



# News & Views

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



EOM Head Office



## From the desk of Dr. Melese Wogu...

Dear Friends & Partners,

I am very grateful and continue to thank God for all of you who faithfully prayed and supported me during my recent trip to Beirut, the Republic of Lebanon and

Ethiopia. The evangelistic outreach in Beirut and Ethiopia has been remarkably successful. God gave me timely messages to challenge non-believers to come to Christ. As a result eighteen new souls committed their lives to God in Beirut and many believers received encouragement and



spiritual renewal. I sensed God's spirit moving powerfully in our midst. In collaboration with Lebanese Baptist church, we have ordained a new pastor for the Ethiopian congregation in Beirut.

You will be pleased to hear that God continues to bless our recent leadership training program in Ethiopia, which focused on two important topics. Pastor Brian Rice and Mike Johnson from Leadership ConneXtions International taught "The Perils of Leadership"—reasons why leaders do not finish well. The lesson was designed to point out the major perils and to give these leaders guidelines for dealing with them. I taught on a topic entitled "Spiritual Leaders and The Skill of Conflict Resolution," which gave the church leaders insight on how to handle conflict in the church. Other topics we covered included identifying antagonists in the church, warning signs of conflict, levels of church conflict, why conflicts happen in the church, how to resolve conflicts, and leadership issues. As reported in our previous issues of "News & Views," our first, second and most recent leadership training events were remarkably successful. I was thrilled to hear favorable and encour-

aging first-hand report from pastors and church leaders about how our seminars impacted their lives and their churches.

The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy and said, "You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and the things you have heard from many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others." Paul encourages us to invest our experiences, our love, our success and our failures to inspire others to be equippers and to reproduce equippers. Even Jesus had to take time to develop His own disciples. It is sad to see and hear so much emphasis on the crowds and the worship service and so little on equipping leaders. If we want churches to flourish, we need to develop potential leaders and help the existing leaders to mature. Some type of leadership training is very crucial not only for the Church in Ethiopia, but for the entire continent of Africa. That is why we are focusing on leadership training in our second phase of ministry.

After completing the leadership training seminar in Addis Ababa, I traveled as scheduled to Kibre Mengist (Southern Ethiopia), about 475 Km., to present another kind of leadership training for about 500 church leaders who came from various denominational and independent churches. All the participating churches sent their pastors, evangelists, elders and qualified lay leaders to participate in the leadership seminars. These were held during the day, and in the evenings and on weekends we held evangelistic



meetings for the local people. Again our ministry in Kibre Mengist was remarkably successful. We are very grateful to many of you, our friends and partners and friends of this ministry. I want you to know that your partnership is one of the keys to the success of EOM. Please continue to pray for our ministry in Ethiopia and around the world. We covet your prayers and financial support on a continuous basis to help us accomplish this new venture. May the Lord bless you richly! □



## Dear Dr. Melese ...

Dear Dr. Melese,

First, I want to thank our Father and God whose unlimited love and mercy has brought us to this day.

I continually think about you and pray for your ministry. Brother Melese, I have no words to express my gratitude for the books you sent me. They have been instrumental in answering many of my questions. The harsh challenges of life I have faced in the last two months made me think, and almost conclude, that I was created for problems. I was feeling hopeless at the time I received your books. For the last four years I have been experiencing loneliness, hunger, persecution, joblessness and homelessness, but Jesus has been helping me get through them... Our town has become a museum of misery... You don't know how encouraging and uplifting it is to get your materials on a regular basis while living under these conditions. My hope in the Lord is renewed through the teachings. I am amazed at how God provides. I have no words to express my joy and confidence in Jesus... Thank you!

May God bless you for all that you do.

G.M.

North Eastern Africa

Dear brother Melese,

May the peace and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

You don't know me but I know you from listening to your daily radio program. I have been deeply touched by your teachings and that is why I am writing this letter. I am now incarcerated with an 18-year sentence. It is here in the prison I was introduced to your teachings through your radio program... your teachings are very inspiring for this generation. I found them to be effective tools with which believers can evaluate their daily spiritual walk. May God bless you and your ministry as you tirelessly produce life-changing resources from God's word.

Hizkiel D.

Southern Ethiopia

## Pastors' Conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

By Dr. Brian K. Rice



In January 2008 I had the privilege of working with my friend and Leadership Connections International (LCI) partner, Mike Johnson, at a Pastor's Conference in Addis that was hosted by EOM and Dr. Melese Wogu. Melese had asked us to do the morning sessions on the "Perils of Leadership" while he handled the afternoon sessions on the topic of "Conflict Resolution."

The mission of LCI is to provide leadership training resources to some of the least resourced leaders around the world. I've been in about 35 different countries doing this kind of work, but this was my FIRST TIME in Africa. Most of my work had been in Europe, Latin America and Asia. I was very happy to have Ethiopia as my first visit to the vast continent of Africa.

