

This is Bezabeh Tadesse, he is 29 years of age. He is single. He has been a local drug



addict which is called *Chatt*. He went to Shakisso to look for a job a year ago. But the only available job for him was to mine gold. The pastor from Shakisso found him in the mining site and told him about Jesus. Then he was convicted by the Holy Spirit and decided to follow Jesus. His life then began to change and he started to give up taking drugs. Now he is attending the church service.

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Africa – artisanal mining for gold keeps thousands occupied, often in degrading conditions

For over 100 years, the International Miners' Mission has been directly supporting and encouraging churches and mission agencies seeking to take the Good News of Jesus Christ to miners and their families in various parts of the world. Could you consider providing financial support and prayer for these people, who are often living in remote and sometimes dangerous places?

We can send you our regular Newsletter: Safety Lamp and Prayer Link. We can also provide a speaker for your church fellowship meeting.

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INTERNATIONAL MINERS' MISSION

GOLD – the stuff of dreams
The profound place gold has in man's estimation

Good as gold” – “All that glitters is not gold” – “Have a heart of gold” – “Pot of gold” – “Sitting on a gold mine”.....and so the list of sayings goes on. Since the dawn of creation this warmly beautiful metal has been the most prized material mankind has found.”

Enduring beauty

Why is this? Well, gold is enduring, for it never rusts or dissolves away. Silver may tarnish, but gold retains its beauty. Even strong acid cannot harm it but a hammer may fashion it into a hair-breadth leaf or delicate tracery. It is the only metal unharmed by fire. Indeed, as Pliny asserted, gold became more and more refined each time it went through the furnace.

Lure of gold

The supreme qualities of this kingly metal shed around it a mystic aura. What deeper significance has this strange and precious rarity? In almost all the cultures of the world, be it the Egyptian Pharaohs or Mayan kings of Central America, throughout history gold has been valued and sought as a precious metal, as a commodity or as fabulous jewellery. They say gold is the stuff of dreams

Panning for Gold – Ethiopia

Gold has been a symbol of power, wealth and success for many down the ages. It has provoked lust and greed. It has started wars. It



has caused mining gold rushes all round the world. Although 85% of gold in the world is now extracted from the earth by large mining corporations, 15% is still being mined on a small scale by traditional artisanal means. It can be hard gruelling work for very little reward.

Africa –hard earned reward mining gold

Yet, the attraction for many artisanal and small scale gold miners is strong to get involved in mining. Many work as families, including women and children. Most are from socially and economically marginalized communities. Whole families turn to mining in order to try and escape extreme poverty, addition there are many dangers such as mine shaft collapses and toxic poisoning from the

unemployment and landlessness. The dangers force miners to risk operating illegally. In



addition there are many dangers such as mine shaft collapse and toxic poisoning from the variety of chemicals unsafely used in processing.

Tsgaye Getahun is 40 years of age. He is married and has two children. He went to



Shakisso area specifically called Bore Obite ten years ago to make mining his livelihood.

Although he was Christian about eleven years ago, he has been back-slidden for years. On September 2011 a pastor from Shakisso meet him at the mining place and told him about Christ. Then he rededicated his life. Now he and his family are attending the church service.

Tameru Tessa is 53 years of age. He is married and has six boys and girls. His birth



place is 150 kilometres away from the mining area where he works. He was a Christian for about 25 years but didn't have fellowship with other Christians. He went to the Shakisso area three years ago to rent land for farming. After he arrived there he started both farming and mining. When a pastor from Shakisso went out to the mining area for evangelism he told him about Christ and he decided to make fellowship with the mining Christian community. Now he is active in evangelism and fellowship with Christians.