



# RCA Missionary Update

## from the Tadeses

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

#### CONTACT

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#### LEARN MORE AT

[www.rca.org/tadesse](http://www.rca.org/tadesse)

Dear Friends in Christ,

December 2011

We greet you all in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ. It has been a while since we sent an update. Our ministry in Ethiopia is going well. This academic year is the busiest one since I started teaching at the seminary. One of our friends, who was sent to Germany for further studies, stayed there after he completed his studies in August. His decision not to return, as we had expected, put more burden on me to teach more courses. I teach five courses to six classes this semester, which ends in December. I teach Introduction to Islam (for second year students including the evening program); Muhammad and Islamic History (for CMR three students); Islam in Ethiopia; Christian witness to the Muslims (for year four CMR students); and Islam and Christianity (for Ethiopian Graduating School of Theology). In addition to daytime classes I also teach on Monday evenings. This year, we have seven new students to the CMR program. Eight students already in the year four CMR program will graduate in June 2012.



*CMR year three students*

In addition to teaching and coordinating the CMR program, I am preparing a study guide to be used with the Introduction to Islam course for the distance education office. Developing these materials takes a lot of time. I also advise three CMR graduating students on their BTh papers. It takes time to read their papers and give constructive comments. Though I am busy and feel tired, I am happy with our ministry as it is bearing much fruit in the life of the students whom we teach and in the ministry of the church.



*CMR two year students*

Since the CMR program started at the seminary in 2003, many ministers graduated and do good jobs in their

respective churches. One of our first graduates became the national church leader, one was elected as synod president, and another coordinates the CMR office at our church's head office. Others also resumed different positions in their churches. We are proud of our graduates in their ministries. The former student who coordinates the CMR program at our church head office organized a big conference last summer at the national level, where Muslim leaders and church leaders (both from Orthodox, Catholic, and Evangelical churches) came together and discussed papers that were presented by Muslim and Christian scholars on the current Christian-Muslim relations and situations in the country. We had a good time together and decided to work together to develop peaceful coexistence between the people of two faiths. The development of the CMR program in our church helps the church to create peaceful coexistence and tolerance between Christian and Muslim community.

Interest in joining the CMR program at our seminary is increasing from time to time among our regular BTh students. When I taught the Introduction to Islam course for regular students and Islam and Christianity at Ethiopian Graduating School of Theology, they informed me that they were very impressed with what they learned. We thank God for the fruitfulness of our ministry.

We were so pleased to welcome Les and Diane Winslow from Christ Community Church in California, (one of our supporting churches) to Addis Ababa. We had a good time with them and our children were so happy meeting them and having time to talk with them. We thank Les and Diane for their visit.

Our kids are doing well with their studies at school. Our youngest daughter, Sidise, likes the new school where she joined with Sena and Ebassa. She has a good voice and likes to sing. We thank God for the development that we see in their studies. We thank all our friends and partners for your support, prayer and thoughts. We wish you God's blessing.



*Les and Diane with my family*

In His Service,

Abdi, Sumaye, Sena, Ebassa, and Sidise

*To access extensive information about the Tadesses, or to make a financial gift for their ministry, simply go to [www.rca.org/tadesse](http://www.rca.org/tadesse).*

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