

# Sagalee Abdii

## A Periodic Newsletter of

*Our Redeemer Oromo Evangelical Church of Minnesota*

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## Editorial Note

By Admasu Simeso (AS)

### I. Editorial Note: *Sagalee Abdii (Voice of Hope)*

First of all, we would like to apologize to our friends from far and near who get to read our church publication, Sagalee Abdii, that due to various reasons we have missed two, from supposedly our quarterly issues.

However, just for the sake of our church record we will go a little bit back in time and briefly mention few of the events on our church calendar that took place and other related happenings during the end of 2021: Advent Season, Christmas, and the beginning of the year 2022, the New Year Conference as note for history not news. *So, you will find as more of historical note rather than on time news.*

Other main coverages of the current issue are Election of our Church Council members, the Holy Week, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. Also, during this period, the baptism of five children on 24 April 2022 which was attended by many people from our church as well as from other Oromo churches in the Twin Cities area. We thank God that all those people came together to worship and witness the baptism and being added to the House of the Lord of those children, indeed, it was a big event, blessings and a positive sign that the church of the Lord is still growing. Mother's Day 2022 was also celebrated in our church on 08 May 2022 and Father's Day on 19 June 2022.

We also mention with great sadness and feeling of loss that a loving and dedicated member of our church, a wife, sister, and friend to all, Birtukan Ayana Sima passed away after long illness, she is greatly missed continue to be missed as she was always there at all the church's events playing a central role. Also, several other friends from our wider Oromo community passed away, among them, *Harmee (Maamaa)* Zannabuu Mamo Corqaa, Dr. Tadesse Eebba and Obbo Galaasaa Dilbo.

All of them had a big contribution in our Oromo society one way or another. Harmee Zenebu had played a major roll in one of our mother churches, Dambi Dollo Bethel. Dr. Tadesse Eebba and Obbo Galaasaa in the struggle for the rights and justice for our people also made major contributions to the struggle.

The other serious challenge was and still is the deterioration of peace in our world especially in Ethiopia and Ukraine, and the very saddening destruction and mems they caused and continue to cause in both countries and the loss of many innocent lives. The war in Ukraine is an outside invasion from Russia, the fighting in Ethiopia is and has been between the government in power and the various dissident groups with grievances going back in history against successive regimes due to lack of basic human and political rights, imprisonments, killings, and destruction of the meager resources in the already poor country. The war, killings, imprisonment, and displacement of innocent people in Oromia Region, which does not get any attention like even the less affected areas in other parts of the country, remain to be our serious concern. One big difference between the war in Ethiopia and that of Ukraine is also, while the situation in Ethiopia does not have the attention and international media coverage like that of Ukraine but still the magnitude of the effect and the sufferings it caused and continue to cause is still immense.

The latest even more serious concern is the focus of the renewed war, real war and propaganda campaign that is only targeting Wallagga, and its people based on unsubstantiated reports.

There is also drought and famine, famine cause by the drought and also the war and the ordinary people and innocent children are mostly the victims.

As we witness all the evil acts around us, we hear from everywhere committed against one another by humans left with no humane feeling in 21<sup>st</sup> Century it easy to lose hope and bewildered as what is happening. *Now days we constantly hear a lot of discouraging voices bad news we are bombarded with every day and every minute, voices, and scripts of despair through social media in what they call in real time, war and rumors of war hatreds and wanton killings etc., and it is easy to lose hope. While the pandemic of the covid-19 seems to have eased a little bit though still lingers around still a positive sign, but lately we are also hearing a strange sounding new brand of epidemic called **Monkeypox** which is worrisome from what we hear about it. It seems that our world is in some kind of perpetual chaos, people especially the so-called leaders, supposed to lead with humility and God fearing but they all seem to be in some kind of hallucination putting our world on the verge of disaster.*

***But we thank God, that we have Sagalee Abdii (the Voice of Hope) to hold on to it in such time of hopelessness-***

*In our Holy Bible in the first chapter of the Book of Genesis, after creating the rest of the creation for five days, on the six-day God in Genesis 1:26 said, "Let us make man, (human) in Our own image, according to Our likeness....", His likeness love, caring, justice and righteousness. But after the fall, the fall after the likeness of the Evil One, humanity lost 'God's likeness' and became evil, greedy, and perpetuated injustice. But by the saving Grace of Christ and through Him at least some humans regained the original nature that God created the original man with; therefore, we still have some hope in Him.*

*Therefore, as Christians and other people of faith in God, the Creator of all things our hope is in our Lord God the Almighty, in His comforting and sustaining voices, "**Voice of Hope,**" (Sagalee Abdii). It is about time, it is urgent that all people of goodwill, people of all faiths that believe in and worship our God, cry to Him **together in one voice saying, "Lord have Mercy on your entire Creation"!***

***We need an unwavering Christian resilience to stand for peace, justice, and people's rights, and also take a special care for His creation that He said not only use it but also take a special care for it. We should not be afraid to call evil, for what it is without hesitation and call and stand for justice. The essential attribute for peace, justice, and people's rights that we need to pray for are "good will." If there is goodwill among humans and towards all other God Creation, we will survive on our tiny but special spot in our universe that God put us here, our earth and continue to say, "glory to God in the highest, peace on earth and goodwill among His people"!*** Luke 2:14. ***That is Sagalee Abdii, (the Voice of Hope).***

AS, Sunday, 05 June 2022

## II. Word from the Pastor of the Church:

(Pastor Wondimu L Sonessa)

Waaqayyo Sodaa Keenyaa fi Dheebuu Keenyaaf Deebii Qaba  
Isaayaas 44:1-4



Dhalachuu Gooftaa keenya Yesus Kiristoos dura, naannoo waggoota dhibba torbaatti Waaqayyo Isaayaas Raajicha afaan godhatee sabaa fi mootummootatti dubbachuuf isa kaafate. Bara sanatti Impaayerri warra Sooriyaa qabiyyee isaa ball'ifachaa kan ture yeroo ta'u, mootummaan Israa'el garuu dadhabaa adeema ture (6:1; 14:28; 36:1). Yaaddoo fi sodaadhaan guutamuu irraa kan ka'e sabni Israa'el saba kallattiin jireenyaa harka bade ture. Warri Macaafa Qulqulluu qu'atan Israa'eliin nama iji isaa arguu fi gurri isaa dhaga'uu hindandeenye, akkasumas iddoo dhaaba wayinii isa abbaan arge irra ejjetuutti ni fakkeessu turan. Gidduu isaaniitii firdiin qajeelaan dhabamuu fi karaa alaa immoo loltoota Sooriyaatiin gidirfamuun haala isaanii ittuu haammeessee ture. Garuu Hizqiyaas Mootichi Waaqayyoon kadhatee jennaan Waaqayyoo loltuu sana isaan irraa deebise (37:6-7).

Haa ta'u malee, isaan kana boodas gara Waaqayyootti hin deebine. Kanaafis Waaqayyo dabarsee harka mootii Baabiloonatti boojuutti isaan kennuuf akka jiru Raajichi kan dursee dubbatee ture (39:1, 6), dhalachuu Kiristoos dura naannoo waggoota dhibba ja'aatti kufaatii Yersaaleemiin raawwatame. Ergaan Isaayaas sabaa fi moototatti labse Waaqayyoo Gooftaa isa moototaa fi mootummoota biyya lafaa irra jiran hundumaa irra baay'isee caalu ta'uu isaati. Afaan raajichaatiin seeraa fi Sagalee Waaqayyoo'tu madaallii eegee dubbatame. Firdii Waaqayyoo fi fayyisuu Waaqayyoo sirriitti ibsee agarsiisa. Gamma tokkoon, Waaqayyo inni "Qulqulluu Israa'el" jedhamee beekame saba Isaa waan Isa irratti loogeef ni adaba jedha (1:2). Gama kaaniin immoo, Waaqayyo oo'a-qabeessa waan ta'eef garuu deebisee immoo isaan ni fura jedha (41:14, 16). Sabni dheekkamsa Waaqayyootiin adaba jala gale, araara Waaqayyootiin furamuu isaa dhaga'e (Isa 40:1-2).

