

# Choforo Asefa Geshe



*“Jesus used the Mossy Foot project to help me because He loved me before I knew Him.”*



**Choforo Asefa Geshe** is a 75 year-old man from Gununo Woreda. Choforo has 8 children: 4 girls and 4 boys. During his life, Choforo has experienced many challenges and difficult times, but also great deliverance. He was sobbing and full of praise when he told his story.

Choforo was an honored and well-known person in his neighborhood—a strong, diligent and hard working man. When Choforo was a child, shoes were not common in his area so he walked barefoot from one place to another whenever he went out to work on the farm, attend

school, or ride horses. He woke up early and walked to the farm before the dew of the grass was gone. Stepping on the cold land, Choforo would begin work and continued all day. All his errands were done barefoot.

## How it Began



He was 14 years old when various kinds of symptoms he had never seen began to appear on his body. Time and again, bulges puffed up and began growing. Believing these symptoms would go away like any other common sickness, Choforo ignored the bulges on his leg. When he was 20 years old, his ignorance turned into frustration and worry. Unusual masses and swelling in different parts of his toes and feet began growing. His normal, flat leg began to be bumpy and swollen. “What is going on?” wondered Choforo.

## Challenges and Oppositions

Month after month the unusual symptoms, puffs and bulges continued to grow. Now more frustration and worry controlled the young man. Puss began to flow from his foot. This made a terrible smell and uncomfortable feeling in his body. His neighbors, some of his family, and almost everybody avoided him because of the bad smell from his body. He felt lonely and sad. Hopelessness controlled his whole life. He was forced to stop working since he could not farm or ride horses as he did before. His strength began to vanish. The strong young man who used to farm for a whole day now became tired and weak after a few minutes of walking. His leg became so large that he could no longer wear the trousers he used to wear. He had to order wider trousers to fit his big leg. Worries and questions filled Choforo's life.

## Hopes, Renewal and Revival

One day, Choforo heard a wonderful announcement which filled him with hope and plans. An organization that teaches and gives shoes and medicine to people who have problems with their legs would come to his area in a week. Could it be true? Choforo waited patiently and hopefully.



Lining up with the crowd of people waiting for treatment, Choforo waited for his turn to come. His new life began the day he met the workers from Mossy Foot. The workers were very kind. They first examined his feet and then washed his legs thoroughly with clean water, soap, and bleach. Then they put an ointment on his leg. They explained to him how to follow the same process so that he could

continue the treatments by himself.

After being taught how to care for his feet, Choforo was given shoes that fit his big feet and ointment medicine to put on after washing with soap and soaking in bleach water. "For the first time in my life I saw such a kindness and servanthood from the Mossy Foot staff," says Choforo filled with thankfulness.

He did what he was told carefully every day without fail. He continued cleaning his feet and wearing shoes given by the Mossy Foot Association. Improvements began to show on his body. Mosses and unwanted extra keloids began to melt away. Bad smells vanished. He continued to follow up with the Mossy Foot Association who continued giving him shoes and treatments. His leg continued to improve, his body began



to rebuild its muscle, and his strength began to return. He was finally able to begin farm work again.

## **Life and Hope in Christ**

“Jesus used the Mossy Foot project to help me because He loved me before I knew Him. I was a bad person. I knew nothing about Jesus and nothing about religion. I used to get drunk, ride horses, hunt and kill animals. I was filled with pride and boastfulness,” says Choforo.

He used to worship evil spirits and sacrifice to them. All of his parents and ancestors were worshipers of the evil spirits. One by one the evil spirits killed his relatives. After his father’s death, Choforo began to look for ways to escape the evil spirits, before he also was killed. He used to hear about religious believers and church, God and the Holy Spirit from his neighbors. He decided to go to church and accept Jesus Christ as his Savior if Jesus could save his life from the evil spirits. One Sunday he went to the church, raised his hand, and accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior.

“Freedom I never felt before came to my life and my house,” said Ato Choforo.

Choforo helped to build a church on his father’s land and is now a member of a prayer group in this church. He is an honored and beloved elder in his area. He shares with his neighbors and church members about what he has experienced and the challenges he has overcome. Choforo teaches them how to take care of their feet and keep clean so they can avoid what happened to him. Choforo’s children are now educated and scored well in their elementary schools. Some of them are studying for university. Now his life is in better position than it was when he was young.

“Give the praise to the Lord for what he has done to me.” Standing up and taking off his hat, the elder praises the Lord with his whole heart.