



Sagalee Abdii

A Periodic Newsletter of
Our Redeemer Oromo Evangelical Church of Minnesota

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Editorial Note: 1

(By Admasu Simeso)

Fayyuun Keenya Ayaana fi Tola
Waaqayyoo'tiin. 3

(By Rev Wondimu Legesse Soneessaa)

OROECM News in Brief 4

(By Admasu Simeso)

- i. OROECM Spiritual Conference
- ii. Women's Ministry:
- III. Youth and Children 2015 Summer Program:
- iv. OROECM Worship Team Spiritual Concert:
- v. Men above Forty Annual Picnic:
- vi. Birth
- vii. Weddings:
- viii. Baptism:
- ix. Pastor Wondimu Legesse Soneessaa:
- x. Prayer Time:
- xi Hallelujah Night at OROECM

Editors' Note:

"Those Who Keep Waiting Upon the LORD Will Renew Their Strength"

By Admasu Simeso

"Those Who Keep Waiting upon the LORD Will Renew their Strength: Then they'll soar on wings like eagles; they'll run and not grow weary; they'll walk and not grow tired, (Isiah 40:31)"

Since our last issue of Sagalee Abdii No. X in June this year a lot of events have taken place, (a lot of running, walking, planning and trying to do things) around our church, in our community and in this country that welcomed our people as well as in the world at large. Some of them though may not be realized as important are encouraging good news, while others are very disturbing events, especially those events that affect the lives of the children and the poor in various part of the world.

We at OROECM, the Lord has been and is good to us; we live in a peaceful environment and we have had and still have a lot to celebrate and thank God.

During these last four months we had the 20th Annual Conference of the United Oromo Evangelical Churches (UOEC) in Winnipeg Canada in which about 40 of our members travelled together and participated in the conference. (These events covered here may be outdated as news, as some of them took place four months ago, but still we note them here for the record and the history of our church for future references).

Other significant events were the Summer Spiritual Conference we had (July 26-28, 2015) and the Spiritual Music Concert organized by our church Worship Team held at Concordia University. There were the Men's picnic at Como Zoo, several marriages, births and baptism that have taken place in and around our church; although may sound routine still a sign of growing and living church.

Our Sunday service and the word of God we've been hearing based on the Gospel of Mark for the last two months and the Wednesday Evening Program and the latest Women's 24 hrs. Overnight and day vigil have been uplifting and blessings for our church. The Love in Action Group (Young Adult), Youth & Children Program and the Afaan Oromo and Qubee teaching of the Education group all active. The Sunday morning Bible study at the church is still going for over two years and enriching. Several Bible Study groups in Northern and Southern Metro are going on well as well, the participants growing together in spiritual depth.

We cannot say enough to thank those who have diligently taken upon themselves quietly looking after us by preparing coffee and tea every Sunday in Aster Gannoo.

Lately there are Sunday afternoon prayer get together at 4:00 PM, on the first and 3rd Sundays of the month, for those who want special prayer as well as Saturday evening phone-line-prayer which people can call and join.

But a very significant event that took place on the world stage was the visit of Pope Francis to the United States and the positive impact it had in this country and around the world, especially from the poignant message he delivered on environment, the plight of migrants and condition of the weak and the poor of our world. All people of goodwill and churches, regardless of their doctrine or denomination could learn a lot from his messages given in a humble and compassionate ways.

In couple of months we we'll be in Advent; during which we'll keep waiting upon the LORD, His coming and the farewell to the year 2015 and welcoming to 2016 with renewed strength for the task of our Christian duties ahead of us in the new year.

We are thankful to the Lord for all He has done for us and keep waiting upon Him for His guidance to grow in Him and strengthen our hope and trust in Him as a church and community of believers.

Fayyuun Kenya Ayaana fi Tola Waaqayyoo'tiin

((Faarsaa 15:1-5; 24:3-4)

Luba Wondimu Legesse
Soneessaa:¹

Daawit mootichi hinaaffaa mana Waaqayyootiif qabu yeroo baayy'ee faarfannaa isaatiin ibsa. Kanas akka nama hundumaaf ta'utti ogummaa hafuuraatiin geggeeffamee, namni mana Waaqayyooti ol lixuu danda'u nama akkamii akka ta'uu qabu yaadachiisuudhaan agarsiisa. Inni "godoo kee keessa eenyutu buufata ree? Tulluu kee isa qulqullaa'aa irras eenyutu jiraata ree?" jedhee Waaqayyoon gaafata.