Araaramuu Waaqayyoo irraa kan ka'e sabni garbummaa Mootii Gibxi jalaa ba'ee boojuu mootii Baabiloon jalatti rakkachaa ture, deebi'ee Waaqayyoof hojjechuuf carraa lammaaffaa argate. Isaayaas 44:1-4 gubbaatti Waaqayyo "Yaaqoob garbicha ko" jedhee kan inni itti dubbatu guutummaa saba Israa'el dha. Keessumaa baasee, "yaa saba Israa'el isa ani fo'adhee" jedha. Sabni kun rakkina yaada Waaqayyo irraa gara yaada ofii isaatti deebi'uu keessa yoommuu inni galetti, Waaqayyo saba Isaa maqaadhaan waamee, "mee dhaga'i!" (Isa 44:1) jedhaan.

*Dhaga'uun hariiroo sabni Israa'el Waaqayyoo wajjin qabu keessatti iddoo guddaa qaba ture.* Seera Keessa Deebii 6:4-9 gubbaatti *'dhaga'uun' waa sadii wajjin walitti qabsiifamee jira: Waaqayyoon jaallachuu (6:5), dubbii isaa garaatti qabachuu (6:6), dubbii isaa afaanii fi barreeffamaan dhalootatti dabarsuu (6:7-9).* Bara Kakuu Moofaatti kakuun

saba Israa'el fi Waaqayyoon gidduu tureef qabxiwwan kun sadan ijoodha. Waaqayyo erga Musee'n du'ee booda lyaasuu'tti yommuu dubbates kanuma irra deebi'ee mirkaneesseef. Macaafa lyaasuu 1:8-9 gubbaatti Waaqayyoon dhaga'uun macaafa seeraa sana qajeelfama jireenyaa godhachuu wajjin wal qabsiifamee jira. Macaafni seeraa sun dubbii afaan ofii keessaa ba'u ittiin qajeelfachuuf (1:8), yaada ofii isa keessatti eeggachuuf (1:8), wajjin ta'uu Waaqayyoo madda ciminaa fi ija jabina ofii godhachuuf (1:9) dhimma baasa.

Waan Waaqayyo Isaayaas 44:1-4 gubbaatti sabaa isaatti dubbatuu yommuu ilaallu, seenaa sabni Israa'el kakuu isaa dagatee Waaqayyotti dugda galuu isaa yaadanna. Gargaarsa mootota biyyoota ollaa isaanii jiranii abdachuudhaan waqayyolii tolfamoo isaaniitti madaqanii Waaqayyo Uumaa isaanii fi Gooftaa isaanii ta'uu Isaa irraanfatanii turan. Yoo Inni isaanitti dubbates sagalee Isaa dhaga'anii akka duriitti addaan baafachuu hin danda'an. Kanaaf Waaqayyo iddoo isaan itti Isa yaadachuu danda'anitti achi deebi'ee, "Yaa Yaaqoob garbicha ko, yaa saba Israa'el isa ani si fo'adhee, mee dhaga'i! Ani Waaqayyo kanaan si uume, gadameessa haadha kee keessatti kanan si tolche, kanan si gargaarus" (Isa 44:1-2) jedhee isanitti dubbachuu jalqabe. Amma sabni Israa'el Waaqayyoon sirriitti yaadachuu danda'a; dubbii Inni itti dubbates, kakuu isaan gidduu jirus yaadachuu danda'a. Garuu immoo gammachuudhaaf ija-jabinaan utuu hin ta'in, akka saba duubbii Waaqayyoo fi karaa Isaa dhiisee karaa ofii isaatii fo'ate irra bu'ee erga fagaatee adeemee booda dingata Waaqayyoon of birratti argeetti sodaadhaa fi gaabbiidhaan guutamee seenaa Waaqayyoo wajjinii isa darbe sana yaadata.

*Sodaan isaanii* waan Waaqayyo godhaa jedhe dhiisanii waan Inni isaan dhowwe immoo hojjechuu isaanii irraa kan maddu dha. Seera Keessa Deebii 5:7-9 gubbaatti "Waaqayyolii kan biraa tokko illee ana biratti hin qabaatin" (5:7) jedhee isaan abboomee ture. Yaa Israa'el dubbii koo kana irra tarkaanffatee yoo waqayyolii tolfamoo dhaaf sagaddee isaaniif hojjetee, "Ani Waaqayyo gooftaan kee Waaqayyo hinaafaa dha; cubbuu abbootaas hamma dhaloota sadii, hamma dhaloota afuriittis harka ijoollee warra na jibbanii keessaa nan barbaada. Dhaloota warra na jaallatanii abboommii koo eeganiitti garuu, kumaatama isaaniitti gaarummaa koo nan argisiisa" (5:9-10) isaaniiin jedhee ture. Isaan abboommii kana hin eegne waan ta'eef adaba isaan irra iyyuu darbee ijoollee isaanii gaaga'u kana sodaataniiiru.

*Gaabbiin isaanii* waan dheebotanii Waaqayyoon dhiisanii adeeman sana argatanii utuu isaan dheebuu hin ba'in Waaqayyo dingata gara isaanii dhufuu isaa irraa madda. Kan waan barbaadne argachuu hin dandeenyeef utuu Waaqayyoon dhiifnee adeemuudhaa'baanne wayya ture jedhanii gaabbuun isaanii gaaffii hin qabu. Yeroo isaan Isa dhiisanii deeman kana Waaqayyo callisee hin teenye. Gara

Isaaitti akka deebi'aniif karaa raajota bara sana isaaniif kaasee waamicha isaaniif godhaa ture. Egaa kana hundumaa dhaga'anii deebi'uu waan didaniif, Waaqayyo duratti ija-jabina qabaachuu hin danda'an. Adabas wanti isaan oolchu hin jiru.

Garuu Waaqayyo immoo araara qabeessa fi dhiifamaan guutuu waan ta'eef, ulee dheekkamsaa luqqifachaa isaanitti hin dhufne. Qooda kanaa, fuula ifaa fi sagalee jaalalaa dhageessisaa gara isaanii dhufe. Ergaan inni isaaniif qabus kan har'aaf deebii isaaniif kennu fi kan egeree isaaniif immoo abdii isaaniif kennu dha. Innis immoo, "ani sanyyii kee irratti Hafuura koo, ijoolota kee irrattis eebba koo nan dhangalaasa; isaan akka marga bishaan gidduu jiruu fi akka alaltuu bishaan yaa'u bukkee dhaabatuu in lalisu" (Isa 44:3-4) kan jedhuun ibsamee jira.

Egaa har'as waldaan Kristiyaanaa abdii Waaqayyo inni sodaa keenya fi dheebuu keenya argu kenna irra dhaabattee jirti. Waaqayyoo akka har'uma Isa dhageenyu barbaada malee sodaa fi yaaddo egeree keenyaatiin guutamnee akka hammaamaa jiraannu hin barbaadu. Inni ilma Isaa Yesus Kristoos'iin nuu ergee garbummaa cubbuu jalaa nu furee ijoollee Isaa nu godhateera. Yesus, "Ani garboota isiniin hin jedhu, garbichi waan gooftaan isaa godhu hin beeku'o; ani garuu firoota koo isiniin jedheera, waanan abbaa koo irraa dhaga'e hundumaas isin beeksiseera" (Yoh 15:15) jedha. Waaqayyo warra Isatti amananiif Hafuura Qulqulluu isa abdachiises (Yo'el 2:28-29; Luqaas 24:49; Yoh 14:15-17) ergeera (HoE 2:1-21). Garuu, utuu Isa of keessaa qabnuu sodaa fi yaaddoo of irratti yoo moosifne nutti gadda. Phaawulos Ergamaan kanaaf, "Hafuura Waaqayyoo isa Qulqulluu Isa guyyaa fayyinaatiif ittiin mallateffamtan in gaddisiisinaa" (Efes 4:30) jedhee nu gorsa. Waaqayyo dubbii Isaa dhageenyee amantiidhaan fudhachuun Hafuura Qulqulluu'dhaan geggeefamnee akka jiraannu qofaa barbaada. Kanaa achi sodaa fi yaaddo malee itti fufnee eebba Isaa keessa jiraanna. Dubbii isa, "inni anatti qabamee jiraatu, anis isatti jiraadhu, isa ija baay'ee kan godhatu" (Yoh 15:5b) jedhu qabanne Waaqayyo humna keenyaa fi jabina keenya jechaa adeemsa amantii itti haa fufnu.

