



News & Views

Ethiopian Outreach Ministry

Oct. – Dec. 2011

Purpose of Ethiopian Outreach Ministry

- ◆ Reach unreached Ethiopians with the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- ◆ Teach and encourage Ethiopian believers to be strong in their faith and help them grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ and the scriptures.
- ◆ Prepare Ethiopians for various ministries in churches and fellowships.
- ◆ Help Ethiopians in their efforts of church planting in different countries.
- ◆ Produce printed materials of Christian education and Bible studies, audio resources and radio programs.
- ◆ Conduct seminars, sponsor conferences, etc.
- ◆ Train and develop future church leaders and teachers.

Did you know...

- EOM's daily radio broadcast is now transmitted five days instead of seven days a week from a shortwave station in Europe?
- that programs are produced in our studio in Addis and files are transmitted over the Internet?
- the radio signal is received by Ethiopians in 23 countries so far?



Dr. Melese Wogu
Executive Director



My name is Natalino Giovanni and I used to live in a nation where evangelical Christianity is considered an imported religion—Eritrea, which borders Sudan and Ethiopia. About 3000 Eritrean evangelical Christians are now in prison because they don't belong to the four religious groups that the Eritrean government recognizes as being legitimate.

I accepted Christ as my personal savior in 2001, when I was 15 years old. A few months after that, all the churches were closed and the Eritrean government started persecuting Christians. I remember listening to Dr Melese Wogu's sermon as he spoke about his own experience of persecution. He said that we were not promised that people would give us flowers everywhere we went to minister for the gospel or if they found out we were Christians. That was a turning point in my life. I decided to follow Jesus even if it was going to cost me my life.

I knew that someday I was going to be arrested, especially after the Eritrean National Security confiscated the few cassettes that were sent to me from Ethiopian Outreach Ministry. I was called to their office and was told, "You are young and don't know what you have ordered from the Christian organization you are affiliated with. We are going to let you go this time because you are too young for what you are doing. But we are going to make you sign this application promising that you will never do it again." Of-course I did not stop at that point. Instead, I told Sossy, the secretary at the EOM to use another sender's name and leave out Melese's since they seem to target that name.

I kept on receiving the CDs every month without difficulty for some time. In May 2010, I experienced my second arrest of 2010. I was charged with following a religion that the government regards as "new and unauthorized" because it is against their core belief, which is based on Marxist ideology. I was



For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Might God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

accused of promoting illegal faith and disseminating materials that promote it. I was tortured horribly because they searched my place but failed to find a computer and scanner they insisted I owned (I did not). Instead they found all my CDs from Ethiopian Outreach Ministry as well as other Christian ministries that I had kept for so long. They kept me in jail for about 5 months and later released me on bail so I could continue my education at the medical school I was attending at the time.

Though free, I knew that my life was in jeopardy and they were going to arrest me again. So I decided to flee to Sudan to save my life, and stayed there for about 4 months before coming to the States. I have been here now for almost six months and have restarted my life. God is a gracious and compassionate father. It is through hardships and tribulations that we discover the amazing love God has for his children.



I just finished writing my eighteenth book, titled, "Crossless Christianity". In this day and age when many teachers and preachers claim that Christianity is all about feeling good, not experiencing pain, sickness or hardship, this book tries to show that, this is not what the Scriptures teach. It portrays the lives of countless Christians who, over the centuries, have been martyred for the name of Christ. It points out that God's grace is not cheap. It cost him his Son, and after him, the lives of many of his children. It is our prayer that this book will challenge readers to re-examine their doctrine. I am also dedicating this book to the building project for our Leadership Training Center in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia.



Ethiopian Outreach Ministry
Evangelizing,
Teaching, Equipping

MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL OUR
FRIENDS
AND SUPPORTERS!

**Praise and Prayer
Corner**

- Praise God for His continued guidance and provision to this ministry.
- Praise God for all the volunteers who wholeheartedly serve the Lord alongside us
- Praise God for our board members who so faithfully serve the Lord and this ministry. Pray for wisdom and insight as they execute their responsibilities.
- Pray for more partners to join this ministry and support us through prayer and financial donations.
- Pray for the Leadership Training Center building project in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia



Banquet October 2011

It was good to see so many friends and partners and to meet newcomers at our banquet. There were those who were experiencing Ethiopian food for the first time like the members of The Upper Room Worship Center church from Parkville, Maryland. Pastor & Mrs. Thompson, along with some church members, came to meet us and support our ministry. We were also blessed by the support of members of Yeab Tsega Church, Inc., from Silver Spring, MD. Thank you to all of you who have chosen to walk alongside us.



Please RSVP from Now On

We estimated to have served well over 140 people, though only 48 RSVP'd. We had prepared for 120, assuming many would come without RSVPing. Overall, it went well, although some who wanted take-out had to wait until the end of the day to get it because we were afraid we might run out of food.

Ethiopians are not big on RSVPing, and I think this has rubbed off on some of our American friends who come to the banquets. This is adding stress as it makes it difficult to plan. So we humbly ask that in the future, you would please respond by the **Tuesday** before the banquet. And we will make sure this change is reflected in future invitations and reminder cards. Thank you.

If you have last minute changes in your plan and want to come to the banquet, call and check with us.

Grateful For Lessons Learned

A few days ago, I was thinking of last summer and the one before, when my son, Isak had chosen to live "in the world" while in college, going against everything I had taught him. I was deeply hurt by his choices, but I had to learn to trust God and entrust him to His care. It was one of the toughest lessons I had to learn. But praise the Lord, in early Fall of 2010, Isak realized he could not continue living like he did, and decided to return to God. Oh, that was the best news of all time. There is nothing like hearing your child say, "I am done running from God." I was and am so grateful to God for protecting him during those years from the hardening of his heart and from making life-altering mistakes.

I also thank him for the many lessons I learned, of which I would like to share two. First, I asked myself how this could happen. Then I asked my son "How could you do this to me after all I taught you?" But I realized that I had forgotten that he was a sinner and thus prone to rebel. When I heard this explanation on radio from Pastor Steve Cornell of Millersville Bible Church, Millersville, PA, it was like a light went on, and for the first time I saw the arrogance of my questions. It was such a humbling and freeing moment for me.

The second lesson was about God's promise "to remember our sins no more". I have always wondered how God could "forget," but I have found that it means that, after asking for forgiveness, though my sin is part of my history, it is not part of the equation in how He relates to me now. He cannot "forget" because He is God. He chooses to. This same principle applies to us. Though my son's choices hurt me and are part of our history, they are not part of the equation as I relate to him today. I love him unencumbered by that memory. Experiencing what it means to forgive on a personal level with someone so close to me helped me grasp God's forgiveness for me. Thank you Jesus!

Sossena Maybury



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