Yoo deebii inni kennus qalbiidhaan ilaalle: Namni balleessaa malee ta'uun, wanta qajeelaa hojjechuun, dhugaa dubbachuun, xuraa'ummaa irraa of ittisuun, fi arraba ofii to'achuun ulaagaalee dursuu qabanii dha. Itti fufees, namni hariiroo ollaa isaa wajjin qabu keessatti bu'aa argachuuf jedhe ollaa isaa irraatti hamaa hojjechuu fi ceepha'uu irraa of qusaachuun fedha Waaqayyoo ti. Kun immoo wal arga namni Waaqayyoo wajjin qabuuf illee murteessaa dha. Daawit, "kana hundumaa namni of eeggachaa hojjetu, yoom iyyuu hin socho'u" (Faar15:5) jedhee xumura. Ilni isaa Solomoon mootichiis jireenyi mana Waaqayyoo keessaa of eeggannaa akka barbaachisu akeekkachisa. Waaqayyoo tajaajila keenya irra caalaa isa dhaga'uuf qophoofnee dhi'aachuu keenyatti akka gammadus ibsa (Lal 5:1).

Kun hundumtuu ulfinaa fi qulqullummaa namni tokko gonfatee fuula

Waaqayyooti ittiin dhi'aatu agarsiisa utuu hin ta'in, ulfina "godoo"

Waaqayyoo keessaa fi qulqullummaa "tulluu" Waaqayyoo gubbaatti argamu mul'isa. Waaqayyoo Musee dhan, "Ani isaan gidduu akkan jiraadhuuf isaan godoo qulqullaa'aa anaaf haa ijaaran!" (Ba'uu 25:8) jechuun kana mirkaneesseera. Seerri godoon Waaqayyoo saba isaa gidduutti aboome kun ittiin dhaabamus "tulluu" Siinaa gubbaatti Musee tti argisiifame (Ba'uu

24:12-18; 26:30). Godoo sana keessattis Waaqayyoo

"teessoo araaraa" abboomeera. Waaqayyoo teessoo araaraa san irraan mul'adhe "achitti sin arga...abboomii ani namoota Israa'eliif kennu hundumaa sitti nan hima" (Ba'uu 25:17, 22) jedhees abdachiiseera. Bara Kakuu Haaraatti immoo Waaqayyoo jireenya nama iddoo buufta isaa godhachuu jaal'ate. Karaa Yesuus Kristoos isatti kan amanu hundinuu "godoo" Waaqayyooti ol lixee jira (Efes 2:13, 19-22). Phaawuloos "Isin mana qulqullummaa Waaqayyoo" ti "Hafuurri Waaqayyos isin keessa buufatee" jira jedha (1 Qor 3:16). Waaqayyoo ofuma isaatii ulfinaa fi qulqullummaa saba isaa ti. Wanti saba Waaqayyoo yookaan nama

Waaqayyoon amanatu tokko irratti raaw'atamu duraan dursee

Waaqayyoon utuu hin tuqin hin darbu. Waldaa Kristiyaanaa keessattis hundumti keenyaa waan Waaqayyoo dubbatu dhageenyee abboomamuu fi wal gargaaruuf dhimma waliif baafna malee, eenyuu akka ulaagaa guutu fi eenyu immoo akka hanqatu wal to'achuun

¹ Yeroo caaffati kun qophaa'etti Lubi keenya Lubi Melkamu Negeri boqonnaa irra waan

turaniif Lubi Wondimu'n iddoo isaanii Ergaa Luba Irraa kana nuu caafan.

