

Sabni dukkana keessa jiraate ifa guddaa isaa arge (Isa. 9:2)

OUR REDEEMER OROMO EVANGELICAL CHURCH IN MINNESOTA

TEL: 612-337-0374 | FAX: 612-722-1141

4000 28TH AVE SO. | MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55406



SAGALEE ABDII

Issue # V

A PERIODIC NEWSLETTER OF OUR REDEEMER OROMO EVANGELICAL CHURCH

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Editorial Note

By Admasu Simeso

Sagalee Abdii is a periodic publication of Our Redeemer Oromo Evangelical Church in Minnesota.

This latest issue No. V covers the activities and events that have taken place in our church during the last two months. The highlights include the spiritual conference, from 12-14 July 2013; the various Youth and Children Ministry activities, the UOEC annual Council and Spiritual Conferences in Portland Oregon, 25-28 July 2013; the wedding on 08/10/2013 in our church, the baptism of twelve children on Sunday, 08/11/2013 and the confirmation of 10 young people (five boys and five girls) on Sunday, 08/25/2013. It also includes an article on the visit, support and encouragement of a group from our church led by OROECM Pastor to the Oromo Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ohio, in Columbus, OH from 4-7 July 2013. There are also two other articles of interest to our church and our wider Oromo communities. As usual the word from our Pastor, Pastor Melkamu Negari is always an important part of our publication.

The activities in and around our church, the continued enthusiastic commitment and participation of the members in the activities of the church, from the very young to the adults are beyond expectation and amaze every one of us.

We thank God for the vibrant and tireless work of OROECM Council, Children & Youth Ministry, the Worship, Prayer, Media, Music, Ushers, Women, Building & Maintenance, Hospitality, Education, Young Adults, Senior Adults ministries and the work in the various committees. Our church is also blessed with pastors with deep understandings of the central message of the Gospel and share with the members as the Spirit of God leads them. We take all of these with thanks giving to the Lord for the way He is blessing us and the steady growth of our church both in number, commitments as well as trust in Him.

If we pay attention seriously, words of reminder have been steadily coming to us that a lot is expected from our church that all eyes are looking to Our Redeemer Oromo Evangelical Church in Minnesota, from Oromo communities around the world, especially from our churches and people back home. That was the message Pastor Mirressa stressed during the conference as well as Pastor Michael Hundeessaa in his latest sermon on Sunday, 18 August 2013. The messages we consistently get are that OROECM is looked to. On our

Of irratti hin'beeknu malee, (hin hubannee ta'a malee) gaarummaan Waaqayyoo, (ebbi'isaa) nu'irratti baayyee, baayyeedha

part we look to God and trust in Him to meet those expectations as his loyal servants.

Naturally and typical of any church our members and those who are not yet members are at various levels in their faith: some have matured, others are growing and there are new comers also. But they are all welcomed to OROECM church of the Lord and the number of His faithful is growing. We are also quite diverse in many ways which we should see as further blessings; must

together heed the call and open our eyes to the responsibilities that God has entrusted to us.

We thank God for all of His abundant blessings that we should continue to count. Indeed we realize that the greater blessings we have the more responsibilities await us! *“Of irratti hin'beeknu malee, (hin hubannee ta'a malee) gaarummaan Waaqayyoo, (ebbi'isaa) nu'irratti baayyee, baayyeedha”*. Read **on!**

THE BIBLE

**From the Pastor:
Pastor Melkamu Negari**



From L to R, Pastor Dinquu, Pastor Wandimmu, Pastor Melkamu and Pastor Yadesa.

What is coming to your mind when you see the phrase **“The Bible”**? None Christians may think that,

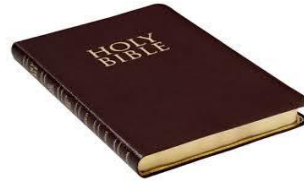
at worst it is a book that misleads people; at best it is a collection of many traditions. Others

may think that it is the word of God but too old and irrelevant for today's age.

