



RCA Missionary Update

from the Tadesse

Abdi Tadesse Mulat began ministry as a volunteer leader in his home church. Soon after, a communist revolution swept through Ethiopia. Abdi was arrested and tortured repeatedly. Though no Bibles or prayer were allowed in prison, he witnessed to his fellow prisoners, confirming and refining his faith and his gifts as an evangelist. After his release from prison the government assigned him to Bale, a predominantly Muslim area. Initially resistant to moving to an area with no churches and few Christians, Abdi came to see this placement as an opportunity to share the news of God's love for all people. Abdi now teaches in the Christian-Muslim Relations program at Mekane Yesus Seminary. He is married to Sumaye and they have three children.

Ethiopia facts:

- Population: 65 million
- Size: 704,000 square miles (about twice the size of Texas)
- Major religions: 48 percent Ethiopian Orthodox Christianity; 35-40 percent Islam; 12 percent Evangelical Christianity



MINISTRY

Christian-Muslim Relations

LOCATION

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

PARTNER

Ethiopian Evangelical Church
Mekane Yesus

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Dear Friends in Christ,

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For me and my family, 2008 was filled with amazements in spite of different challenges. Since I returned from my studies in the states our older daughter had been asking me when she would get to fly on a plane. I told her that she would fly one day. That day came when my family and I were invited by RCA Global Mission to attend the Africa missionary gathering held in Nairobi, Kenya. My wife and I didn't tell to our children about the invitation—we kept it a secret. When we left home they thought that we are going for a retreat somewhere in the country. Upon reaching the airport, we told them that we are going to Kenya for a conference. They jumped, shouted and hugged us saying, "thank you!" They are still sharing their new experience with their friends at school. At that gathering we learned a lot from each other and we came to know many missionary friends working in other parts of Africa. My family and I were able to attend this gathering because of YOU! Thank you!



Sumaye, Sena, Ebassa, Sidise and Abdi

Another surprise was that even though I have flown over Egypt several times while traveling to the states and Europe, I never got a chance to visit Egypt. Egypt is one of the places I wanted to visit because it has pyramids and one of Islamic universities is



Participants of the Egypt consultation

found there. This year I got to travel there with Peter Ford and one of our colleagues, who teaches CMR, because we had meetings with the Cairo Theological Seminary staff and with friends who came from the states and Pakistan (seminary). There we had good time together and we learned a lot from each other through sharing of our experiences. During that meeting I got a chance to visit Al hazar Mosque in Cairo, the pyramids, the museum, and one of the monasteries in the desert. So when I teach at the seminary, I am able to share what I learned from my visit with my students.

I also had a chance to travel to Kenya to participate in a workshop which was organized by PROCMURA (Program for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa) office in Nairobi. Many participants who are working in Christian-Muslim Relations programs came, mainly from East Africa. This was also a good opportunity to meet people who are working in the field and to share experiences.



*Participants of PROCMURA consultation,
Nairobi, Kenya*

My teaching career at the seminary is also going well. This year I taught Introduction to Islam, Islamic History, Issues in Religious Pluralism, and Christian Witness among Muslims. I enjoy teaching and seeing the progress in the program. This year we have totally about twenty students in year three and year four CMR program. We are doing our best to receive more students for the

coming year. We also gave a short training on Christian-Muslim relations for three days at the seminary for the evangelists and pastors who came from all over the country where they enjoyed a lot and invited us so that we could go and teach their church members on this subject in the future.

In January, our church is celebrating the Jubilee of her establishment at the national level. Many guests are coming from all over the country and abroad. Therefore, we are working hard for the preparation. Next to the celebration, our church will have the General Assembly (which comes every four years) and on that Assembly the church leaders will be elected and many decisions will be made for the ministry of the church. Please, pray for the success of the Jubilee and the Assembly. During this Christmas and New Year celebration I would like to express my gratitude for your support and prayers which is enabling us to become more successful in our ministry. We wish you all MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR. May God bless you all.

In Christ,

Abdi, Sumaye, Sena, Ebassa and Sidise

To access extensive information about the Tadesses, simply go to www.rca.org/tadesse.