



News & Views

Updates, Service Opportunities, Prayer Concerns and More...



EOM Head Office

Pressing On With the Vision...



As I reflect back on EOM's path during the last 25 years, I see God's mighty hand leading us to carry out His

wonderful plan to impact the Kingdom of God. We have so much to thank the Lord for. We are also grateful to many of you who stood by us with your prayers and financial support over the years. Because of your faithful support, we have been able to literally touch millions of lives. We look forward to the next 25 years, anticipating the marvelous and exciting things God will do through this ministry. While we are preparing to celebrate our 25th anniversary on August 25, 2007, we are declaring "Leadership Training" as our primary focus for the next 25 years.

Since 2004 we have been sharing with you the vision that God has given us to establish a Leadership Training & Resource Center in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to train and mentor existing and as well as emerging leaders. During the last two years I made two short-term trips to Ethiopia to assess the needs and to explore ways and means as to how we could bring our dreams into reality. You may ask how important this leadership training is for the growth and development of churches in Ethiopia. The best way to help you understand the need is by showing you the current state of Ethiopian evangelical church leaders. Since there is no known research done on this matter, we are making an intelligent guess:

- ◆ *Less than two percent of pastors have formal Biblical training.*
- ◆ *Most pastors preach & teach on Sundays less than ten times a year.*
- ◆ *One out of every 20 pastors is able to preach and teach.*
- ◆ *Roughly less than 1% of these pastors could identify, recruit, train, and deploy workers and leaders.*
- ◆ *98% of these pastors have no vision for their churches.*
- ◆ *99% of these pastors are more of facilitators rather than assertive leaders & equippers.*
- ◆ *Most pastors are neither called nor divinely equipped for the post.*
- ◆ *Some pastors work harder and longer hours but work at the wrong things.*
- ◆ *There are no Christian books that focus on leadership issues or problems that are relevant to the Ethiopian churches' needs.*
- ◆ *Many churches suffer from internal conflict and lack of direction. Most church leaders do not understand the dynamics of conflict and do not have the slightest idea how to lead their congregation in the midst of conflicts.*

Due to these and other facts, we decided to take a step of faith to establish an ongoing, Biblically grounded leadership training program in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Our immediate plan is to provide two or three short, intensive training sessions per year, but eventually we are hoping to provide at least six per year. If church leaders

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Benefit Dinner Was a Success

Every May and October, Ethiopian Outreach Ministry invites its friends and supporters to come to an authentic Ethiopian luncheon, serving a variety of Ethiopian delicacies from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. It is a time of fellowship, a reunion for quite a few, and a time to learn more about the ministry and meet the staff and some of the volunteers who are vital to the effectiveness of the ministry.

One of these vital volunteers is Tony Montag. Tony and his wife Sandy attended the banquet and, above, you see Tony playfully waiting for his feeding moment (gursha) from brother Me-



lese. Tony, although not much for spicy food, commented how delicious it was.

As with the benefit dinners held especially in the past two and a half years, the Lord has been faithful in providing the necessary funds for the ministry's

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various needs, particularly the daily radio broadcast that reaches millions of Ethiopians in over twenty countries.



Rev. Daniel Moore and his family from Guenston Presbyterian Church at the dinner

We are humbled by many friends who were not able to come to the dinner and others who live far from where we hold the dinner who sent in their contributions anyway. Together, they contributed over \$3,000 of the total donation, to be part of the blessing. We thank God for their generosity and the choice they made to be an encouragement to all of us.



Carolyn Butera, Aidan Keen, Matthew Butera and Gareth Keen of York, PA

We appreciated the families who were able to bring their young children to the dinner, introducing them to various ways of involvement in missions as well as the tasty Ethiopian cooking. It is so important to be mindful of the next generation and help them to be active in missions—for the harvest is plenty and the workers are still few.

Not all children who try Ethiopian food for the first time would enjoy its spiciness but, by the second or third time, we see many come to like it. Here, Jordan Sterner is trying the chicken dish for the first time. He is quite a brave boy even to take a "gursha" from the host. Keep it up, Jordan, and you will develop a taste for it before you know it.



Bonnie Janice

We mentioned that these benefit dinners not only serve as a fund raising event but also as a time of fellowship and reunion. A few friends came from as far away as Washington, Virginia and New York. Bonnie Darr came all the way from Pittsburgh at the invitation of our ministry

partner and friend, Janice Anderson. This was the first time Bonnie has attended an EOM benefit dinner. Janice and Bonnie worked together at Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh in the 1990's. What a time of reunion for friends to be together again!

We had the privilege of having Melese's son, Emanuel Wogu, and his new bride Asiya from Atlanta. What a delight for friends who knew Emanuel when he was young boy to see him now: a grown man with a wife next to him. What a great reunion!



These banquets also provide many of our friends with an opportunity to serve. In addition to their financial contributions,



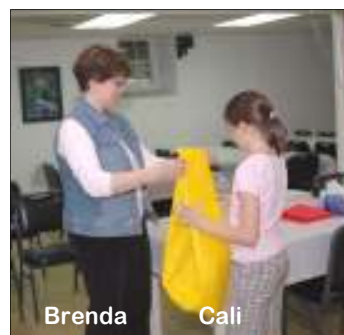
many assist with the preparation of the meals, replenishing the dishes and cleaning afterward. Our sisters shown in this picture (Yeromnesh, Tigist and Aster) drove from Washington, DC, to be with us. They joyfully helped

with bringing a special order of *injera* (the Ethiopian bread) from Washington, stayed on their feet for hours preparing it to be served, and faithfully refilled the buffet line. We are grateful to all of them.