“The Bible is not only preparing us for our final destination but also guides us how we Christians are expected to live in this world”

But as a Christian, when you see the phrase **“The Bible”** what is the first impression that comes to your mind? Is it similar to what none believers say or do you have your unique understanding of the Bible? I am sure for believers; the Bible is a book they are proud of as the base for their salvation through Jesus Christ.

The books of the Bible were written by men and women of God inspired by the Holy Spirit. Thus we believe that it is the word of God that was given to us by God Himself to lead us in our daily lives and also to prepare us for our heavenly home of eternal life. The Bible is not only preparing us for our final destination but also guides us how we Christians are expected to live in this world. There are many books in the world but never fully tell us about the life after death and how to get there. But the Bible has it all for our daily lives and how men and women of God are guided and pass through this unsatisfying and ever demanding mortal journey.



The Bible survived tyrannies in the past and got to us, where it is today. Those who did not like its message and influence tried to get rid of the Bible in many ways and they tried it hard. Some banned it while others burned it still others hunted it down to totally eliminate it from the face of the earth and from the heart and mind of the people. In many instances, they were somewhat successful to eliminate from the mouth of the people but failed to kill it from their hearts. The Bible remained in their hearts even in prisons; it stayed in their hearts during tortures. However, the Bible still flourished through their death and attracted more dedicated followers.

Our Bible has the power of changing lives. Because, it is the word of God and the Holy Spirit works through the Bible to accomplish its

mission of salvation from God.

Today, there are some countries where it is against the law of the land to own a Bible or read it, and also to be a Christian. If someone is found reading the Bible, serious punishment follows. In spite of all these harsh treatments against those believers, there are millions of Christians in all those Bible banned countries. There are still many churches in one way or another; and Bible copies all over those countries. Hatred knows that once someone read the Bible, he/she can never be the same person again. It has the power of changing through the work of the Holy Spirit and will continue to change. In order that, those people who did not have access to the Bible have it and experience the saving power of God, still concerted effort should be made to make among the top priority of the mission of the church to make copies of the Bible available as many as possible to those who do not own one!

OROECM Spiritual Conference- (Friday 12 to Sunday 14 July 2013)

By Admasu Simeso

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ-----”.

A three day spiritual conference was held at Our Redeemer Oromo Evangelical Church in Minnesota, OROECM from Friday 12 to Sunday 14 July 2013. The theme of the

conference was taken from 2nd Peter 3:18, “The purposes of a spiritual conference for any church is for its members to have a special time of worship, prayers and sharing from the word of God individually and collectively as a body of Christ to reflect on their spiritual life. As the word of God is always new it is an opportunity to learn new

ideas that will help us grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord, Jesus Christ and our Christian faith. We had a wonderful and uplifting 3 days of such time which certainly helped us to evaluate ourselves. It helps to awaken people especially when someone from outside comes and talk to you.



Pastor Mirressa during one of his preaching the Word.

Pastor Mirressa Birhanu who came from one of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, EECMY congregations in Finfinne preached¹ at the conference emphasizing the theme. In addition to

our own Worship Team and Choir, Obbo Baacaa the well-known Oromo spiritual singer also sang several times during the conference. His message through his spiritual music based on his life experience shared by the majority of the

congregation members had great spiritual impact.

Pastor Mirressa Birhanu who came from one of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, EECMY congregations in Finfinne preached¹ at the conference emphasizing the theme. In addition to our own Worship Team and Choir, Obbo Baacaa the well-known Oromo spiritual singer also sang several times during the conference. His message through his spiritual music based on his life experience shared by the majority of the congregation members had great spiritual impact. Pastor Mirressa was emphatic in stressing the theme of the conference that we understand the message of, “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ-----“. He said that even some Christians, who think they know Christ, might not fully understand who He really is. He said, “Jesus Christ is the Lord to whom God the Father gave all authority in heaven and on earth over all creation”. (We summarized his statement). He stressed and prayed that God open the spiritual hearts and eyes of OROECM members so that we fully understand what it means to, “grow in the

