



Ethiopia March 2011 Report

Of the major task in this month, apart local trainings and follow ups, I did a Vision Conference in Khartoum, Sudan for the Eritrean Churches. This vision conference carried out as part of my role in Africa Working Group (AWG) Horn of Africa responsibility. It is as part of reaching out churches in the nations where we don't have offices or representative. For this VC, the AWG supported the cost for two trainee air ticket and accommodation for the trainee and for us too. I thank God for his provision!

As a background, due to the suppressive and dictatorship of the Eritrean government, over one third of its population is out of country. Moreover, the Eritrean Evangelical Churches are closed and leaders were in jailed, killed and many fled. The major concentration of Eritrean population, church leaders and members are refugees in neighboring Sudan, where their country shares the boarder. Despite such challenges mentioned, the Eritrean churches in Sudan are enjoying with the growing number of Christians. As it was with early churches, this great opportunity of harvesting came as the seed of the saints' blood. Now, many youth and professionals are coming to the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ; who used to resist the Good News back home.



Seed project planning session



Group One



Group Two

The vision Conference went through from March 21-27/2011 in two venues. One group of Eritrean churches are organized in association with the Ethiopian Evangelical churches, where both Eritrean and Ethiopian Churches working together. And the second groups are Eritrean Evangelical association constituted from all Eritrean Churches. In group one; there were 70 participants while in the second 45 participants. Both churches are serving over 5,000 members and nearly in midst of a million populations.

I personally testify how great hunger and passion to get training is reflected among leaders. During the training key and the right leaders were identified and their participation was very exciting. Some of the seed project has already begun while we were there through caring for the refugees from the Eritrea. Pastor Michael, the founder and teacher in Berea Bible School in Khartoum said, "This vision conference would enable us to equip our member and serve their people in a wholistic way. As oppose to serving only for soul winning and unbalanced life style. For which even my own Bible school did not provide." And Evangelist Habtamu also said, "Usually the way we teach the bible is complex and leave with none for members to apply. While the wholistic teaching made it very simple and encouraged to apply the truth of the bible very easily."

Pastor Bezalem and I were able to do the five day Vision Conference and 1 day exposure about the TOT, focused on how to deliver the teaching to their members. Under warm weather condition both of us did the training without break. It was very exhaustive, however worthy doing it. Generally, the closure of churches and persecution in Eritrea resulted in isolation from their own people by living in foreign land. And it has also created deep hunger in every aspect of life. So, they urged me to give due attention in providing the follow-up training and to support as they do the evangelism.

After we did the training, Pastor Bezalem said, "Our trip was very successful. I have been impressed by the hunger and thirst for the word of God by the participants. They were very attentive and reflective too. Even one of the participants has witnessed to me that he felt as if he has been taken through the whole counsel of God and take it as a discipleship opportunity... The hot weather was a bit challenging at first. But, subsequently we get used to it and also the hotness was reduced."

Please keep in your prayer for God to send the rain for the seed to grow and give fruits.

Blessings

Demelash Lemma

Harvest -Ethiopia