

## December 2011 Harvest Ethiopia Monthly Report

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

We believe that you had a joyous celebration of the birth of our Lord as well as the New Year. We had wonderful time celebrating the Ethiopian Christmas the past week.

Harvest Ethiopia is doing great in all aspects. We thank God about all the accomplishments we had this month. We were able to **set an office** at a nice spot which is at the center of the city. The establishment of the office would greatly improve the work we are doing because it will help the assistants to carry out the job regularly. We have also furnished and we will be able to sort books so that our co-workers and trainers will easily access them and improve their knowledge. The office has become quite a nice place to serve as a center for Harvest Ethiopia. Meetings have already started to take place at the office.

We have had **trainers meeting** by December 10 at Harvest Ethiopia office. It started at 2pm and the meeting included sharing the word of God, prayer for one another and discussing improvements as well as training plans for the coming year. Listening to the word of God and the prayer has made us feel closer than before and carry each other's burden.

We were successful in facilitating a **vision conference** in Hawassa city in South Ethiopia which lasted from December 19-23/2011. Thirty seven prominent and hand-picked church leaders were able to attend the vision conference. The attendants had lunch together and discussed the issues they were presented about. Every one of them was happy to be able to attend the vision conference when they were asked for their comments at the final session. The event was effective in selecting **five peoples** among

the trainee to further wholistic trainings and to work on seed projects at the region. Training materials of Harvest were left for them so that they can base their works on them.

The vision conference has greatly enlightened the leaders to see their understanding of church; in a very traditional way. However, as Pastor Belete the Secretary for the Hwassa Evangelical Fellowship, “we realized that we lost the biblical understanding of the church and even our role as pastors failed to equip the saints to carry out wholistic ministry. We have been limiting members to come on Sunday and do the prayer, tithe, Bible study.”

Meeting with **the national teams (associate staffs)** was held to work upon the Annual Plan for 2012. We have successfully developed our plan and we have scheduled for vision conferences, TOTs, vision casting conferences follow ups, seed projects as well as mentoring to be done in 2012. Every member of the national team has prepared to take their share in the work.

**Seed Project report:** Evangelical Churches Fellowship of Southern Ethiopia has been given trainings by Harvest Ethiopia in the previous time. They have grasped the teaching and God has helped them multiplying their efforts. Accordingly the following seed projects were reported from Hawassa

- ✓ In cooperation with an organization called Alive and thrive Ethiopia they teach parents to breast feed for the first six months and provide balanced diet for their infants. For parents who take the training and are found effective in applying the lesson are given certificates.
- ✓ By raising funds they were able to provide 3000 ETB for each of 60 HIV patients in the community so that they could work and support themselves. Trainings for different kinds of jobs were also given for the beneficiaries. Students were encouraged to continue their education and were equipped with the basic materials they need.

- ✓ They facilitated coffee ceremony to be held regularly among the community to discuss community problems including HIV and stigma on the patients. Change has been observed since what has been taboo is becoming an agenda of discussion. Parents now encourage their children to be screened for HIV before they get married. And as a result of the seed project the awareness of the community concerning HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Diseases has increased.
- ✓ Working together with the organization namely Christian Relief and Development Agency (CRDA) they help increase awareness about harmful traditional practices like Female Genital Mutilation, abduction and polygamy. With God's help they were able to change the heart of even those who has vowed with blood covenant to get their daughters mutilated. The well being of the society has improved along with the understanding of the harm these traditions cause.

Attached are the pictures of our office, the vision conference at Hawassa city as well as the seed projects.