



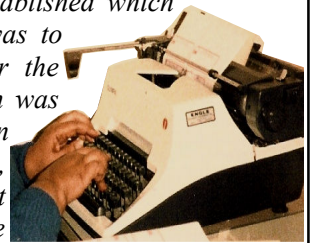
## Progress Report on Leadership Training in Ethiopia

Dear Friends & Partners:

We praise the Lord for the marvelous things He continues to do in our lives and ministry. We are also thankful for all of you, our friends and supporters, who have stood with us for many years. Your faithful financial support, prayers and encouragement have enabled us to fulfill God's calling in our lives. We are humbled by the stories we hear of how EOM has a unique place of ministry in overall church growth, both within and outside of Ethiopia. Wherever Ethiopians are dispersed around the world, EOM has been there to provide the necessary resources they need for following Christ and being part of His Kingdom.

We continue to marvel how The Leadership Training in Ethiopia has been progressing in a very gratifying way during the last three years. To provide leadership training to the Ethiopian evangelical church leaders is not a new idea. It has been our dream since the inception of EOM. A long-time friend of EOM, Dr. Tesfa Workneh reminded us of our humble begin-

ning in his letter that he wrote at EOM's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. He wrote, *"I remember the very first brochure you distributed out when EOM was established which stated that your short-term plan was to acquire an Amharic typewriter for the ministry, while your long-term plan was to give training to the Ethiopian evangelical church leaders. Now, after twenty-five years, look at what your dedication and hard work have accomplished! There no words I can think of that would even begin to scratch the surface of all I feel in my heart towards your work and what you have achieved."*



As we look back and think of how God blessed our humble beginning to reach out literally to millions of Ethiopians, our hearts are filled with joy and gratitude. We have much for which to thank the Lord. As God opens new doors of ministry, we are encouraged and also challenged with these opportunities. One of the new challenges we face this time is to make our long-time dream a reality. As we have shared with you in

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## TRAINING A NEW GENERATION OF ETHIOPIAN LEADERS

I'd like to take a minute and introduce myself. I am Dr. Brian K. Rice, founder and president of Leadership ConneXtions International and Pastor of Leadership Development at Living Word Community Church. I am writing on behalf of my good friend and ministry colleague, Dr. Melese Wogu and Ethiopian Outreach Ministry.



EOM! I automatically think of teaching, training, evangelism, discipleship, counseling and spiritually mentoring a nation and a people. This is the work of EOM and they have been doing this for over 25 years. EOM reaches Ethiopians in Ethiopia and those who have migrated to other African countries like Kenya, Somalia and Djibouti. They are working in Beirut, Lebanon; Yemen and the cities of Europe. Wherever you will find Ethiopians dispersed around the world, EOM has been there to provide the resources Ethiopians need for following Christ and being a part of His Kingdom.

I first met Melese in 1982 when I helped him move to York, Pennsylvania to set up a new headquarters for Ethiopian Outreach Ministry. Even though many years have gone by, Melese's strength remains undiminished. Through the last 25+ years, I have been amazed at the enormous level of output Melese has sustained in terms of producing resources and traveling around the world to minister to Ethiopians. The fruitfulness of those resources and his ministry is truly inspiring.

I have also been deeply impressed by and imprinted with Melese's whole-heartedness for God and passion for people. Once again, he is a leader with a great devotion to Christ and the Kingdom of God.

I am one of a group of leaders who is helping Melese think strategically about new directions for his ministry. In particular, we have talked at length about Melese having a more significant focus on training, developing and mentoring both the current and emerging generation of Ethiopian leaders.

Melese has described the thousands of Ethiopian pastors and leaders who have little training. Most of these leaders

*Continued on page 2*



are poor and have almost no opportunity for training. But they are hungry to learn and to be equipped to make a difference in their villages and communities.

In the last few years, since being able to minister in Ethiopia, God has laid a new burden on Melese's heart and set a



new task before EOM. Melese believes the crucial task for his remaining years is to train and equip a new generation of Ethiopian leaders. As we have talked about Melese's dream and new strategic focus, we very quickly sensed this was from God. We knew Melese should devote the next season of life and ministry to empowering the leaders of the church: its pastors, elders, evangelists, and missionaries.

In my role with LCI, I work to develop leaders around the world. I see great needs everywhere I go. So why am I interested in helping Melese and EOM? There are many reasons, but here are three of them.