grace and knowledge of Christ-----“. We realize that as the Apostle Paul, in his letter to the Philippians 3:15, writes maturing in the understanding of the fundamental of the scriptures helps us to grow in understanding the true meaning to be a Christian, which means growing in the full understanding of the message of Christ. The Apostle says, where we still have limitations, and know our limitations, God will reveal more to us and we keep growing in Him. When we fully know Christ it is not difficult to resolve issues where we may have differing perceptions, because the issues are not any longer about us but about seeing things from the Lord’s perspectives. Pastor Mirressa strongly reminded us, OROECM members, of our responsibility as Oromo Christians, the responsibility and calls that await our church. He said, the church should not be content in its comfort zone and forget the need to look for and reach out to those who have not had the chance to hear the Gospel. He suggested, one way to reach out is to support people who dedicated their lives to preaching the Gospel. In our country among our people there

are a lot of evangelists who do not have anything, not even their daily bread nor can support their families but have given their lives to the work of the Gospel in remote areas. He repeated what we have heard from many people that, “OROECM is well-known, you are well-known and famous back home and everyone is expecting you to come and do something among them. All ears are up and intensely listening and all eyes are looking this way, towards this church OROECM. But you do not seem to understand, realize or know it”. “You do not seem to understand the opportunity and responsibility to which God has called you”. He challenged us to *wake up and look out, look around and think of our home church and homeland. This reminds us of a lovely song in Afaan Oromo, “Ofi irratti hin’beeknu malee, gaarummaan Waaqayyoo nu’irratti baayyee dha. Hin’hubanne malee.....”. (We do not realize that the grace and goodness of God is abundant on us.)*

Pastor Mirressa on several occasion also referred to the Lord's words in Matthew 25:31-46. "-----*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,*³⁶ *I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me-----.*" He reminded us not only focus on the physical hunger, thirst, imprisonment or sickness but the spiritual lack as well, to be able to witness to those who did not have a chance to hear the Gospel.

Nevertheless, we also are aware of the centrality of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, EECMY's, (the church from which many of our current members come), *holistic ministry* approach to Christian witness, not to separate the spiritual from the bodily needs of those who are disadvantaged in the society. This was uniquely EECMY approach which developed out of Rev. Gudina Tumsa's vision and gradually gained acceptance, even popularity among related partner churches worldwide.

The Lutheran World Federation Department of World Service, the service arm of the Lutheran Communion

was founded more than six decades ago in Lund, Sweden in 1948. In subsequent years of its refugee, development and other humanitarian work, on behalf of all Lutheran churches strictly followed and committed, "*to assist all people in need (their bodily needs) regardless of their race, gender, creed and political affiliation*". Thus the EECMY *theology of holistic ministry* became among the strong supporting principal for Christian responsibility towards our fellow human beings, regardless.

Among other important points that Pastor Mirressa raised was that he did not understand at all and it does not make sense for the Oromo churches in Diaspora to fight among themselves and weaken one another. "Some of you came as refugees, some through DV, others through educational opportunities that were provided to you by kind people". "You should have been thankful to God for these opportunities and make the best of them and try to do something worthwhile back home instead of spending your energy to fight among yourselves". He further noted that, in your, OROECM and other

Oromo churches in particular and all Diaspora churches in general it is your early on exposure to Christian faith that is making life easier for you in your new land, "*as if saying you were already prepared before you arrived, and when you arrived Christian churches welcomed you*".

He reminded us of the commitment and life of the first Oromo evangelical pioneer and church father Onisimos Nasib (Abbaa Gammachiis). Although he had an opportunity to remain in comfortable life style in Sweden he was determined to go back to the land of his birth, to his people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ that he translated into *Afaan Oromo* with his colleague Aadde Aster Gannoo. Even though, time and again, the passage to his own country and his people were blocked against him; his first attempt through the west, Sudan desert on camel back, and second attempt from the east, through the Danakil; he never lost heart and gave up trying.