### III. Message from the President of the Church: (Obbo Addisu Shunkuri)

Greetings to All:



Addisu Shunkuri, Church Council President

On behalf of our Church Council, I would like to take this opportunity to extend to our members, our heartfelt thank you for all the dedication and commitment that have been shown. I specifically would like to underline our appreciation and thank you to our committed Young Adults who quietly handle our media through which our Online Ministry reaches our friends around the world, Music Ministry, leading our Worship diligently every week and also those who take care of the cleaning the exterior and the interior of our church and the decoration of our sanctuary according to the church calendar.

We also would like to recognize and say thank you to our Women and Men Ministries who spend a lot of their time tirelessly to help us celebrate all the church events.

We are also proud of our congregation and thank God the way we all responded in the call of fund raising for the support for the publication of more Bible in Afaan Oromo. We thank God that it proved to be very successful indeed!

Finally, we also thank God for the Outreach Program of our church with some congregations back home, especially the Dirre Congregation of Luba Sobboqa Tesso and hope to do more in light of the current situation in our country. We also greatly appreciate and say thank you to one of our members, our sister Aadde Meseret Yadeta who initiated the contact in the first place and continue to visit the congregation from time to time and encourage them. Her dedication also encourages us here to do more. May our Lord bless all who are involved and help us to open our eyes to expand our ministry in our Homeland and we should "keep praying without ceasing" for peace in our dear country.



Our member Aadde Meseret Yadeta at Dirre Congregation on Sunday, 26 June 2022

Lastly, I would like to remember and remind everyone, of the life of one of the dearest members of our church, an exceptional person of God, extremely dedicated to God's work and service in love and compassion, our sister Birtukan. Thank you to all of you for always lifting her name remembering her.

- Addisu Shunkuri.

Thank you, God blesses us all!

#### IV. Youth and Children Ministry: (Obbo Asefa Wakjira)

##### 1- IJOOLLEEN WALDAA BORII QOFA MITI, HAR'AS WALDAA DHA.

Yeroo baay'ee ijoollee boriif qopheessina jenna. Kanaaf, egeree isaanii irratti xiyyeeffanna. Kun waan gaarii dha. Ta'us ijoollonni har'as jireenya qabu. Sichi jiraachuuf qophaa'u miti,

ammas jiraachaa jiru. Beelaa fi dheebuun sagalee Waaqayyoo isaan qaban jireenya isaanii boriif qofa miti. Har'as fedhii qabu. Yaadi kun falaasama fakkaachuu mala. Haa ta'u malee, yeroon barumsa amantii cimsuu (confirmation) barsiisu qabatamaatti argaan jira. Ijoollonni akkuma ga'eessotaa yaaddoo jireenyaa qabu. Waa'een barnoota isaanii isaan yaaddessa. Haala maatii isaanii ni yaadu. Akkuma ga'eessotaa qarshii argachuu barbaadu. Hiriyyoota isaanii biratti fudhatama argachuu fi simatamuu fedhu. Maatii isaanii jaallatamuu fi kabajamuu fedhu. Yaadi isaanii akka dhaggeeffatamuu fi murtii keessatti ilaalcha keessa galfamu barbaadu. Kanaaf, tajaajila daa'immanii fi ijoollee Waldaa Kiristaanaa keenya keessatti ijoolloti maal fedhu kan jedhu dhaggeeffachaa deema jirra. Kun guutummaa Waldaa keenyaa keessatti sadarkaa yaadaa qofatti utuu hin taane, hojiiidhaanis xiyyeeffannoo argataa jira.

Yeroo ammaa kana kutaalee barumsa sanbataa sadii qabna. Isaanis, kanneen oolmaa daa'immanii seenanii fi seenuuf jiran (Pre-Kindergarten and kindergarten), Kutaa 1ffaa haga kutaa 3ffaa, akkasumas kutaa 4ffaa haga 6ffaa tti kan jiranidha. Isaan kun ammatti barsiisota ja'aa barsiifamaa jiru. Barsiisota dabalataa tajaajila kanaaf qophaa'aa jiranis qabna. Waaqayyoo ha ulfaatu.

Yeroo ammaa kana amantii cimsuu(confirmation) barsiisaa jirra. Barattoota 13 ta'antu barachaa jira. Yoo Waaqayyoo nu gargaare ji'a Adoolessaa (July) keessatti barnoota kana xumursiifnee eebba guddaadhaan kennaa qulqulluu fudhachuutti dhiyaatu. Ijoollonni kun gaafa guyyaa haadhotaa hirmaannaa guddaa godhanii turan. Kunis abboota wajjin ta'uun abaaboo hiru fi hamma dandaa'an keessumsiisuu yaaluu ture.

Ammas akka ijoollonni kun barnoota amantii cimsuu xumuraniin gartuu kan biraa galmeessuuf qophaa'aa jirra. Waaqayyoo jireenya ijoolloota geddarraa jira. Waldaa keenyas eebba hafuura isaan geggeessaa jira.



Ijoolloota Barumsa Amantii Cimsachuu baratan fi barsiisaa isaanii Asaffaa wajjin

Kana qofa utuu hin taane, ijoollonni keenya Waldaa keenya alattis sinoodosii keenya keessatti hirmaataa jiru. Fakkeenyaaf Ebila 23 ijoollota Waldaa garaa-garaa wajjin sagantaa geggeeffame irratti hirmaatanii waaqeffataniiru. Akkasumas hiyyeessotaaf kan hiramuu 'sandwich' 200 qopheessuu keessatti hirmaataniiru. Kana malees ijoollota akka isaaniif uffata qorraa (tie blanket) harka isaaniin tolchaniiru.

Sagantaa tajaajila ijoollee fi dargaggoota Waldaa keenya rakkoo COVID fi cabiinsa Waldaa Kiristaanaa keenyaa irraa gargaarsa Waaqayyoon dandamatee, akka haaraatti tarkaanfachuu jalqabaa jira. Galanni hundumtuu Waaqayyoof haa ta'u! Kanaaf, ijoolloti keenya bor Waldaa nu harkaa fuudhu innii jedhu gaariidha. Ha ta'u malee, har'as ijoollonni keenya Waldaadha. Tajaajilaa jiru. Tajaajilamaas jiru.

## 2- BARUMSA AMANTII CIMSACHUU

Asaffaa Malkaa

Obboleessi keenya Obbo Ashannaafii Dinqaa gaafa Sadaasa 28 (November 28), 2021 barumsa amantii cimsachuu baratee ebbiffamee waldaa keenya, Waldaa Warra Wangeelaa, Our Redeemer Oromo Evangelical Church in Minnesota'tti, (OROECM) miseensa ta'eera.



Ashannaafii Dinqaa

Achumaan, guyyaa kana Ashanaafi'n yeroo jalqabaaf amantoota wajjin Kennaa Qulqulluu tti dhi'aatee fudhateera. Barumsa kana hojjetaa Waldaa keenya Obbo Asaffaa Malkaa'tu waggaa tokko caalaaf barsiise. Eegasii Ashannaafi'in Waldaa keessaa utuu hin hafin dammaqinaan nuwajjin waaqeffachaa jira. Isaan dura Ashannafi'in wellisaa (wellisaa dhamao wallisaa dha?) beekamaa ture. Waaqayyo isa nu baay'isaa jiruuf galanni ha ta'u! wallis

- AM

## 3- AYYAANA GUYAA 50FFAA, (PENTECOST) KAN BARA 2022

Waldaa keenya Waxabajjii 5, 2022 yaaddannoo guyyaa 50ffaa (Pentecost) ayyaanefattee jirti. Guyyaa kana sagalee nuuf kenname Hojii Ergamootaa 2:1-21 kan jirudha. Kutaan kun bu'uu Hafuura Qulqulluu isa jalqabaa fi dhalachuu Waldaa Kiristaanaa (Birth of Church) kan agarsiisuudha. Anaafis carraa sagalee kana qooduu naaf kennamee ture. Ani mata-duree **Hafuura Qulqulluu fi Hojii isaa** jedhu itti tolcheen dubbadhe. Kutaa sana keessaa waan afur arguu dandeenya.

