

**Report on 2010 annual “July 4” Ethiopian Seventh-Day Adventists
Fellowship Meeting
Atlanta, Georgia
July 1, 2010 – July 3, 2010**

It has been a little over a month now since the 2010 annual “July 4” Ethiopian Seventh-day Adventist Fellowship meeting took place in Atlanta, Georgia. Certainly those who attended the meeting can testify the joy and blessings of the meetings that is still being felt in the hearts of many. What a time we had!!!! Having people from far and near, friends who have not seen each other for over 20 years, seeing and meeting new brothers and sisters in Christ brought such excitement and joy on the faces of every individual at the meeting. If such a fellowship and oneness feels this way here on earth, what would it be like when we see each other in the New Jerusalem where we’ll never have to say, “I’ll see you next year or at the next GC conference”? We thank God for His mercy and grace for letting us test the joy that is to come.

Day 1, Thursday, July 1, 2010

The first meeting was held on Thursday, July 1, 2010. The expectation of attendance at the first meeting was not high. However, to our surprise, we had a standing room only. Over 70 people were in attendance. We had a wonderful song service that was led by Pr. Robel Gezahegn. Pr. Berhanu Tsehaye broke the word of God for us. The heart moving part of the meeting was the time of testimony where individuals praised God for his blessings in their lives. What a joy to hear the goodness of our God in the lives of many.



Among the individuals who gave testimony was Pastor Solomon W/Endryas from Eritrea. Pr. Solomon talked about the power of the Holy Spirit and how God mightily moved and converted those who practice witchcrafts to servants of the Lord while he was at Kuyera. He also challenges us to pray for the Eritrean Government to allow evangelist and gosple workers to preach the gospel freely and worship in the church that is officially open but not permitted to conduct church services. At the end he requested the congregation to sing:

*Only trust Him [Jesus], only Trust Him, only trust Him now
He [Jesus] will save you, He will save you, He will save you now*

How beautiful it was to hear everyone sing this song with such conviction and meditation!

Day 2, Friday, July 2, 2010

The Lord prepared a bigger room than the pervious day for our Friday afternoon meeting. Pr. Robel did a wonderful job leading the song service. The first part of the Friday meeting was the panel discussion. The expected discussion points were:

- 1) to come up with ideas, suggestions, and action plans to strengthen the unity of the Ethiopian Seventh-Day Adventist in Diaspora, and
- 2) to openly discuss and come up with means, if possible, to streamline all the effort of the Ethiopian SDA in Diaspora to help the gospel work in Ethiopia.



Even though the panellists had unexpectedly very limited time to express their ideas due to questions rose from the audience, which were not directly related to the intended discussion points, they have come up with important points that we all need to ponder and pray upon. Some of the points were:

a. the need to organize small groups (Ethiopian/ Habasha Fellowships) in our respective areas. For example, about 11 individuals from the Atlanta area who were present at the meeting have expressed the desire and agreed to start a fellowship in the area. It is also encouraging to mention that following our meetings,

believers in the Chicago, Lansing and Berrien Springs, Michigan area have expressed the plan to start fellowship at least once every 3 Months. Let's keep these groups in our prayers.

At the present time we have Churches and fellowships through out the United States, Europe, and Africa. Some of the representation we had at the meeting were Ato Melaku Mehrete from the Washington, D.C. Church, Sister Siraye Dessie from California fellowship, Pr. Girma from South Africa fellowship, Pr. Alaka from Origion fellowship, Dr. Abraham Dalu and Dr. Turi Safawo from Minnisotan Church, Dr. Temesgen, Ahimed, Mulugeta, Gashaw form Kansas/Mossurie fellowship, brother Birhanu Tsehaye from London fellowship, Hiwot Abay and Anania Abaye from Canada fellowship, Pr. Solomon from Asmara, Eritrea and Dawit Mehari from Germany fellowship. Our effort needs to focus streangthing these fellowships and Churches to make them effective in their evangelical efforts.

b. Pr. Alemu Haile, President of the Ethiopian Union Mission spoke on the work in Ethiopia and how God is blessing their efforts. He also reminded us of the need for our fervent prayers for the work that is still to be done.

c. the need to have one common website and newsletter has become an imperative factor in order to effectively connect believers around the world. It has been suggested that creating one commone website and revamping "Yetnbit Kal" newsletter by making it inclusive would be the best way to accomplish



the goal. The purpose of these communication medias would be to inspire, encourage, and report the gospel work around the world to all Ethiopian Seventh-day Adventist believers and non-believers. It was decided to have a working committee to work out the details and this committee is open to all who are willing to work in this line of ministry.



The second part of the Friday's program was to hear Pr. Dwight Nelson, Senior Pastor of the Pioneer Memorial Church at Andrews University, share the word of God about the love we should have among ourselves. Words can not express the blessings we received through the message. That is why it's decided to post the entire message on the web for all of you to watch and listen first hand. Please take the time to listen the message.

Day 3, Sabbath, July 3, 2010

The final day of the General Conference Session was hot and humid in down town Atlanta. Those of us who came a bit late to the conference center had a difficult time finding parking. Most of the pedestrian in the area were well dressed and a bible on their hands heading to the Georgian Dome for Sabbath Worship. What a beautiful seen!



After attending the morning worship service at the dome, the Ethiopian Fellowship final program started around 2 p.m. The number of people at the meeting was close to 90. After the song services, Pastor Alemu Haile gave detailed report about the work in Ethiopia. Following Pastor Alemu, Ato Melaku Mehrete also gave a report on the progress of the Ethiopian SDA Church in the Washington, D.C. area. The highlight of the program was the message that was give by Pr. Robel Gezahegn. His sermon is also posted on this website. With the final benediction at the end of the program, the 2010 annual meeting has been concluded.

We can not end this brief report without thanking and expressing our appreciation to those who were willing and, not only willing, but actually doing what they can to make this annual meeting a success. Many thanks to those who took part in the planning of this year's meeting. Thank you for your contribution and encouragement.

We also would like to express our deepest gratitude for those of you who took part in the programs. Special thanks go to the two individuals, Betty Hailu Tessema and Rahel Hailu of

Atlanta who, without being asked or requested, brought lunch to all on Sabbath day. We really do appreciate their thoughtfulness. May God bless both of them abundantly.



Kansas is ready for you in 2011

The 2011 annual meeting will be in Kansas. The group from Kansas is more than willing and able to coordinate and facilitate the annual meeting. Please plan ahead and make your July 4 holiday weekend to be in Kansas City and enjoy the fellowship of your brothers and sisters in Christ. More information will be forthcoming and will be posted on this we site.