

## Ethiopia

The final weekend I stayed in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. AO had been with me in Nairobi and we travelled together and spent with him and his family in his newly occupied flat/apartment. From 17<sup>th</sup>. February a nationwide state of emergency had been declared, but one would hardly have realized it.

There is much Islamic influence in the country, but it was the Orthodox chanting from 5 a.m. every day that disturbed the peace.



This is a picture from AO's flat on the outskirts of Addis Ababa. As you can see blocks of flats are mushrooming. It is now a city of at least 7 million. A great system of roads is being constructed, and there is a railway right through the city.

On Sunday I preached at the English service of the Lutheran Church in Addis Ababa. There were about 25 present, differing nationalities, to hear about the Conversion of the Thessalonians from 1 Thess. 1:9-10. It is one of 2 largest Protestant Churches in Ethiopia claiming 8 million members.

There are three members of Trinity Baptist Church, Nairobi in Addis Ababa and, together with AO's wife and Zemen, they have begun to meet weekly to study the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith with the ultimate aim of starting a church. They say they have contact with a number of people who are so discouraged by the spiritual situation in the country that they cannot settle in any church. We pray that many of these will soon join them. Please pray the Lord will bless this church planting work.

Sunday afternoon we drove north 25 miles to Sululta past athletic training institutions, and their accompanying grand hotels. Here is developing the training centre for Zemen's work amongst Amharic and Oromo speakers. It is out of town to give some privacy and protection as he works amongst many leaders with an Islamic background. It was so interesting to see that he has translated Stuart Olyott's book on Preaching into Amharic. I was told, 'Christians are asleep while Muslims do door to door work and set people up in businesses'. Coupled with the widespread influence of the prosperity message, there is such a great need for Biblical teaching.