It was great to see Mahlet M. Kebede, who was so little when we began holding these banquets started, now helping by serving. Here, Mahlet is seen sweeping the floor alongside her friend Cali and her parents, Rob and Brenda Hager of York, PA, who attended the dinner for the first time.



We hope to share more pictures from the banquet in our next issue of *News & Views*. Thank you to all of you who



Brenda Cali

took part in making EOM's biannual fundraising dinner a success. Every bit of your involvement counts. With your continued support, we press forward, proclaiming the gospel among millions of Ethiopians and being an encouragement to many more brothers and sisters in Christ. □



have to leave their churches for extended periods for theological training, the momentum of the churches' growth will be diminished. Instead, short-term training brings education as close to the action as possible. As we continue to provide leadership training for various church leaders in Addis, we will also equip a core group of leaders (maximum 50) who are willing to go to various provinces and remote areas to carry out our training seminars.

After getting the encouragement of the EOM Board and overwhelming support from the Ethiopian church leaders to pursue this vision, I went back to Ethiopia in 2006 to look at a property for sale. I felt that I had found an ideal property in a good location in Addis Ababa that has adequate office space, a good-size hall to conduct seminars and workshops, and a medium-size hall for a library at a reasonable price. However, we found it hard to raise the necessary funds to purchase this property. We prayed and made an effort to make our needs known to our partners. Apparently it wasn't the Lord's time. So, instead of dropping the whole idea, after engaging in many deep and searching discussions, we decided to begin training leaders right away using rented facilities until the Lord provides us with our own property.

As we shared with you briefly in our last issue of "News & Views," we offered our first leadership training seminar at one of the Presbyterian churches in Addis Ababa from January 22-26, 2007. More than 80 church leaders who



came from 25 denominational and non-denominational churches participated in the seminar for five days, for a total of 30 hours of instruction. Each person received over 70 pages of training material to use as a reference when conducting similar training for other church leaders. After seeing the excitement and the joy of the participants, we praised the Lord for using us to expand His Kingdom on earth. The second leadership training is scheduled for August 2007 in Addis Ababa.



It was exciting to see the students interact with me and catch a wider and clearer vision of what, where and how God wants them to be involved in His mandate for the people of Ethiopia. Some partici-

pants had already made plans to travel to remote areas to give similar courses to other church leaders. Many participants stated that they have acquired tools to help them be effective leaders, and have been challenged to depend on the power of God in their efforts to impact others for Christ.



I would like to share with you excerpts from the many testimonies we have received from the participants:

- ~ *I have participated in several leadership trainings before, but I have never had such a course which is very applicable to our immediate needs. The teaching and the handout for the class is tremendous. I am very anxious to go and train other church leaders with this material.*
- ~ *This course met more than my expectations.*
- ~ *I have no words to express my gratitude to the Lord for this seminar. After coming home from a long day of ministry, I always ask God, "What about me, Lord? Where do I get my spiritual food?" Praise the Lord, this seminar was my chance. I personally have received a guideline for my life and my ministry through this seminar.*
- ~ *I want to thank Dr. Melese for teaching and equipping us to be better leaders in the period of time where there are many problems within our churches. The other thing that I appreciate about Dr. Melese is that he is sharing with us his life experience. That was as sweet as pure honey!*
- ~ *Through this seminar I have learned that Dr. Melese is a man of character. His sharing of his life's experience has touched me and shown me the working hand of God in him.*

In addition to the leadership training seminar, we had several invitations to preach and teach in many churches across the nation. Due to time constraints we only accepted invitations from churches in two regions (Shashe-mene in Southern Ethiopia and Bahr Dar in the Northern Region). We had a unique opportunity to con-



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Participants of the Leadership Training in Addis Ababa, the week of January 22, 2007

duct two leadership seminars for 400 church leaders. Pastors, evangelists and qualified lay leaders who came from up to ten churches from various regions of the country participated in the three-day leadership seminar. The congregations of all the churches in the area also attended a two-day evangelistic meeting. In those meetings God gave us His power to challenge non-believers to give their lives to God. As a result we saw about 35 people make first-time commitments to follow Christ, and many Ethiopian believers were spiritually renewed and encouraged. We are astounded by the feedback that we have received from those who attended the seminars. God is saving and changing lives, and continues to use us to impact tens of thousands of Ethiopians. Praise the Lord! Please continue to pray and support us in our efforts to reach out to God's people for His Kingdom. May God richly bless you!

Melese Wogu



News and Views is a quarterly publication of Ethiopian Outreach Ministry. Board of Directors: Dr. Melese Wogu, *Executive Director*, Mike Parthree, *President*, Rev. Steve Almquist, *Secretary*, Richard E. Snyder, *Treasurer*, Paul Hurst, Dr. Nelson Lehman, Richard D. Naylor, Shawle Wehibe



**All Scripture
is given by
inspiration of God,
and is profitable
for doctrine,
for reproof,
for correction,
for instruction
in righteousness.**

2Timothy 3:16

Thank you for enabling us
to equip hundreds of future leaders
with the instructions from
the word of God, the Bible.