### A. Hafuurri Qulqulluun bakka tokkummaan jirutti bu'a.

Tokkummaan kun afaan tokko dubbachuu miti. Qomoo tokko ta'uus miti. Ilaalcha siyaasaanis wal-fakkaachuu miti. Tokkummaan kun kan amantiiti. Warra Yesuus Kiristoosiin fayyisaa lubbuu isaanii godhachuu irratti tokko ta'anidha. Akkasumas warra du'ee du'aa ka'uu fi dhiisuu cubbuu karaa Yesuus Kiristoos argachuu isaanii amananiidha. Kanaaf, tokkummaa fayyisuu fi jaalala Waaqayyoo irratti dhaabbate sana yoo qabaanne Hafuurri Qulqulluu gidduu keenya buufata. Nu gidduutis ka'ee hin adeemu.

### B. Hafuurri Qulqulluu kan gadi of deebiseedha.

Jechi gadi of deebisuu jedhu kun **'humble'** isa jedhu naaf ibsa jedheen abdadha. Jalqaba namoonni Hafuurri Qulqulluun irra bu'e sun bartoota Yesuus turan. Hedduun isaanii namoota Galiilaati. Afaan tokko dubbatus turan. Garuu battala Hafuurri Qulqulluun dhufee isaan guututti afaan garaa garaatiin ergaa Wangeelaa dubbatan. Afaanota 15 ol kan ta'antu dhagaa'aman. Kun dinqiidha. Hafuurri Waaqayyo gadi of deebisee gara saba hundaa dhaqe. Sabni keenya Oromoo'nis hojii Hafuura Waaqayyoo kanaan qaqqabame. Waxabajjii 19, 2022 guyyaa abbootaa fi guyyaa Onesimoos Waldaa keenya keessatti ayyaanessina. Guyyaa sanatti hojii Hafuurri Waaqayyoo karaa abboota keenyaa hojjete yaadanna. Yeroo baay'ee Hafuurri qulqulluun bifa bubbee yookin ibiddaan mul'ata jennee yaadna. Akkasumas qaama namaa hurgufee afaan hin beekamne nama dubbachiisa seena. Yeroo akkasitti yaadnu hojii Waaqayyo nu gidduutti hojjetu utuu hin argin hafuu dandeenya. Hafuurri Waaqayyo callisanii hojii abbootii fi haadhoti keenya hojjetaa turanii fi hojjetaa jiran keessaanis ni mul'ata. Kanaaf, namni hafuura Waaqayyoon geggeeffamu gadi of deebisa. Waldaan Hafuura Waaqayyoo qabdus of jajjuu fi afuufamtuu utuu hin taanee kan gad of deebifteedha.

### C. Hafuurri Qulqulluun dhugaa jaalalaan akka dubbannu nu taasisa.

Kana salphaatti jireenya Pheexiroos irraa argina. Pheexiroos duuka buutu Yesuus ta'ee utuu jiru sodaaf jedhee Yesuusiiin ganee ture. Yeroo Hafuura Qulqulluun guutame garuu ija jabinaan namoota kumaatamatti lakkaa'aman dura dhaabbatee Yesuusiiif dhugaa ba'e. Dhuga-ba'umsa isaa sanaanis namoota kuma sadiitu Yesuusitti amane. Hafuurri Qulqulluun gadi akka of deebifnu nu godha jechuun ija jabinaan dhugaa Wangeelaa dubbachuu nu dhowwa jechuu miti. Of tuulummaa fi tuffiin ija hojii Hafuura Qulqulluu miti. Dhugaa Wangeelaa garuu jaalalaan nu dubbachiisa. Har'as nama dhuunfaafis ta'e Waldaaf kanatu barbaachisa.

### D. Hafuurri Qulqulluun isa kaleessaa nu yaadachiisa.

Hafuurri Qulqulluun waa'ee borii nu barsiisa. Isa har'aas nutti agarsiisa. Sana qofa miti, isa kaleessaas keessa deebi'ee nu hubachiisa. Waldaan keenya erga dhaabbatee gara 30 tti deemaa jirti jedheen tilmama. Gaafa jalqabaatii kaasee waan Waaqayyo nu gidduutti hojjete yaadachuu qabna. Pheexiroos ka'ee dhaabbateetu waa'ee Hafuura Qulqulluu isa bu'ee sana ibse. Waggoota dhibba hedduu dura isa dubbatame sanatu raawwatame jedhe. Nus akkasuma sirriittii yoo caqafne, waan Waaqayyo nutti dubbatee ture raawwatamuu isaa ni argina ta'a. Kanaaf, Hafuura Waaqayyoo dhaggeeffachuun baay'ee barbaachisadha

#### 4- Barumsa Fayyaa

Asaffaa Malkaa

Waa'een fayyaa dhimma baay'ee barbaachisaadha. Waldaan keenyas dhimma kana irratti hojjetaa jirti. Kun dhaabbata **Sub-Saharan Youth and Family Services** jedhamu waliin hojjetamaa jira. Dhaabbatni kun Magaalaa Lakkuu, (Twin Cities) keessatti namoota hidda Afrikaa dhibee HIV/AIDS qaban mara karaa danda'en tumsa. Kana malees odeeffannoo fayyaa garaa-garaa irratti xiyyeeffatu hawaasaaf qooduun dadammaqiinsa uumaa jiru. Waldaa keenyas gargaarsa dhaabbata kanaan ji'a keessatti yeroo tokko odeeffannoo fayyaa qoodaa jirti. Waaqayyoof galanni haa ta'u!

## Other Events from Around Our Church:

### A. Election and Installation of the new Church Council:



1. Obbo Addisu Shunkuri - President
2. Obbo Yosef Aga - Vice President
3. Obbo Yadesa Birri - Secretary
4. Aade Wayitu Estifanos - Treasurer
5. Aade Mesert Yadeta - Member
6. Obbo Gamachis Yadesa - Member



They were installed by Luba Wondimu Sonessa on Sunday, 06 February 2022 in which the spouses of each member kneeled for the blessing ceremony.

Members of the Election Committee names of people listed below Organized and conducted the election.

- 1) Aade Tadelech Gaddafaa - Chair Lady, 2) Aade Tsahi Wadajo, 3) Aade Lalistu Bekele, 4) Obbo Aaga Horaa, 5) Obbo Asrat Tasfa

### B. OROECM Worship Team:

On behalf of our members Sagalee Editorial Team would like to say thank you and God bless you to our Worship Team for your dedication and commitment to serve your church.



OROECM Worship Team members

### C. Advent Season 2021: (Just for the record).

During the Advent Season, Waiting in anticipation of the Birth of the Messiah, 4 Sundays prior to Christmas, the traditional practice in our church, four families take turn during the 4 Sundays to light Candles, starting with the first candle on the first Sunday, read the Frist Reading of the day and pray.

1- For the year 2021 Advent Season, the first Sunday, 28 November, Dawit Baisa's family, (Abbaa Moti as Dawit called, Moti the youngest member of our church and Feruza, Haadha Moti (Moti's Mother) read the first reading of that Sunday's portion from the Book of Jeremiah, 33:14-16 lit the first candle and offered prayer.



2- On Sunday 05 December 2021, the 2nd Sunday in Advent the family of Aadde Tsehai Wodajo and Obbo. Lyle read the first reading from the book of Micaiah 3:1-4.



The interesting part was while Aadde Tsehai read the portion in English Obbo Lyle read it in Afaan Oromo and offered the prayer.

3- Sunday, 12 December 2021: The family of Dr Kano Banjaw and Aadde Roman Tefera read the first reading, lit the candle, and offered prayer. The reading of the day was from Isiah 12:2-6





- 4- Sunday, 12 December 2021: The family of Obbo Ephraim Olani and Aadde Elesabeth Namara read the first reading of the day from Micah 5:2-5, lit the candle and offered prayer.



#### D. Christmas 2021:

On Friday 24 December 2021 our church had Christmas Eve service in which the children and some members recited Christmas verses and lit candles.

#### E. New Year Conference:

On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> December 2021 our church started its 2021 Christmas and 2022 New Year Spiritual Conference with the heading of, “*hinsodaatin*” (do not be afraid). The Spiritual Conference was led by our own church’s regular preachers, Pastor Wondimu Sonessa, Obbo Ephraim Olani and Asaffaa Malka.