During our morning sessions, Mike and I talked about the dangers of money, sex, power, pride, family problems, spiritual stagnation, and what must be done if leaders are to "finish well," as the Apostle Paul did (2 Timothy 4:6-8).



Mike and Yonas, the translator

We talked about the "crisis of leadership" in Ethiopia. In one sense, Ethiopia is not unique, for this crisis is found everywhere around the world. But perhaps the crisis is a little deeper in Ethiopia than in some other places.



The crisis of leadership is, first of all, a crisis of not having enough leaders. In Ethiopia, the church has grown faster than the num-





ber of leaders who are available to lead congregations and ministries. There are just not enough leaders.

The crisis of leadership is then a crisis of not having sufficiently trained leaders. In talking with Dr. Wogu and other pastors/leaders at the conference, there is a deep hunger for leadership training. Pastors and elders freely admit they just have not had opportunities



A few of the leadership development seminar participants to learn and grow as leaders. This means they are not equipped for the problems and challenges facing the Ethiopian church.

Finally, the crisis of leadership is a crisis of having "bad" leadership. I must always be gentle and kind, but still speak the truth in love on this matter (Ephesians 4:15). But the fact is that too many leaders have been influenced by wrong models of leadership, and they make serious mistakes as leaders. Some of those mistakes are of a moral nature, which is why we talked about money, sex, power and pride.

Other mistakes are strategic or methodological mistakes where leaders just reproduce the "healing- revival" crusade model in the local church. There is much excitement and emotion, excessively long worship, and the occurrence of intense experiences that are supposedly the manifestation of God's presence. Yet there is very little substantial teaching of God's Word that results in the formation of a strong spiritual life and the establishment of healthy local churches doing the full ministry of the church (Acts 2:42-47).

One person has described the Ethiopian problem as that of hyper-Pentecostalism that is out of balance when it comes to the Word and the Spirit. Fortunately, **there are many leaders who recognize this**

**I deeply appreciated the commitment and sacrifice on the part of those leaders who attended the conference. Many of them had to make a great sacrifice to be there. That they were there is a testimony to their hearts that hunger for training, for their desire to lead well and finish strong, and to their confidence that EOM will provide them with quality resources.**

**imbalance and desire to change things, and who are committed to building a new kind of church.**

I deeply appreciated meeting many of the fine pastors and leaders at the conference. I believe Ethiopians are some of the most kind and gracious people I have met with very large hearts.

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After this teaching trip, I have more appreciation than ever before for Ethiopian Outreach Ministry and the work of Melese Wogu and the entire EOM team.

EOM has a vision of an empowered, trained group of church leaders who are equipped for leadership and

for teaching the Word of God to God's people. EOM is committed to producing the training resources that the Ethiopian leadership and church needs.

I also deeply respect Melese's vision to establish a training center in Addis. The leadership needs are great, and it will take many seminars and training conferences, with many guest teachers and trainers being regularly available, to develop a new kind of leader who is building a new kind of church.

I pray that Jesus will make Melese much like Caleb in the book of Joshua (14:6-15) who, even at the age of 85, was still full of energy and strength for the hardest of battles. Melese, may you be just as vigorous and wholehearted for God when you are 85 years old as you are now! □



Pastors Yonas & Sime of Beirut Ethiopian church at the leaders' training in Addis

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*Proclaiming the Gospel and  
Equipping Believers Since 1982*

## Mark your calendar for the next bi-annual authentic Ethiopian dinner banquet

**Saturday, May 10, 2008  
from 12 noon to 6 p.m.**

**Place:** Salunga Mennonite Missions  
Fellowship Hall

**RSVP:** by Friday, May 9, 2008

You can RSVP by phone or e-mail.

Phone: 717-846-2041

e-mail [eom@eomusa.org](mailto:eom@eomusa.org)

**The continued support of our partners  
has enabled us to provide uninterrupted  
programming over the radio waves  
proclaiming the gospel and encouraging  
believers around the globe.**



**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 Wehbe

## Ministry Opportunity

**Sponsor any day or week of  
radio broadcast.**

- One day broadcast -----\$ 60
- Three days broadcast-----\$180
- One Week broadcast-----\$420

**Help With In-House  
Printing Expense**

- One month sponsorship ---\$ 175
- ¼ year printing cost-----\$ 525
- One year printing cost-----\$ 2,100

**Assist the effort of  
developing church leaders  
in Ethiopia**

- Training facility rental-----\$ 526
- Teaching resource -----\$ 300
- Scholarship for 50 participants-- \$ 724
- Airfare/Travel Expense ----- \$2539

**Needs in the office  
(Equipment/PC upgrade)**

Two computers that need to be  
upgraded (each \$957) ----- \$ 1,914