since birth, with pus constantly coming out. For the first time, the ear is healthy and normal.



Do Christians have to go through the seven-year tribulation?

Paul wrote to the church in Thessaloniki about the return of Jesus because some believed that the return of Jesus had already taken place. Many thought Nero was the Antichrist and that the persecution of Christians was a sign that the tribulation had already begun. Paul writes: "Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him [in the air], we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled ... as though the day of Christ had come" (2 Thess 2:1-9). The day of Christ is the return of Jesus at the end of the seven-year tribulation when Jesus returns to the Mount of Olives with his saints and destroys the Antichrist with the breath of his mouth (verse 8). But the Antichrist cannot come until the one who hinders his coming is taken away (verse 7).

"And now you know what is holding him [the Antichrist] back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendour of his coming" (verses 6-8).

Who is the one who is holding the Antichrist back and preventing his appearing? It is the body of Christ on earth. Jesus said the gates of hell would not prevail against the church. That means as long as the body of Christ is on earth, we hold the darkness back and prevent the Antichrist from appearing and being revealed. The Antichrist spirit has already been here for 2000 years and Satan has always tried to take on world dominion, but the body of Christ is the resistance that keeps evil in check.

When the one who holds the Antichrist back is taken away, evil can develop to the full. That means that first the rapture of the body of Christ must come before the Antichrist can take over the world and rule.

Paul writes about us being caught up together with Jesus in the air (1 Thess 4:17; 2 Thess 2:1), which has to take place first, and then the man of lawlessness will be revealed (2 Thess 2:3). The age of the church began in Acts, chapter 2. and ends in Revelation, chapter 3, with the rapture of the church. After chapter 3, the church is no longer on earth but in heaven. Then comes the seven-year tribulation, which ends with the return of Jesus on the Mount of Olives. The devil is waiting for the day of the rapture so that he can take dominion here on earth. Jesus will first come for his church (in the air) and seven years later he will come back with his church to the Mount of Olives, destroy the Antichrist and his followers, and the 1000-year reign will begin. The church first has to be taken away before the last seven years for Israel begin, which Daniel prophesied about. 490 years are decreed for Israel, the angel says to Daniel (Dan 9:24). Until the Anointed One, the Messiah, is killed (crucifixion) there would be 483 years (verse 26). After that came the age of the church, which will end with the rapture of the church. Then begin the last seven years before the 1000-year reign.

Luther translated the Greek word "apostasia" as falling away. "that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed," (2 Thess 2:3). This word "apostasia" means: separation, leaving, departure. Here, in this context, it means the body of Christ being taken away from the earth. Paul is speaking in this chapter about the rapture of the church, about us being taken away and meeting Jesus in the air. The rapture has to happen first and then the Antichrist will come to rule for seven years. That means that during the Great Tribulation we will not be on earth but in heaven. Every country calls its citizens and ambassadors back when there is a threat of war. God does the same for his children before he judges the godless. He did it for Noah and for Lot. The return of Jesus is the living hope that we have. We are not waiting for the Antichrist and the Great Tribulation. That would be no comfort. We are waiting for the return of Jesus, for the rapture. "Therefore comfort one another with these words," Paul writes (1 Thess 4:18).

World Wide Evangelism

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