**First, Ethiopia is one of the poorest of countries in the world.** They have the least resources, the fewest opportunities and the greatest needs. You can apply the previous sentence to their leaders. They have few resources, they have few opportunities for training and their poverty produces almost overwhelming needs. I believe Christ calls us to work with the poorest of the poor. Melese and EOM were born in that context and that is their calling.

**Second, Africa is the center stage for the intersection of different religious faiths.** The Christian church needs resourced, trained leaders who are able to engage with the alternatives that are seeking to gain the heart of Africa. Ethiopia is one of those countries located right in the center of that intersection. Right now, the leaders of Ethiopia are ill-equipped for this challenge.

**Finally, leaders matter.** We know that. Whether it is in business, government, education, health-care, anything you can think of . . . so much depends on leaders. The church

and missions organizations are no different. Well trained, spiritually mature leaders are needed.

It is an immense task and a difficult one in many ways. The leadership of the Ethiopian church is terribly underdeveloped. It is also entrenched in many old paradigms of church and ministry. At the same time, there are so many leaders who look to Melese for training and direction. They are looking for new ways of doing leadership and new ways of leading churches and doing missions work. Melese is constantly sought after by leaders who want to be trained by him. The needs are staggering, yet the opportunities are great.

There is a message that Dr. Melese Wogu is hearing over and over from Ethiopian leaders. They are asking him to come to Ethiopia and be with them for longer periods of time. It is a request that is close to Melese's heart and one that he is committed to answering. It is also a request that needs a very strategic response and the Board of EOM is giving new consideration to the most fruitful way for Melese and EOM to do leadership training in Ethiopia.

**EOM has had a wonderful and long season of fruitful ministry. If God never did another thing through EOM, there is a rich harvest already. . . ! And yet, by God's grace, THE BEST IS YET TO COME! We believe this with all our hearts.**

EOM has had a wonderful and long season of fruitful ministry. If God never did another thing through EOM, there is a rich harvest already. . . ! And yet, by God's grace, THE BEST IS YET TO COME! We believe this with all our hearts. God says through the prophet Isaiah, "See I am doing a new thing! Now it spring up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland" (Isaiah 43:19). Melese sees this new thing, this new way, these new streams of living water that God wants to pour on the Ethiopian church and its leadership.

You can see why I am excited. As a leader who is devoted to developing some of the least resourced leaders around the world, I believe in Melese's vision to do this. I believe this is the leading of God's Holy Spirit and that Dr. Melese and EOM are going to keep in step with the Spirit (Galatians 5:25). So, join with me in prayer and support for EOM in this emerging season of opportunity. We'll be sharing more on these opportunities in upcoming newsletters.

In the service of Christ and His Kingdom

Sincerely;

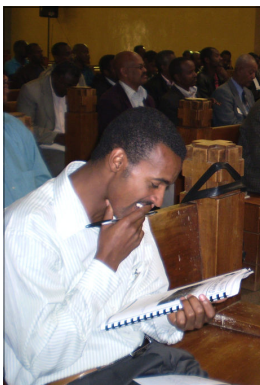
Dr. Brian K. Rice

May 23, 2009





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Participant at a Leadership Training in Ethiopia, April 2009

the past, we stepped out by faith to establish an ongoing, Biblically grounded leadership training program in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, three years ago. When we noticed this new venture received unanimous and overwhelming support from church leaders, we strongly sensed that the time for this is now.

As you know, the leadership of the Ethiopian church across the country has little or no opportunity for biblically grounded leadership training.

Many of them are hungry to learn and to be equipped to make a difference in their villages and communities. We are constantly sought after by churches to train their leaders. Here is an excerpt from one of the letters we received recently from the regional chairman of the evangelical churches in Asebe Teferi, Western Hararge region, Ethiopia:

***"...We praise the Lord for what God is doing through your ministry. There are many evangelical churches who are diligently working to expand God's Kingdom in our towns and rural areas in Western Hararge zone. As you know Hararge zone is a highly Islam-dominated zone. Since our church leaders are not properly trained we humbly request your ministry to conduct leadership training for our church pastors and leaders.***

***May God bless your ministry!  
Zonal Chairman of the Evangelical  
Churches Fellowship  
Asebe Teferi, Ethiopia***

Due to time and financial constraints, we have to wait another year or two before we accept this invitation. To meet the overwhelming requests from churches for training, we have begun to strategically think and plan for how EOM can grow its training program in Ethiopia. Our long-term plan is to carefully select the fifty most potential leaders and spend the next season of our lives and ministry empowering and equipping them to be effective trainers. These future trainers do not have to leave their churches and ministry for a long period of time to be trained. They could come and be with us at the center for one-week intensive training modules. They would return several times a year for two to three years to complete their training. Guest teachers and trainers will be part of the equipping process of these Ethiopian church leaders. Instead of us, these well-trained trainers can go to the most remote regions and communities to conduct leadership training. For instance, if each trainer trains church leaders in at least ten regions in a year's time,

the fifty trainers can train leaders in 500 regions or communities. This way we can train several thousand current and emerging Ethiopian church leaders.