kaayyoo waamicha keenyaa miti. Hinaaffaa gaariin mana Waaqayyootiif qabnu illee bu'a-qabeessa ta'uu kan danda'u yoo Waaqayyoon duratti itti gaafatamummaa namni mata mataatti jireenya ofii isaatiif qabu kabajuu keessaan dhi'aate qofa dha. Walumaa galatti ilmaan namootaa keessa ulaagaa guutee Waaqayyoon dura dhaabachuu kan danda'u hin jiru. Karaa kanaa mudaa malee ta'ee kan argame Yesuus Kristoos isa nama ta'ee nuuf dhalatee, du'ees du'a moo'ee ka'ee gara mirga Waaqayyoo taa'ee jiru qofaa dha. Inni dadhabbii keenya hundumaattii nu furee, utuma cubbamoota taanee jirruu, Waaqayyoo duratti akka quluqullotaatti lakkaa'amne akka simatamnu nu godhee jira (Roome 3:21-24). Kun immoo akka nuyii walitti hin faradne nu gargaara.

Sababii cubbuutiif quba walitti qabanii wal ceepha'uun amala duuka buutuu Kristoos miti. Qooda kanaa dadhabbii keessatti gara-laafinaan wal simannee waliif kadhachuun, wal gorsuun, wal jajjabeessinees kadhataan gara "godoo" fi "tulluu" Waaqayyooti wal dhi'eessuutu qajeelaa dha (Efes 4:29-32). Gidduu keenyaa inni dadhabaa fakkaatu illee ija-jabina argatee "gara teessoo Waaqayyoo isa ayyaanaan guutuutti" (Ibr. 4:16) dhi'aatee araaraa fi ayyaana isaa akka barbaaddatuuf daandii wal haa qixxeessinuuf.

Waaqayyoo Gooftaan keenya akka dukabuutota Isaa dhugaatti, akka jaalala Isaa fi fedha Isaatti akka jiraannu nu'hagargaaru.

News from OROECM Various Ministries:

I. OROECM Spiritual Conference:

By Admasu Simeso

Our church, OROECM had a wonderful 3 days spiritual conference, August 14-16, 2015. The topic for our conference again was on our theme of this year, which was taken from 1 Peter 3:18. *"Grow in the knowledge and wisdom of our Lord Jesus Christ"*.

The speaker at the conference was Evangelist Feqaadu Beenyaa from Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, EECMY².



Evangelist Feqaadu Beenyaa

Evangelist Feqaadu's teaching is practical, well organized, well-articulated and captivating. He has a special gift, wisdom and understanding to teach as Apostle Paul mentions in I Corinthians 12: among gifts of the Spirit. His focus is

² At present he is a Theme Leader for EECMY Christian Life Ministry Division and EECMY

University Students Ministry National Coordinator.

preaching the Gospel according to the word of God.



Evangelist Feqaadu Beenyaa with Pastor Melkamu & Ephraim Olani

To emphasize his point an indication of spiritual growth and faithfulness to the word of God he used the example of famous people of God in the Bible: Adam & Eve, Moses, Joseph, Elijah and Jonah and the Lord Himself. When people obey God they grow upward in Him with grace but when they try to listen to their inner whisper and go their ways their lives take a downward spiral. When Elijah was running away from Jezebel he ended up down in the lowland, deeper down in the hole (cave). But as soon as he listened to the Lord he was moving continuously upward from the cave to the mountain top and finally to heaven riding a chariot. When Jonah refused to go to Nineveh (Nanawwee) he went down to the sea, boarded a boat, still went down to the most bottom of the boat, when thrown out swallowed by the fish and finally spat out. His message was should listen to the Lord and obey Him not to ourselves driven by our own interest.

Our church was abundantly blessed by the genuine teaching of our brother evangelist Feqaadu. God has certainly blessed him with deep and exceptional understanding of the scriptures, which made unquestionably fit to preach the Word.