Indeed we can ask what kept Abbaa Gammachiis moving against all odds made him steel not to waiver from his set vision of taking the Gospel to his people. If we take a moment and seriously

“Pastor Mirressa naturally preached in Afaan Oromo, this is just a summary of his main points.”

think his decision to leave Sweden to go back home, his courage, his determination, perseverance, the route he had to take, the harsh condition he endured to get back to his people with the truly liberating Gospel of Jesus Christ, we find it quite remarkable, and should recognize that the hands of God were moving him. When we compare our lives to his, the difficulties of his time and the luxuries of ours, especially considering the relative ease of the means of travel, what he had to go through to reach our

people; the only statement that may makes sense is that he was being led by the Holy Spirit, to accomplish God’s purpose for our people for which He chose Abbaa Gammachiis. He could endure and go through all that because he certainly grew in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and was determined to take *back the Gospel with him to share it with his people. What a remarkable man of God, what a calculated preparation*

back then. (For further reading on the history of Abbaa Gammachiis please see Sagalee Abdii No II under OROECM).

We, individually and as a church, should pray to God and earnestly seek to grow in the real sense, *in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ* and also for the loving heart and determination Abbaa Gammachiis had for his people. It is only if realize our calls and put our God given energies and resources for positive use for the purpose of building one another here in our new environment and back home.

The 14th UOEC Council Meeting and Conference in Portland, Oregon.

(By Ephraim Olani, President, OROECM)

The 2013 UOEC Ministerial and Council meeting and this year’s conference were held at Portland Oromo Evangelical Church, in Portland, Oregon from 25-28 July 2023. Two delegates from our church, Our Redeemer Oromo Evangelical Church in Minnesota participated. It was the 18th UOEC Conference and the 14th Council meeting.

Delegates from 17 member churches of UOEC attended the meetings and

conference. The Portland Oromo Church was well prepared to host the conference and the participants came from all over North America.

On July 25, the UOEC Board chairman Dr. Gamachu Olana welcomed the delegates and observers and opened the meeting. He briefed the participants about the situation in which UOEC is currently in

and the problems facing some of the member churches. In view of the situation that many of our member churches are in, Dr. Gamachu stressed what we lack; the strategy how to effectively deal with conflicts arising within the congregations we serve. Pastor Mazgebu Tucho gave a presentation on, “Biblical Conflict Management and Resolution”. The presentation was very useful and followed by discussion.

On July 26, 2013 the secretary of the union made a roll call according to the Agenda to start the 14th UOEC Council meeting. The board chair acknowledged that the 13th council meeting held in Las Vegas has accepted the new churches that applied for membership in UOEC. The Union secretary announced that there was the required quorum and the board chair declared the opening of the Council meeting.

Many pioneer member churches, those in the first place organized the Union did not come due to various reasons, among the reasons, the dissatisfaction they have with the board. The board did not seem to take

seriously to address the concerns the member churches had. Most of the participants felt that the UOEC is in serious problems but was difficult to discuss the crises the Union is in and seek solution on the future of the Union in the absence of most of the original member churches. The splits that have taken place within and among some member churches during the past 2-3 years have severely affected the strength, emotion, passion and vision of the Union as well as the questionable neutrality of the Board. Most of the new delegates were also

new to the UOEC, its mission and purpose. UOEC's current situation and lack of fair leadership were the main concern. This may raise some questions as to UOEC's ability to lead and emerge to its full potential again.

In order to discuss and seek amicable solution to the current crises and the challenges UOEC put itself in the participants agreed to meet again at a future date to discuss agenda items that need major decisions. It was agreed that the Board identify three other people to join it to arrange another Council meeting and encourage those churches who have grievance with the board to attend the next meeting.

The Youth & Children Ministry of Our Redeemer Oromo Evangelical Church

(By Jote Betel)

Youth & Children ministry is one of the many important ministries in our church. Our objective is to cultivate and bring up the next generation with the gospel, and we want to see it grow in their lives so that they become mature disciples. Many times we are discouraged when we

see kids that were active in the youth group as teenagers fall away from the church in their young adult years and we wonder why and how kids who were once so active become so unengaged. The fun

and games are all a part of doing Youth & Children Ministry, but they aren't the bottom line. This is an article about why we do Youth & Children Ministry and what we are aiming to achieve as we develop relationships, and play with, and teach the youth of the church of tomorrow.

Youth & Children Ministries call for passion, patience, and faithfulness, pointing out the sacred in the midst of the chaos of adolescence and walking faithfully with young people as they transition from child to young adult.