### *The Passing Away of Our Sister Birtukan Ayana and the Celebration of her Life*

By Admasu Simeso



Birtukan was born on August 16, 1967, to her parents; mother Aadde Mamite Liban and father Obbo Ayana Sima in Kollo, Anfilo, Wallagga, Oromia, Ethiopia. She was the fifth

from the 10 children born to the parents, 7 girls and 3 boys. After attending her elementary school in Muggi, Anfilo she went to Bethel Evangelical Secondary School, BESS in Dambi Dollo, and graduated from 12<sup>th</sup> grade. She was very active in sports, church, and community life throughout the 4 years she was at BESS.

After graduating from BESS, she decided to go back to Muggi, to be with their mother because their father Obbo Ayana passed away. Although the mother had other family members around her, Birtukan felt that she needed her special care and support, so she spent the next two years with their mother.

According to the sisters there was always special bond between their mother and Birtukan. For example, they say, even when all of them were at home the mother used to take Birtukan to a separate room in the house, to study the Bible and pray together. As the daughter of Aadde Angaatuu Bakke, one of the strong members of Dambi Dollo Bethel Church and one of the elders, their mother, Aadde Mamite was also a person of strong faith, and she must have already felt something special about Birtukan.

In 1987 she got scholarship from Augsburg College in Twin Cities and came to Minnesota. She graduated with a BA in Social Work. She started working in her field of studies providing support to and finding jobs for our Oromo and other refugees arriving in Minnesota from the Horn of Africa Region. Birtukan worked diligently in various refugee service organizations, among them: Lutheran Social Services, Asian American Pacific Islanders, People’s Center and the last one, until she fell sick on October 20, 2020, at Face-to-Face Medical Clinic.

Birtukan in 1987 as a young college student joined the few Oromos who Providence led them to start Friday Evening Home Bible Studies and prayer which later led to the first Oromo Evangelical Church in Minnesota, for that matter in North America; then grew and spread across the world. From that time Birtukan grew in and with our Oromo Evangelical Church; she committed her life to give Holistic Ministry to all God’s people, all Oromo, and other Ethiopian backgrounds churches throughout North America.

On Tuesday, October 20, 2020, she fell sick unconscious and was taken to emergency room. After checking on her they said it was a severe hemorrhage in the brain. She was taken

to Fairview Hospital in Southdale where she stayed from October 20, 2020 to March 05, 2021, when she came home for first time. During her time in hospital because of the covid19 her sister Wubitu was the only one allowed to be with her; every day from 8:00 AM to 6:30 PM. But after she was brought home, she was well taken care of, shown love and she started talking, conversing, and even joking.

Birtukan's special gift and commitment had been going out of her way to help people and in addition the most important thing in her life was the absolute commitment in serving in her church, Our Redeemer Oromo Evangelical Church in Minnesota, and also open and ready to provide needed service and support in all God's churches all over the United States where people worship God in Afaan Oromo, English or Amharic. We do not know if there is any diaspora evangelical church that does not know Birtukan Ayana. Indeed, God blessed her with strong exemplary life faith and commitment in His Mission Field. With her church colleagues, Birtukan has been among the backbone of the Holistic Ministry of OROECM as a leader of Women's Ministry and in all needed services of the church. She was also a member of OROECM Worship Team. She always was at the church on Sundays during regular church service, , never missing, sitting in the front, also the Wednesday Evening Program, nor from Friday Women's Get Together and Saturdays for worship practices. Her 'ilililili' and 'amen' always made the church service lively, helped people who occasionally might nod off to awaken.

Birtukan and her husband Mesfin were married in September 2007 and very active exemplary couple in their church. They both have special way of calling one another; she calls him Abbaa Manaa, (Husband) and he calls her Jaartiikoo (My Wife) or Burtukee. As mentioned above although Mesfin was in UK for few years he finally got his visa and came back to US to be with her during the last few months of her life until February 17, 2022, the day she moved on to her next life.

Birtukan always brought people together in her life and still continue to bring them together even after she moved on to her next life with the Lord. We witnessed it in the overwhelming pouring out of love expressed in grief, tears, and mourning the day her body was laid to rest at the Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis on Wednesday, 23 February 2022.

The comments from her friends from all over the country and around the world were overwhelming. We have never seen

such an overwhelming funeral service where so many people came together to celebrate a person's life. It was a surprise to realize how much impact she had in the communities, loving, and serving all God's people with compassion. We believe the God she always committed her life to, was with her guiding her until she passed on to be with Him. She did leave a legacy that lingers in the back of our minds as a challenge to build on her exemplary life we have witnessed how to live a dedicated life for good cause.

On the occasion in which quite a number of people talked about Birtukan Obbo Bizuwork Balla described Birtukan's life as "loving, caring, kind, honest, dedicated nice, nicer positive, person of a strong faith, "Angel" etc., "all of the above."



Birtukan with sisters Roman, Haadha Yeron and Wubitu, Haadha Gadaa who took care of her during her illness.

Birtukan lived an exemplary dedicated, holistic all-round true Christian life. It is befitting more than anyone to say, ***"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."*** 2 Timothy 4:7. Above all we thank our Almighty God for her life, and we all hope that we have learned something from her. *"Glory to Him in the Highest, peace on earth and goodwill among all people."*

**Luke 2:14**

Minneapolis, MN  
23 Feb 2022

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Memorial Note: From Mesfin

Slightly over three months ago my dear wife and love of my life Birtukan transitioned into eternity while I was holding her hand by the hospital bed. The nurse who was assigned to continually attend to her during this last journey came back to me with a small, corked bottle with a white paper inside. She said, 'I am giving you this as gift that you may appreciate sometimes later.' I did not get it until she opened the cork and pulled out a piece of paper with heartbeat drawing. She must have been telling me that this is the last heartbeat that I would ever see of my wonderful wife. I put the heartbeat graph called Electrocardiogram back into the small bottle and held it tight in my hands before putting into one of my safest pockets. I still have this valuable image of Birtukan's final heartbeats.

Birtukan left us with huge, crater whole in my personal life and for those she touched with her exuberance, kindness, patience, love, commitment, faith, empathy, pure heart, always with to-do attitude. The crater whole actually is not empty but filled with her acts of kindness and exemplary history and memory much larger than the perception of anyone of us. On the recent Memorial Day, my plan was just to go and put a flower on her grave and say a few words of prayer and speak with her with a raised voice, trusting she must be watching down over me from heaven. However, Our Church Women Group surprised us when they planned to come to the Cemetery by her grave. The occasion was somber at a time but changed into singing to celebrate her life and memory. I am deeply indebted to our Church Women who have never stopped accompanying us along during our grieving and now along this memory lane.



One of the memorable occasions Mesfin with Birtukan

"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit." Psalm 34:18. I am a witness to how true the above word of God is. Yes, we are broken but never crushed to the extent that we became hopeless. The witness that multitude of people spoke about Birtukan has made me to walk with my head in the cloud. This situation challenged me to evaluate who I am and what I want to be in the future. It is true that we are not in control of the future but are given a power from our creator to influence our future with what we are and do today. Birtukan did all that. Let me take this opportunity once again to thank all those who supported us during these tough and painful times. Appreciation to our church that Birtukan selflessly served for over thirty years, for extraordinary carrying the burden of organizing and leading the best send off to Birtukan's body. I am proud to call Our Redeemer Oromo Evangelical Church my church and never stop telling the story and the objective this church stands for.

The departure of Birtukan so early with her life so intertwined in church life may have raised why question(s). But none of us love her more than the Lord she always served. God, who has so much in store for us, if we are willing to receive, knows what is best for each one of us. God is on a mission. Birtukan has joined the multitude of angels and elders who are praising God in heaven. I do my utmost effort to avoid falling into the abyss of desperation and hopelessness with the help of the Spirit of strength and hope that Birtukan always spoused.

Rest in Peace my dear wife, friend, counselor, and true example for how I understand Christian faith!!!

F. Easter:

Holy Week, this year the celebration of the three **Abrahamic** religions: in Christianity, the celebration of the Holy Week, (Sunday April 10 to Saturday April 16 and Easter, April 17, 2022), Judaism the Passover, (April 15-23, 2022) and in Islam Ramadan, (Friday April 1, 2022, to Sunday May 1, 2022) have been coincided. We say Id Al Mubarak to all our Oromo Muslim brothers and sisters as well as all followers of the faith and Happy and a blessed Happy Easter to all Christians.

One specific, special day was Maundy Thursday, the day our Lord Jesus Christ washed His disciples' feet teaching them humility while He was the Son of God, God Himself. He also established the Holy Communion in remembrance of His sacrifice. The following was a short note for that special day.