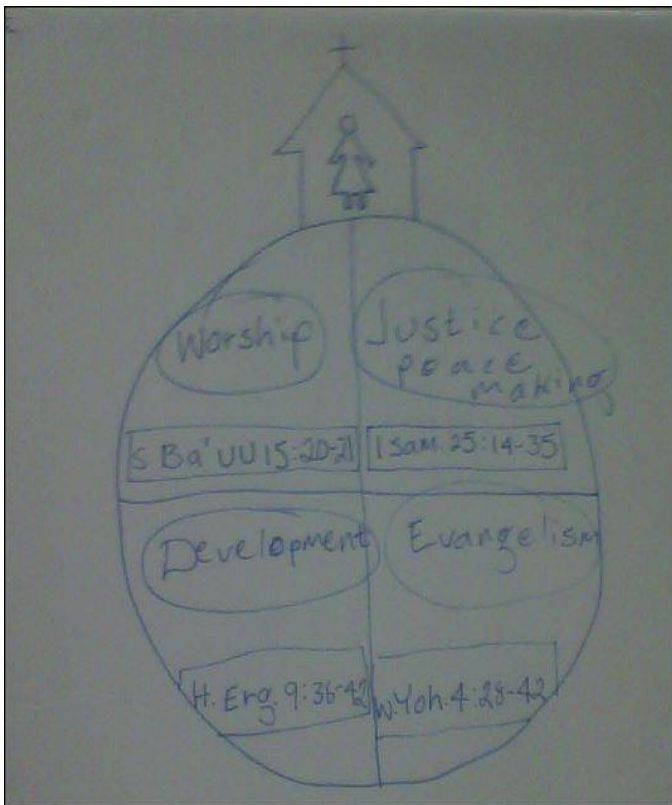
While here in USA Evangelist Feqaadu shared his time among several Oromo Evangelical Churches among them: Oromo Evangelical Lutheran Church in Columbus, OH, Oromo Eva. Lutheran Church in Atlanta, GA, Bay Area Oromo Eva. Church in San Francisco, Oromo Eva. Church in Washington DC. He also participated in and served a spiritual conference at Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus church in the Twin Cities.

We all pray for him for more abundant blessing upon him and his family for this strong but humble servant of the Lord!

II. Women's Ministry:

OROECM Women's Ministry is one of the most active ministries of our church. Without exaggeration we can say that the women are really the backbone of the ministry of our church. On Friday October 09, 2015 they held an overnight prayer vigil in the church into the next day, Saturday, October 10, 2015.

On Saturday the group had presentations by several members of our church: Pastor Melkamu, Obbo Yemane Gadisa, Pastor Dr. Dinku Bato and Samuel Yonas Deressa. The presentations by Pastor Dingu, Sammy and Aadde Wubitu were on the history and the role of women in the Bible and early Christian churches.



One of a note taken at women's conference that shows the role of women.

III. Youth and Children 2015 Summer Program:

By Jote Betel:

A big thank you to all of our summer program participants, parents, youth group, and church leaders for helping to make the Day Bible Camp & Wapo Bible Camp a success. We had around 43 children who participated in the Wapo Bible camp for one week and over 50 children from pre-school to fourth grade who attended the one week Day Bible camp.



Children enjoying their Day Out in Swimming Pool.

We thank everyone for their prayers and supports as our Youth & Children Ministry begins a new chapter. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Wapo officials and staff without whose contributions and support our activities would not have been as successful.

IV. OROECM Worship Team Spiritual Concert:



OROECM Worship Team and the invited guest singers with Pastor Melkamu & Dr. Robera.

A Spiritual Music Concert was organized by our church Worship Team held at Concordia University on. Well known Oromo spiritual singers participated in the concert, the first of its kind. It turn out to be a successful event and one of the means of outreach to our Oromo communities in the Twin Cities area.



One of the many presentations during the concert at Concordia University Hall

V. Men above Forty Annual Picnic:

On Saturday, August 5, 2015 close to thirty people gathered at Como Zoo for a day together. Pastor Wondimu L Soneessaa gave a devotion and prayer. The group also had time for fruitful discussions about Men's Ministry and how to make it more active.

On Sunday, November 08 2015 Men's Ministry elected a five person new committee members to lead them for the next two years. The new members are 1) Obbo Asrat Tesfa, 2) Obbo Mesfin Ayele, 3) Obbo Bayissa Didi, 4) Obbo Umer Qusii and 5) Obbo Tafese Aagaa.