Youth & Children Ministry is a bridging ministry of education, connection, formation, and hopefully, transformation. Responding to the spiritual needs of our children is about building trusting relationships.

Our Redeemer Oromo Evangelical Church in Minnesota strives to walk with young people on their journeys from childhood to adulthood, recognizing their gifts for ministry, their questions about spirituality, and their desire to make a difference in the world.

I have been hanging around this ministry way before we moved out of

Bethany Lutheran Church, and I still need to be reminded why Youth & Children Ministry is important. I need to be reminded because the truth is that this ministry can be difficult. Many times it's just easier to let teens do what they want and think they don't desire or need adults in their lives. It may be easy to ignore them but the truth is that they are desperate for adults to actually show up and invest in their life on a consistent basis. Consistency is big because so much of life today is inconsistent. Teens are being forced to make choices about their future at a time when they are just figuring out who they are. Teens need consistency and they need it from the church more than ever.

As a church, we have to set goals that:

Transform Youth & Children Ministry from gathering a crowd to discipleship. The goal has to focus on helping the children follow Christ with

all their lives. Not only trying to reach them, but also trying to shape them to look more like followers of Jesus. This can happen by leading our children to engage in worship, study God's Word through relevant teaching, and process faith through small group led by adult mentors. Our hope is to lead teens to be followers of Jesus with all their lives.

Children need a bridge to encounter the larger mission of the church and the church can be that bridge. Teens can serve now with other adults in the church. Teens can go on trips now with the church. Teens can worship and grow together with the church. If we connect teens to the church today, they will connect with the church elsewhere in their lives.

Some of the highlights for summer 2013

WAPO Bible Camp: is a place where fun and faith come together. Our church was able to send 17 kids for one week from Sunday July 7 to Friday July 12. The cost for the one week program was \$395 per child. However,

our children paid \$40 per person. Hence the remaining balance was deferred through our church. The week at the camp was packed with a variety of activities that meant to impact kids for God's work. Each day

includes chapel, cabin activities, free time, field games and campfire. We are blessed to have a church that cares a lot for our children.

Wisconsin Dells:

This field trip was intended for youth age 16 & above. The trip was from July 30, 2013 through Friday August the 2nd. In general 28

youth participated in this program. The cost for this trip was roughly over \$5000, and the youth managed to hold several fund raising events to finance the trip. The trip

was packed with devotional times, cooking and water park activities. We are blessed and we thank God for every day and for everything that happened for us.

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Dells



Vacation Bible Camp:

This program is intended for the little ones who did not take the trip to WAPO or Wisconsin Dells due to their age. The program took place from Monday August the 12th through Friday August the 16th 213, and the place was at our church. The program

involved Bible studies, activities, worship time, trip to the Zoo, science museum and water parks. The program ended successfully on Friday August 16 with barbecue and games in the church parking lot.

We praise God for all these events in the lives of our young people. Above all we thank Him for watching over our children during all these trips and activities- there were no injuries or sickness but all blessed abundantly.

OROECM members Visit TO OROMO Lutheran Church of Ohio

(By Mesfin Ayele)

Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love AND GOOD DEEDS, NOT NEGLECTING to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching (Hebrews 10:23-25)



Visitors from OROECM together with the church leaders of Oromo

A team of nine of Our Redeemer Oromo Evangelical Church in Minnesota members led by Pastor Melkamu Negeri made a visit to Ohio Oromo Luther Church from 4- 7 July 2013. The purpose of the visit was to participate in the Spiritual Conference organized by our sister church; encourage, support and share with one another the love of Christ.

The team included, pastors who shared the words of God, worship leaders, prayer ministry members,

and others. The team traveled together in a vehicle rented by the Church and left Minneapolis on July 4, 2013 at 11.00pm and arrived in Ohio on July 5, around 2.30 in the afternoon. We were well received and taken to a hotel for accommodation the cost of which was fully covered by the host Church.