First, we thank God for the opportunity to be able to commemorate the Holy Week and the very solemn Maundy Thursday we had observed and continue with Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

In the Christian Churches around the world we celebrate or commemorate "Maundy Thursday", the Thursday of the Holy Week every year, after the Lord's washing His disciples feet at the last Supper, traditionally known as "washing the feet of the poor". But some of us may also wonder what the word "Maundy" means. The word "Maund" comes from a French word "Mande" and Latin "mandatum" which means command or mandate. The command was, after washing the disciples' feet the Lord, in John 13:34 said to them, "a new command I give you, love one another as I loved you".

The washing of feet of especially guests is a Middle Eastern culture a respect and welcoming gesture for guests. In our Oromo culture, which is part of the Middle Eastern and North Eastern Africa (Cuhhitic Orgin) practice, we always washed guests' feet first before serving them meals or drink because they walk bare feet long distance, and the feet need to be washed. In our case usually the children or servants washed but, in this case, at the Last Supper the Lord washed His disciples' feet to set an example of a genuine service in humility, while He was the Son of God the Almighty. During this special time and in the future let us seriously reflect on this and pray for humility after the Lord's example and "love" and care for one another. May the Lord help us!

- AS

### G. Baptism and Graduation:



- 1- Faajji Diribaa Shunkuri
- 2- Kaayyoon Aster Yadesa
- 3- Marroo Birruu
- 4- Nimoona Woddeessoo
- 5- Tooraan Jeenoo



From L to R, OROECM Pastor, Pastor Wondimu, parents Oliyad and Lensa, Amerti, Ebisse and Chaltu.



Family



OROECM Pastor, Pastor Wondimu baptizing Amerti Oliyad.



On Wednesday, 13 July 2022 during the Wednesday Evening Weekly Church Program there was a special baptism, special because the parents brought the child to have him baptized at our church. Seefii Fedhasa Mikael is the Grandson of Luba (Pastor) Mikael Hundessa and Seefii's Grandmother Aadde Tsehai members of our church, OROECM. Seefii's father Fedhasa and the family are well-known friend, and we consider them members of OROECM.

OROECM Pastor Luba Wondimu Sonessa preached a short sermon on the origin of the sacrament of baptism and Seefii's Grand Father Luba Michael Hundessa baptized the child. Fedhasa's younger brother Yohanis Mikael led the worship singing with his beautiful voice. Members and friends of the family from other Oromo churches in the Twin cities, total attendees around fifty people joined the celebration.

Fedhessa's family and his Brother Waaqtolaa Mikael's family travelled more than 1400 miles, about 22 hrs. From Fort McMurray, Canada to the Twin Cities to have Seefii baptized in OROECM by Luba Mikael Hundessa.



From L to R the parents, Fedhasa and Kenna, the Grandfather, Luba Mikael the Godfather Asefa, and the Godmother Caalte and the OROECM Pastor, Pastor Wondimu



Seefii, Seefii's parents and family friends for the occasion

The occasion was concluded with the sharing of meals prepared by the family, and it was quite a pleasant and befitting blessed time for the family as well as for our church. We say to the family may God bless you for choosing our Church and the baptized child Seefii may God bless him for OROEC which has become Seefii's church upon his baptism. Pastor Wondimu in his sermon said, "Baptism is the beginning of the new life with Jesus, and it continues." Seefii Guddadhu!

#### H. Graduation:

Several young people from our church graduated from high school and university. We have the names of three of them, and Sagalee Abdii on behalf of our members would like to say congratulation to the students and their families. We apologize to those in case whom we probably have overlooked and their families and still say congratulations.



Gada Bakare High School



Bissi Abbaye, High School



Feru (Haadha Moti) Masters in Social Work, University of St.Thomas

#### I. Mother's Day Celebration at OROECM:

The 2022 Mother's Day was on Sunday, 8 May 2022. The mothers and future mothers of our church went to picnic together on Saturday, 07 May on the eve of the Mother's Day, spent the day together celebrating, praising God, and having good time together. On Sunday, the Mother's Day it was celebrated at our church with many participating. In our Oromo tradition just like with fatherhood mothers also are called by their first child as (Mother of So and So) e.g., *Haadha Gadaa* if her first son's name is Gadaa, not with her given name.

AS

10 May 2022



Aadde Genet Yadeta.(r)OROECM Mother of the Year and Aadde Tadelech Woman of the Year



Aadde Tadelech and Aadde Genet Yadeta



Members of OROECM Mothers at their Picnic, 07 May 2022

**J. Father’s Day:**

Father’s Day 2022 was on Sunday, 19 June 2022 and celebrated at our church OROECM as it has been done every year for many years.

Also, this year the Organizing Committee decided to name two Fathers of the Year and two men of the year. The other two who were named as Father of the Year and Man of the Year were Obbo Admasu Simeso and Obbo Chali Yadesa



Obbo Ephraim Olani was honored as “father of the year” and Obbo Yifru Ayana “man of the year.”



Sunday, 19 June 2022 was Father’s Day and our church celebrated as we always do and June 21, 2022 was Onesimos Nesib’s Day, certainly one of the first Oromo Church Fathers, a man chosen by God from his childhood, when his name was Hiikaa<sup>1</sup>, led him all his life to grow in body and Spirit to translate God’s Word into Afaan Oromo and brought to his

<sup>1</sup>Translator, solution finder, one who releases someone from prison, or an animal tied down or someone in chain.

people. Our church observed Onesimos Nesib's Day befittingly with this year's Father's Day.

The word, the expression "Abbaa" has a special meaning and significance in our Oromo society and culture. It is also an Aramaic/Oromo word that our Lord used in Mark 14:36 in the Garden of Gethsemane, when He was in distress owing to the human aspect of His being, He prayed to God His Father saying 'Abbaa,' "let this cup pass away from me if it is your will, otherwise let your will be done."

We, thank our Lord Jesus Christ that He used a dearly Oromo expression when He prayed to His Father. "Abbaa" is one of the most used and cherished name in our Oromo culture. It is so significant that once a man gets married and has a child he is referred to and called as "Abbaa So and So" not with his original name used since his birth anymore.

The other peculiar thing as horses are so important in Oromo society starting even from young age a person is called or referred to as for e.g., "Abbaa Booraa" Booraa being the name of a horse, Owner of Booraa. Some names are already known with horse's names: All people with name Lamuu are known as Abbaa Gissaa, Fidaa- Abbaa Sibar, Tuchoo- Abbaa Seerdoo, Oonchoo- Abbaa Duulaa, Areerii- Abbaa Daamaa, Buraayyu-Abbaa Gosaa, etc.



*Abbaa Gammachis Nama Biyya Oromo, Where "Biyya Oromo" (Biyya Aannan fi Damma Yaasu – Land of Milk and Honey)*



*Onesimos Nesib- "Abbaa" Gammachiis' "Nama Biyya Oromo" with his family*

One thing we need to mention here also is that this year a new Federal Holiday, Juneteenth was also celebrated on June 19th with Father's Day.

Juneteenth (Black EmancipationDay) remembered as the day that a Union military leader declared on June 19, 1865 to "slaves" in the city of Galveston, TX that they were finally free. The Emancipation Declaration by President Abraham Lincoln was actually in 1863, two years earlier. President Biden declared on June 18, 2021, 19th June as Federal Holiday.



*President Biden declared on June 18, 2021, 19th June as Federal Holiday.*

<sup>2</sup>Biyya Oromo, Abbaa Gammachiis known as the first person who used the name for his land of birth, his country as "Biyya Oromo." May our God who gave him the insight bless him and his land, certainly by and "Land of milk and honey"!





A 95-year-old Ms. Opal Lee a human rights activist struggled for many years for Juneteenth to become Federal Holiday and she succeeded.



Children turned into skeleton, (Copy right to original source)

## 2. Situation from back home.

### Appeal for Peace

By Admasu Simeso

Again, and again appeal for peace in Oromia (Biyya Oromo<sup>3</sup>) and the whole country Ethiopia for the innocent; mothers, children and all people of God who are suffering<sup>4</sup>, and **children turned into skeleton** and ghost with no idea as why they are subjected to such horrible heart-breaking **atrocities in their own land of birth!** Oh Lord have mercy on your innocent ones, **"Peace on earth!"**

<sup>3</sup> It was Abbaa Gamachiis, as he is dearly referred to by his people who officially put in writing in the Oromo Bible, the Bible he translated into Afaan Oromo in 1898 in which he noted, "by Onesimos Nesib, 'Nama Biyya Oromo'", indeed very farsighted.