*"I hardly get fed at my church. I don't get anything out of the weekly sermons. Most of the time, the preaching is boring. We are tired of misplaced emotions of the preachers."* It is very common to hear these and dozens of complaints in churches in Ethiopia. What is the problem? Is it a legitimate complaint? If so, can anything be done about it? How could preachers effectively communicate God's messages without being trained? There are not many theological seminaries and Bible colleges that can give adequate training to the preachers in Ethiopia. Due to the lack of proper training, many of them imitate what they have seen and heard, sometimes from bad preachers. How can they improve their preaching?

To address this problem, we held our sixth leadership training seminar recently in April 2009 on homiletics (How to preach God's word effectively). Though our goal was for only 75 people, 153 pastors, elders, and evangelists showed up, and we chose not turn away the overflow. The participants received intensive instruction six hours a day for five days (a total of 30 hours). During those five days we covered: (1) the preacher's role in preaching; (2) general principles and procedures for outlining the sermon; (3) preparing the sermon; (4) using illustrative materials; (5) crafting the introduction and conclusion; and (6) methods of delivery, etc. It was exciting to see the eagerness of the participants to put into practice



Pastors, evangelists, Sunday School teachers and lay leaders at a Leadership Training in Ethiopia, April 2009

what they have learned. Many expressed that the teaching they have received will help them to improve their sermon preparations and preaching skills. Every time we hear the participants express their gratitude and see their excitement, it confirms to us that the implementation of our long-time vision is timely. I want you to know that all of these happen because of you. Your partnership is one of the key factors in the success of this ministry. We thank you so much for your encouragement and faithfulness in helping us as we make the effort to fulfill God's purpose in our lives. When you support us, you are making a major, long-time investment in a ministry that will help mold and mature the church of Ethiopia for generations to come. □

*Melese Wogu*

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## You Are a Testament...

The Miriam Webster dictionary defines *testament* as (a) *a covenant between God and the human race*, (b) *a tangible proof or tribute*, (c) *an expression of conviction*. You, our partners and co-laborers in the Lord's work bring the meaning of this word even more to life for us and for all who witness your involvement.

While the economy of our nation and of the world is spiraling downward and job insecurities and unemployment rates are at the highest point probably since the Great Depression, God's children have maintained their faithfulness in worshipping the Lord through their financial giving. They have "expressed their conviction" to continue enabling the front-line workers to press forward with the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ and equipping the saints for ministry to further God's kingdom.

This testament, "tangible proof," was demonstrated by our ministry partners once again at the recent bi-annual banquet we held. The total gifts that came in at the May 2009 banquet was \$18,342. PRAISE THE LORD! Because of your trust in the Lord that He will meet your needs as you generously and joyfully give to His work, you have certainly blessed us with your *tangible proof* and *expression of conviction*. Please accept our special thanks for ministering to us and to millions of Ethiopians whom you are touching through our daily radio broadcasts.

It is our prayer that God, Whom we can never outgive, pour His blessings over you that you may continue to be His instrument for the expansion of His kingdom. □



**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, Dr. Nelson Lehman, Richard D. Naylor, Shawle Wehabe

## Ministry Opportunity

### Sponsor any day, week or month of radio broadcast

- a) One day broadcast----- \$ 60
- b) Three days broadcast----- \$ 180
- c) One Week broadcast----- \$ 420
- d) One month broadcast----- \$ 1,800

**FYI: To date, Ethiopians tune in our daily broadcast from 23 countries.**

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

- Training facility rental----- \$ 650
- Teaching resource ----- \$ 300
- Scholarship for 50 participants \$ 1,000
- Airfare/Travel Expense ----- \$ 2,500

**Note: For \$20, you can help one evangelist or pastor trained for an entire week long session with meals.**

### Help With In-House Printing Expense

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