The main theme of the conference was "Ebenezer, Thus far the Lord has helped us" (1st

Samuel 7:12) but led by the Holy Spirit the theme looked at "going forward forgetting what lies behind and stretching forward to what lies ahead, "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil.13:13-14). It was amazing how all the preachers recalibrated their prepared sermon to this topic in such smooth way that the words of their mouth flowing smoothly without any inhibition blessing conference participants.



L to R Pastor Mirressa of EECMY; Pastor Dinquu, Luther Seminary; Pastor Melkamu, OROECM and Pastor Alemu of Oromo Evangelical Church of Ohio.

Despite the challenge that Ohio Oromo Church has gone through, the number of participants was beyond our expectation and the work of the Spirit is visible. The worship team of Ohio Church was a combination of young and adult age group and just blended easily with our worship leaders and made three days of worship memorable and spirit filled.

The final Sunday service was presided over by Pastor Melkamu Negari with the word of advice and encouragement to Ohio members and leaders followed by Holy Communion. The Conference was closed with blessings and benediction of Ohio Oromo Lutheran Church senior Pastor Alemu Sirnesa, followed with a feast of fellowship.

Minneapolis Oromo Church team had the opportunity to listen and share experience with the elected council members of Ohio Oromo

Church. The women members of our team conducted a meeting with women members of the church and as a result of this meeting women ministry organizing committee was immediately elected to begin work as soon as possible. We finally appreciated the importance of coming together and agreed to nurture our relationship and pray for each other to be role models of true Christian fellowship in the following words of Paul "If therefore there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose (Philippians 2:1-2).

The team began the journey back on July 7 at 6:00 pm

EST and arrived in Minneapolis on July 8 early in the morning. We would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to Pastor Alemu and his family, Obbo. Tariku's family for welcoming us into their home, the council members and all other members of Ohio Oromo Lutheran Church for their brotherly and sisterly welcome filled with love and Christian fellowship. May God bless each one of us abundantly to share from the abundance of gifts He has given to us all!!

Thanks also goes to Our Redeemer Oromo Evangelical Church in Minnesota Council for making possible this vision to materialize and hope to continue sharing our gift of love with many more sister churches in the future on similar occasions!

“Faarfannaa Waaqaa, Aadaa Oromo”

(Compiled from different sources by Dr. Kano)

Yaa Waaqa, Waaqa hinqabnee	Kan hunda dhageessu,
Yaa gooftaa, gooftaa hinqabnee	Afaan Kiristiyaanaa,
Mooticha giddii hinqabnee	Afaan Isilaamaa,
Tokkicha maqaan dhibbaa	Afaan faranjoota, afaan Oromootaa,
Abbaa ifaa fi dukkanaa	Rabi abbaan dhugaassaa,
Waaqa hundaa ol jirta	Raffissee nu kaasa,
Si kadhadheen argadha.	Sooree nu badhaasa,
Yaa Waaqayyo hinroobda,	Daara soo nu baasa.
Yaa abbaa guungumaa koo,	Yaa Waaq situ caala,
Roobdee biqilchita,	Yaada garaa beekta,
Jeejee dhidhimsita,	Asaasa dhageessa.
Yaa abbaa hundumaa koo.	Gurri kee guurii hin qabu,
Baala midhaan goota,	Ijji kee ciimma'a hin qabu.
Muummees laga goota,	Waaqa garaa beektuu,
Yuuyyees nama goota,	Humbaa, humbaa yaa Waaq!
Ana mucca kemoo,	Uumtee nu'hingatin,
Uumaa kee, attam na gootaa?	Humbaa, Humbaa yaa Waaq!
Yaa namaa, tokkoo tokkoo,	Dagattee nu'buusin.
Makiinaa keessa teesseef,	Humbaa, humbaa yaa Waaq!
Kobortaa guraan geesseef	Ijaartee nu'hindiigin, Yaa Waaq!
Waaqan caala seeta.	Dhaabdee nu'buqqisin, Yaa Waaq!
Caaliin callee hindiru,	Ija boo'u nu oolchi, Yaa Waaq!
Calaan hundaa olii	Garaa nawu nu oolchi, Yaa Waaq!
Waaqa malee hin jiruu,	Gargar ba'uu nu oolchi, Yaa Waaq!
Yesuus malee hin jiru.	Nu dhaabi kaa, Yaa Rabbi!
Yaa Rabbi situ Caala,	Akka mukaa, Yaa Waaq!
Kan hunda argitu,	