<sup>4</sup> ..... "I weep day and night for the suffering of my people..." Jeremiah 9:1.

A note from Sunday, 04 Sept 2016 at OROECM: "Saba keenyaaf dungoo qabsiifnee yaadannoo dhaan kadhata gooneerra", also on Sunday, 25 Sept 2016. "Gooftaan utuu bidiruu keessa jiruu haalli qilleensaa nu hin'naasisu, Gooftaa Yesus gab'godhee nu ceesisa. Gooftaan Biyya Oromo (Oromia) keessa utuu jiruu hin'raafamnu." Mark 4:39.

Peace and good health (*nagaa fi fayyaa*) are the most cherished values, more than wealth or anything else in our Oromo culture and that of, we believe most people of Ethiopia, for that matter all fair-minded people of the world.

All the faiths of the Ethiopian people, Christians, Muslims, Waaqeffataa and all other traditional religions revere peace. *We know from world history that when people, nations ignore the call for peace, eventually it leads to their own downfall. They may feel victorious and comfortable when they taste victory but in history kingdoms, nations rose and but also gone.*

*When we talk about peace the fundamental prerequisite for it is "good will", sincere "good will", to genuinely think positive about and care for our neighbors and all God's creations including the air we breathe, land animals, birds of the air, and the fish of the rivers and sea and other creatures that live in them. Now, what we see before our own eyes, people, **our people suffering due to our selfish ways of perceiving what life and living means.** Where there is no good will to care for all God's creation certainly there will be no peace, always suffering and misery instead.*

Over the last several years, we hear disturbing news from that country: wars, displacement, extra-judicial killings, famine, enter-ethnic tension etc. But lately we also hear that on the basis of unsubstantiated reports including as who the culprits are of the killings and displacement reports on the so-called social media, interest group-based TVs, radios, and news papers propaganda and actual war going on against Wallagga area and its people as if the place that fighting/war is going on being only Wallagga. All the wars and mems that have been going on for more than several years, for many decades all over the country as if they had never happened. It is a mystery to us why Wallagga has become focus of all these.

We as people and as church/faith organization unequivocally condemn the killings of innocent people regardless of **"their ethnic background, political view and affiliation, gender, or**

**their creed**". But when people totally ignore what is and has been going on in other parts of the country and talk as if the origin of the problem in the country being Wallagga, we find it inconceivable, misconstrued and far from the truth; besides, they are also engaged in misleading the whole world with it. It is sad to see that people in Ethiopia, all over the country and abroad listen to and follow this agitation and lies on TV, radios, newspapers, and social media, from those who spread them from their comfortable and safe locations abroad as well as in the country, which lead to the more polarization of the country. By the way we also read and hear counter to these so-called reports challenging their credibility<sup>5</sup>. That is why careful, unbiased, and transparent investigation by an independent/neutral body is very important and called for.

Actually, we are not surprised because lately it appears as if the world has entered into the "age of lies" and we live in it.

***Our Redeemer Oromo Evangelical Church in Minnesota, OROECM always praying to God for peace and tolerance in our country of birth and also begging the political and faith leaders to come to our God given senses to work towards living in peace together and concentrate on addressing the misery of our people, the innocent people.*** We have written to successive Ethiopian governments including that of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and made statements with copies to international communities, churches, UN Agencies, and various governments<sup>6</sup> for help towards peaceful solution of the problems of the country, which actually created by people who are naturally bent to do that.

Here again we would like to underline that we condemn all killings against any innocent person even by those in positions of authorities in various regions, and we say people's human and individual rights should be protected and the rule of law respected. At the same time, we would also question the blame leveled against only Wallagga which is far from the value and practice of its people throughout its history that we lived in it and know. *What is laid down against the region, simply is wrong and misleading and we do not shy away from calling the clear evil for what it is.*

*Lately the worst and serious development, also even from those people called people of faith, who hold the Cross of Christ, the symbol of peace as symbol of their personal authority, warmongering by opening another front fomenting war on trivial matters adding fuel on the already raging fire*

*instead of working towards peace and justice. As we watch, it seems that the country looks to be in the grip of madness.*

*In his letter to the Galatians 5:15, the Apostle Paul says, "But if you bite and devour one another (in partisan strife) be careful that you do not destroy one another"; for good. In our case, destroy the country.*

A natural call on all people with common sense caring about the future of that country, all people of good-will, ***from all faith groups, elders of the country, the government in power and various political organizations should and must step back and ask ourselves, "what is going on people, we are devouring and destroying one another?*** We are destroying our country and the entire generation, our precious environment, domestic and wild animals, and all other God's Creation. This cannot go on, it must stop! For this to happen all religious leaders, (faith leaders) must participate without taking any side but standing for truth and justice with resolve.

We humbly would like to call on all people of good-will in that country and invite including the government instead of reverting to deploying ethnic militias and members of national defense force for war against people of Wallagga and for further destruction of human lives and resources, actually if we are willing, we can use some of the way of life from Wallagga and the welcoming spirit of its people to regardless of background, it can serve as a ***blueprint for true democracy for the Ethiopian people to live together in peace.*** We strongly underline that the country can learn from Wallagga how to work and live together as people, and as a nation. Let us open our eyes to see with open mind instead of being driven by mere conceit and belligerent attitudes.

We have a tangible functioning democratic institution its origin being from Wallagga, the ***Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, EECMY*** which brought together quite a number of Ethiopian nations and nationalities: Oromo, Tigray, Amhara, Anuak, Nuer, Sidaamaa, Walaayitaa, Kambaataa, Haadiyaa and many others to have built together a diligent and dedicated church democratic institution, electing their leaders at various levels from headquarters to the synod levels every four years, thus functioning for almost ***three-quarters of a century*** in that politically and socially autocracy dominated country.

We would like to call upon the Ethiopian government and various political organizations and movements to reach out to the EECMY Church and learn from its experience, how its democratically organized system functioned well in Ethiopia even during the Marxist Regime, of course with the sacrifices of some of its leaders like Rev. Gudina Tumsa. They lived their lives for justice, peace and human rights for all, serving the whole person, set up a democratic EECMY Religious

<sup>5</sup> Mr. Marlin Pleut, OSG (Oromia Support Group) 05-July-2022

<sup>6</sup> Letter to the Prime Minister dated 13 February 2021 and a statement again addressed to the Prime Minister with copies to international communities on 07 June 2021.

Institution, practically proved through their selfless work and life.



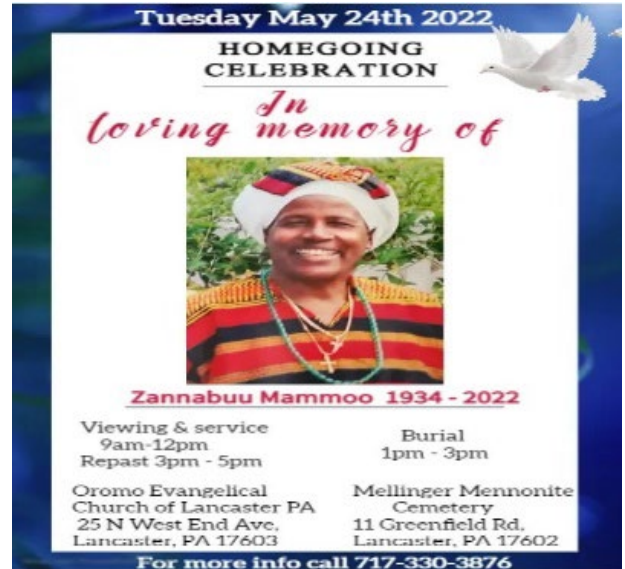
Dietrich Bonhoeffer of Africa<sup>7</sup>

Check, the constitution of EECMY, how it was drafted, discussed, and put to work. We think it will contribute a great deal as a starting point to build Democratic Ethiopia, if there is good-will, of course with the understanding of the difference of the *Spiritual and Temporal* realm but still we can learn and use some useful experience from both, hoping and making it work for our country and people.

