

# PERMANENT LIGHT

## **Bethel Bible Baptist Church Land Project “A Moment to Give – A Lifetime of Hope” FAQ**

Our families have had the privilege of watching God work through Bethel Bible Baptist Church. With this in mind, now is the time to begin to establish a permanent light for the Gospel in Ethiopia. We believe the next step is the purchase of land which will allow for long term stability in the years ahead. As we prayed about presenting this need to the body of Christ we began to ask ourselves questions. We share them with you with the hope of encouraging you in our vision for Ethiopia.

### **1. How do you start a church planting movement that reaches a country?**

It starts with making personal relationships with Ethiopians that allow us to lead them to Jesus. Discipleship allows for the growth of their new faith with the purpose of making more disciples.

### **2. Where do you meet with those disciples to equip them for the work of reaching their country?**

There are multiple answers to this question:

- a. Meet in your own home.
  - i. The law in Ethiopia limits believers to the amount of people who can meet regularly at a place of residence.
  - ii. Some who have ignored these laws have been removed from the country.
- b. Rent a property.
  - i. With the proper government licensing, this is a better option than meeting in your own home. This is what our church has been doing for the past six years but there are also limitations.
    1. You are limited by the size of the house and land. Even with a larger home the configuration of a house can be limiting.
    2. At the end of a contract the rent normally is raised.
    3. At the end of a contract you may be forced to change locations. Bethel has already rented two locations in six years.
    4. The amount spent after years of renting could have been put towards buying a property. With the next two years of our rent paid in full we have already spent over \$60,000 in rent.
- c. Buy land and build
  - i. This option seems to be best since it provides a place for the body of Christ to meet now and for future generations.
  - ii. It provides the opportunity for Bethel to build in a way that makes best use of the space available.

1. As we plan for training church planters we can have rooms that will be suitable for Sunday School classes or college courses
2. As we plan to provide spaces for young men who can not afford to live on their own. This answers the question of how to train church planters that can't afford to miss work.
3. As we plan to provide a space for missionary teams as they come to see ministry in Ethiopia.

3. **How much will property cost?**

After researching the cost of properties in Ayat we have come to the conclusion that property will cost around \$200,000.

4. **How much will the building cost?** We are planning between \$150,000 and \$200,000. However, it may be possible to break construction into phases that gradually add extra floors to the building. This would allow for use of the initial building as soon as possible while continuing with construction.

5. **How long do you plan to take to complete this need?**

Of course, it really depends on how fast God provides the funds; but we desire to complete this need in 2 phases over a period of 4 years.

1. The first phase would be allowing two years to purchase the land.
2. The second phase would be allowing two years to raise funds for the building.

6. **Will you have to spend this much money every time you plant a church?**

The short answer is “No”; but it really depends on where you plant the church. In the decision to plant in the area of Ayat, which is on the east side of Addis, we have strategically started in a place that is growing at a rapid pace. In fact, as of right now it is not the most expensive place to be. The closer you move toward the middle of the city the more expensive property becomes. Our goal is to start here allowing Bethel to become a mother church. We want Bethel to be the training ground for Ethiopians who will start churches all over the country. This location is an excellent staging area for future ministry in Ethiopia.

7. **Will this property and building help missionaries today and in the future?**

Yes, for missionaries today it provides them with a place to train believers and do community outreach. For future missionaries it will be a place where they can begin to learn as they acclimate to their new life. This approach will allow us to have a foothold in the country of Ethiopia to further spread the Gospel.

8. **Why now?**

God has given two families one vision to reach a country. Both of our families are from the same sending church, First Coast Baptist Church. We believe this unity allows for a strong partnership which is needed in a country like Ethiopia. This vision starts in the community where Bethel has been for the past 6 years. With the rent paid for the next two years, the church is in a unique position to plan, save, and act for the future.

9. **How can I most effectively pray for Bethel and this Need?**

First, pray for our people at Bethel. They have already taken the first step toward this goal promising over \$3,000 in May alone. They are asking for others to join them in their goal of advancing the Gospel. Second, pray that we will be sensitive to what property God would want the church to purchase. We want a location that will last far into the future. We desire a place that will be a springboard for future Gospel advancement. Third, pray that we would be patient as we deal with the different government organizations that are involved in the process. Pray our hearts will desire God's glory and to make it known above all things.

10. **How can I help Bethel Bible Baptist Church with this need of a property?**

You can consider partnering financially with them. As we planned for this moment, God gave us a clear vision of how this purchase for property could be met. We are praying for the following:

- Bethel will give \$10,000
- The Shadle and Lynn family will give \$10,000
- 20 churches will give \$5000
- 40 churches will give \$1000
- 80 churches will give \$500

Together, this would allow us to have the \$200,000 for the property. If God would have you give one of these amounts or any amount then you can give to this address:

Jeremy Lynn or Eric Shadle  
Baptist Bible Fellowship International  
P.O. Box 191  
Springfield, MO 65801  
Memo: Bethel Land