The outgoing committee members who worked hard for the last 2 years were: Obbo Tekle Tolesa, 2) Obbo Dereje Tesso, 3) Shibiru Gichile, 4) Tilahun Ayana, and 4) Mulatu Qenno

VI. Birth

Obbo Dereje Gameda and Aadde Bilisee Wadajoo are parents to their first son Lattan Dereje. Lattan was born on 02 August 2015. Congratulation to the young parents and the grandparents!



VII. Weddings:

1- Dargaggeessa Adunyaa Dhibbisaa and Durbee Hiwot Tadase made their wedding vow in our church on Saturday, 22 August 2015. Pastor Melkamu conducted the wedding ceremony in our sanctuary where more than three hundred friends and invited guests witnessed it.



Hiwot & Adunya making vow

2- Hiwot Weyessa and Zekarias Fayisa got married on Saturday, 26 September 2015 at OROECM at which hundreds of friends and invited people present to witness the wedding ceremony and vow which was presided over by our Senior Pastor, Pastor Melkamu Negeri and a message to the bride and the bridegroom



Hiwot Weyessa & Zekarias

VIII. Baptism:

On Sunday, 10/11/2015 five children were baptized at our church and became part of OROECM children family. We wish God's abundant blessings upon their lives and that of their families. They were baptized by Pastor Melkamu Negeri.



Blessing of the Baptism water by Pastor Melkamu before baptizing the children.



Our Pastors from left to right, Pastor Melkamu Negeri, Pastor Michael Hundessaa Pastor Dr. Dinku Bato, Pastor Wondimu Legesse, and Pastor Yadessa Dhaabaa joining for the final prayer and blessings after serving Holy Communion

IX. Pastor Wondimu Legesse Soneessaa:

Pastor Wondimu who has received Optional Practical Training (OPT) approval through Luther Seminary to practice in the field he was trained in, was assigned by OROECM Council as focal point pastor for Youth & Children and in various ministries of the church for one year starting the 1st of October 2015. His appointment to the positions was announced in the church to the congregation on Sunday, 11/01/2015 and commissioned with prayer.



Pastor Wondimu Legesse Soneessaa

From the brief introduction given by Pastor Melkamu Luba Wondimu graduated with Bachelor of Theology from Mekane Yesus Seminary of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, (EECMY) and Master of Art in Systematic Theology from Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology. Originally he was trained as elementary school teacher and also served as a high school teacher and laboratory technician prior to his call to serve in Iluu-Abbaabor Bethel Synod of EECMY. Later he was sent to the seminary for advanced leadership training and theological education.

Later, while he was serving as a lecturer and dean of theology at the MYS, he got opportunity for further studies and came to the United States to Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN, where he completed his Masters of Theology (MTh) in Systematic Theology. He has been active in our church since he arrived at Luther involved in various activities of the church in leading Sunday worship programs and in other activities enriching our congregation spiritual life. Pastor Wondimu is married to his wife Yirgalem and they have two young boys and expecting the 3rd child soon. Sagalee Abdii on behalf of our congregation says congratulation to Pastor Wondimu for being officially part of our church life. We thank God for Luba Wondimu's dedication and service in His church.

X. Prayer Time:

New prayer program started on Sunday afternoons, the first and third Sundays of the month at 4 PM. There is also prayer-line on by phone every Saturday at 9:00 PM where people can join for prayer or request for prayer.

XI. Hallelujah Night at OROECM

It has been several years since OROECM renamed the Halloween Night as Hallelujah Night and started organizing the yearly October 31st celebration with appropriate program for the children of our church and their parents. This year close to eighty children and parents participated in the program of singing and fun for the children



Hallelujah Night at OROECM



Sagalee Abdii on behalf of OROECM would like to acknowledge the very essential technical support provided freely by the Gamachise and Chali Yadesa, Amenti Melkamu and Dawit. Baisa.

Thank you and God bless you!

Chali Yadesa for the design of the new Sagalee Abdii logo and Gamachiise for the formatting and layout of the publication and all the technical input and Amenti and Dawit for web posting design. Without their help it would have cost our church a substantial amount. Waaqayyo isaan ha'eebbisu!

Sagalee Abdii