Thus, we humbly call upon and appeal to all people of good-will starting from the government of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, various political movements, leaders of various religious groups and elders of the country for all-inclusive serious discussion with no malice or hidden agenda but with only aim of the good of the country at heart, at the center of the discussions to resolve the predicament our people are into an amicable result. For this to lead to a promising result first we all have to understand that God the Almighty is always watching us from His throne in Heaven, so we should keep that in mind and thus conduct our dialogue guided by His Spirit.

**"Peace on earth", peace in Oromia, peace in Ethiopia for the innocent; mothers, children and all people of God who are suffering. Nagaa!**

- AS  
Sunday, 05 June 2022



Harmee Zenebu Mamo Corqaa of the Bethel Dambi Dollo congregations of EECMY, one of our Homeland Mother Churches

Also, in the last two months we lost two outstanding Oromo Nationalists in the person, Dr Tadesse Eebbaa and Obbo Galaasaa Dilbo.



The sending off of Dr. T Eebba at Fairfax Cemetery in West Virginia where hundreds of people gathered. Many friends who closely knew Dr Tadesse and served with him narrated the history of his life, but the most moving ones was one by his daughter Urjii and also her friend Lali Galan daughter of Obbo Mekonen Galan another proud Oromo nationalist.

Dr. Tadesse Eebba and Obbo Galaasaa spent their entire life for our people's human and political rights, and we dearly miss them and pay tribute to them with respect and hold them high in our future history

<sup>7</sup> Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German Lutheran Theologian got his doctorate in theology at the age of 21, opposed Hitler's Nazi government ideology and practice, therefore imprisoned, finally executed on 09 April 1945 at the age of 39 for his belief and stand against injustice. Thus, it was why African Lutheran Churches called Rev. Gudina Dietrich Bonhoeffer of Africa.



Obbo Galaasaa at the Ecumenical Center in Geneva, Switzerland being interviewed by one of the Swiss media reporter in January 1992.

*In his sermon on Sunday, 19 June 2022, Father's Day our Evangelist Asafa Malkaa Wakjira, while underlining about Abbaa Gammachiis also emphasized that our fathers are not only our religious fathers but also all those who lived their lives for justice and human rights for their people and all people of God. Let them rest in peace now!*

### Short bio of Aade Worqitu Jigssa



Woketu Jigssa was born in Wollega (Nejo) Ethiopia to her father Jigssa Sarda Kumssa and her mother Adde Deshi Ummata. She was a mother to five children, grandmother to twelve and great grandmother to five.

Growing up she did not have the opportunity to go to school, but she gained wisdom through life experiences and hard work. She was married at a young age to AbdissaWinssa and had five children; Tesfaye, Emmanuel, Demitu, Dinqnesh, and Tigist. After the death of her husband, she moved her family (along with her mother-in-law, Adde BaqssaWayou) to Nekemte.

Her home was open to many - hosting college students who didn't have family in the area and those traveling from the countryside for hours/days. She opened her home and heart to strangers and made them feel like family; she didn't have much, but she shared what she had with those who were less fortunate. She treated people (young and old) with dignity and valued them as God's image bearers, becoming a mother to many. Worketu came to America in August of 1990 and settled in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Her small apartment was a social gathering, used as a prayer house and safe haven for many who left their families back in Ethiopia. She was a devout lover and follower of Jesus and is known as a charter member of the first Oromo church in Minnesota. The level of trust and respect in the church community led to her being recognized as "Mother of the Year" at Our Redeemer Oromo Evangelical Church in Minnesota in 2013, an honor she held dear in her heart. Adde Worketu was a woman of faith who lived a life of sacrifice. She was compassionate, silly, kindhearted, wise, caring and giving, and her gentle and fun spirit made people feel loved and special. She lived a full life and helped raise each of her grandchildren:

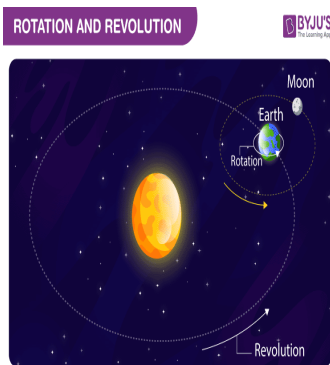
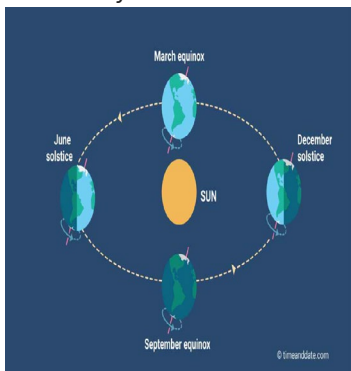


Adde Workitu Gigessa, Mother of the Year" at Our Redeemer Oromo Evangelical Church in Minnesota in 2013.

Finally, she departed to her final home on July 10, 2022 in Minneapolis and the funeral service was held at Lakewood cemetery in South Minneapolis on July 15, 2022.

## God's Wonders of Creation

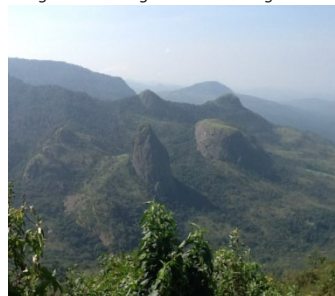
*"The heavens declare the Glory of God; the skies proclaim the works of His hands". Psalms 19:1*



Here we are continuously moving in the universe according to God's original Grand Design



Gaara Balloo



Ghidaami

Gadi Ilaalee

A place where you stand still on the ground and look down upon mountains

Tuesday 21 June 2022, was this year's Summer Soloist, the longest daylight in the Northern Hemisphere and shortest in the Southern Hemisphere. With the sun's rays directly overhead on the Tropic of Cancer the first day of the summer in the Northern Hemisphere and winter in the Southern starting on 22 of June the daylights get shorter by roughly 2 minutes and 7 seconds every day. With the tilt of the earth and sun, in its movement in the northern or southern part of it tilting towards or away from the sun cause seasons.

That was God's architectural plan/His blueprint, how He designed seasons and day and nights which has been going on since the beginning of His Creations. It was John Calvin, the Founder of the Presbyterian Church who referred to God as the Great Designer.

In Genesis 1:1 it says, "In the beginning God created heaven and earth." The heavens include the entire universe, the cosmos which also our earth is part of it. But we humans feel and believe that the earth, this tiny spot in God's universe with no end or beginning in time and space our *earth is the only spot with life and those things essential to support it, (air, water, earth, and fire) that we know so far*, which makes her unique.

*Thus, today we take the opportunity to repeat Psalms 19:1, "The heavens, the universe, the cosmos declares the glory of His work". Glory to Him in the Highest, Peace on earth and good will among people and His entire Creation!*

### OROECM Annual Church Picnic:

On Sunday, 03 July 2022 our church had its annual picnic at Minnehaha Park. We had a one hr. church service starting at 10:00 AM instead of the usual service time of 10:30 AM. Our Men's Group leaders led by Obbo Daniel Namara, Obbo Ephraim Olani, Obbo Asrat Tesfa, and our Church President Obbo Addisu Shunkuri and few others who organized the picnic were already there by 9:00 AM preparing the planned activities and meals. We enjoyed various games and walking around in the park and enjoying the beauty of nature created by our God as described above. We also thank God for those who took their time and prepared it.



Minnehaha Park Shade and the beauty of God's Creation



Sagalee Abdii wishing Happy Birthday to Moti Dawit

- AS, 25 June 2022

Obbo Daniel Namara, Men's Group leader and OROECM President Obbo Addisu Shunkuri exchanging ideas. Daannoo always lead our discussion educating members on Oromo cultural games and words.

Photo by Chali Yadesa.





Sagalee Abdii on behalf of OROECM would like to acknowledge the very essential technical support provided freely by the Yadesa brothers and Dawit. Thank you and God bless you!

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Chali Yadesa for the design of the new Sagalee Abdii logo and Gamachiis for the formatting and layout of the publication and all the technical input and Dawit for web posting design and all the Sagalee Abdii Edditorial Team Obbo Yoseph Aagaa, Obbo Daniel Namara, Obbo Ephraim Olani and Obbo Admasu Simeso. Without their help it would have cost our church a substantial amount. Waaqayyo isaan ha'eebbisu!

Sagalee Abdii

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