

Recommendations for Communications with BSCO – Michael Weller – April 2007 – Ethiopia Mission Network Conference

1. If your U.S. email address is through AOL, then please give BSCO an alternative address through which we can contact you. AOL continues to block messages from Ethiopia. We hear your frustration, but the only means for us to contact you in this case is for us to know someone who does not have an AOL address who also knows you. Even putting a mailing address in your original message will allow BSCO to respond the old fashion way.
2. When sending funds to Ethiopia via your church secretary, business administrator, etc. either through PC (USA) Channels or directly to BSCO please ask everyone involved to provide us with as much information as possible. The Bethel Synods Office handles money transactions for five Synods who have projects and partnerships with congregations, Presbyteries, and other international organizations. If we get a description that reads Majangir Project \$2,000.00, then we must investigate to find out if the project is one of two in WWBS, or the project in IBS, or possibly some new start-up in the Gambella region where we also find Majangir communities. If the description tells us that the money is for new church development or clean water without identifying the particular Synod, then it just means that the money will take even longer for us to get it to where it needs to be.
3. Please write to BSCO with all the information at the very beginning of the process. Even if you are sending the money through PC (USA) offices or ECO accounts, so that we can be aware of what to look for at our bank. We will also ask you to fully identify who you are and with whom you are in partnership. There are many First Presbyterian Churches in the United States
4. If you are attempting to email directly to a Synod Office, I suggest, if it is not a personal matter, that you cc BSCO. Phone lines, internet services, electricity can still be a problem for all of us in Ethiopia, but it can be especially difficult down country. Do not feel hesitant about contacting us again if you do not get a response. We desire to be in contact and facilitate communication. If you are writing through AOL, remember that we receive your message, but many of our replies bounce back to us. In a second or third request for communication give us an alternative address to use.
5. The BSCO Office is on a dial up system and we take turns using our computers. DSL is available in Ethiopia yet it is expensive to install and maintain, but it is on our wish list as is the idea of setting up an

office network that will enable us to use our computers to communicate during office hours without having to take turns and unplugging the fax machine.

1. For Travel arrangements, Guest House Accommodations, Airport pick-up, etc. please email all three addresses below. Put "reservation" in the subject heading. A new Guest House Manager begins service on April 1 and during her training period we want to make sure that your communication is not lost.

- a. bsgh@ethionet.et (Manager: Bahrini Gichile)
- b. bethelsynods@ethionet.et
- c. r4weller@earthlink.net

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| 2. Phone calls: | <u>From the U.S.</u> | <u>Within Ethiopia</u> |
| a. BSCO | 011-251-112-75-02-88 or 89 | 011-275-0288 or 89 |
| b. Yonas (cell) | 011-251-911-50-57-37 | 0911-50-57-37 |
| c. M. Weller (cell) | 011-251-911-42-51-42 | 0911-42-51-42 |
| d. R. Weller (cell) | 011-251-911-69-26-46 | 0911-69-26-46 |
| e. Office Fax | 011-251-112-75-43-21 | 011-275-4321 |