Wedding, Baptism and Confirmation at OROECM:

(By Admasu Simeso)

Wedding:

There was a wedding at Our Redeemer Oromo Evangelical Church in Minnesota, OROECM, on Saturday 10th August 2013 in which the bride Aadde Birtukan Aagaa and

groom Obbo Birhanu Ayana got married. Pastor Melkamu Negari conducted the marriage ceremony and the vow.

After the wedding ceremony was concluded

in the church sanctuary a reception and dinner was held in Aster Gannoo Fellowship Hall with about 200 invited family members and friends were present.



Sagalee Abdii, on behalf of OROECM extends its best wishes of happy family life and God's blessings upon Aadde Birtukan Aagaa and Obbo Birhanu Ayana.

Baptism:

In our last edition (IVth) of *Sagalee Abdii* we reported that nine children, (eight boys and a girl) were baptized and joined Our Redeemer Oromo Evangelical Church in

Minnesota on Sunday, 24 April 2013. Just about 4 month later another 12 children were baptized on Sunday, 11 August 2013 and welcomed to OROECM, which we see as continued blessings

from God and growth of our church. We thank God always for the lives of the children and send our congratulations to the parents who brought them to the House of God.



Pastor Melkamu Negari baptized the children and the church issued a certificate of baptism to each family. There were two pairs of siblings among the baptized.

Confirmation:

Ten young people, five girls and five boys were confirmed and became full members of our church. Pastor Carlton Bruce Volker helped in the

teaching the confirmation classes and he was also a guest preacher at our church on Sunday, 08/25/2013. Mrs. Carol Volker also taught a class

of Sunday school. We thank God for the lives of the young people and pray for them as they commit their lives to the Lord; and congratulate the parents for their "happy day"!

“Yesus barka isaa irra kaa’ee akka isaaniif kadhatuuf, namoonni ijjoolle gara isaatti fidan; bartoonni garuu iftanii isaan dhowwan. Yesus immoo, ‘Lakkisaa mucoolii dhiisaa, gara koo dhufuu isaan hin dhowwinaa! Mootummaan Waaqayyoo warra akka isaaniitiif hin ta’a, jedhe”. Maatewos 19:13-14.



The confirmed young people with the Pastor, Pastor Melkamu; their teacher, Pastor Volker (back row center) and parents.

Minneapolis College to offer Afaan Oromo Course

(From OPride Publication, Thursday, 15 August 2013, submitted by Dr. Kano)

(OPride)- “The Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC) will be the first

college in the U.S. to offer an Afaan Oromo course this

September, the instructor said.

Adjunct Instructor Mathias Gudina will be

OROEC
4000 28th Ave South
Minneapolis,
MN 55406

Phone
612 337 0374
E-mail
ourredeemer@oro
mochurchmn.org

[http://oromochurchmn
.org/](http://oromochurchmn.org/)

course, Afaan Oromo I and II, starting this fall to introduce students to one of the ancient and widely spoken languages in Africa.”

“This introductory course series will teach how to read, write and speak the Oromo language. The writing is in Qubee, the Oromo alphabet reads the online course description. Qubee written in Latin scripts was adopted in 1991 and modified for writing Afaan Oromo.

The idea of teaching Afaan Oromo as one of the several foreign language courses offered by MCTC came after Associate Professor Dr. Kano Banjaw

approached the college with a proposal and recommended Gudina, a former language teacher, as the most eligible instructor of the course.

Gudina then developed the lesson plan for the course offerings through the college's Continuing Education Unit.

The courses are open to all students and the general

public. Gudina hopes and encourages both Oromo and non-Oromo speakers will enroll for the classes.

Note:

Both Gudinaa and Dr. Kano Banjaw are members of Our Redeemer Oromo Evangelical Church in Minnesota. Sagalee Abdii congratulates them for this historical step to advance the language.
