

## **FAMILY MINISTRY** (Christian Family Life Education Program, FLEP)

# **Annual Report 2008**

**Summary Background and development** - Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) is preparing for her 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in January 2009. The EECMY has always been a strongly outreach-oriented Church. The church members have not always got the needed support in their Christian life. In the rapidly growing Church many people have family related questions, even acute problems. There is a great need for church workers who are equipped to serve in Family Ministry to support those members.

**Since 2000** the EECMY has had a specific program for Family Ministry, which is based on the Bible. The Ministry is part of EECMY Department of Mission and Theology (DMT). Presently **the Family Ministry Staff** are Rev. Geneti Wayessa (the Co-ordinator), Mrs. Aberash Tolessa with an advising missionary couple. The advisors, Sr. Anna-Kaarina Palmu and Rev. Matti Palmu, are sent by the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (FELM), which has been financing the program from the very beginning. The other Missionary couple, Sr. Helena Räisänen and Mr. Tapio Räisänen, sent by the Finnish Lutheran Mission (FLM), are based at Aira for the Pre-marital teaching in the Synods of western part of Ethiopia.

The **five main sectors of Family Ministry**: 1) Pre-marital teaching; 2) Marriage teaching for couples; 3) Teaching various target groups on marriage and family life; 4) Marriage and family counselling and 5) Training for Family Ministry (including Training of Trainers, TOT, Training of Trainers of Trainers, TOT-T, Training of Trainers Refresher Course and training for Family and Marriage Counsellors).

During first years the program arranged a **Basic Marriage Course** for couples in all EECMY Synods. Since 2000 there has been also Family Ministry teaching in all the **Theological Seminaries** (4) of the Church, and **teaching for various other target groups**. - Since 2005 the program has expanded to the field of younger generations, for the time being mainly in the west of the Church.

By now **374 people** have got the **Training of Trainers (TOT) for Family Ministry**. Through them the **Family Ministry activities have expanded to all Church Units**. About half of the trained instructors have reported about their Family Ministry activities. **During 2008** there were **two** (the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>) **Training of Trainers (TOT) courses** (altogether for 45 persons). For those who had got the TOT course before 2008 there were three **Training of Trainers Refresher courses** with 90 participants.

**2008 was a year of new openings**: a) In May and December there were the first **two Training courses for Marriage & Family Counsellors** in Addis Abeba; b) also in May there was the **first Training of Trainers course for Pre-marital teaching** in Aira; c) In June and November there were the **first two Training of Trainers of Trainers (TOT-T) courses** in Debre Zeit; those (by now 34) trained will take the responsibility of family ministry training at the synods' level.

"**A Handbook for Family Ministry**" was published in English in 2006 and in Amharic 2008. The Oromiffa translation of the Handbook is being processed. - **A participant's Book for Family Ministry** was published in English in 2008 and will be printed in Amharic in early 2009. **Teaching materials for training of the Marriage & Family Counsellors** are also being produced, first as duplications. - The Family Ministry staff is also **servicing in various other occasions** like teaching in local congregations.

In the long run the vision is to have **Christian family life education as an essential part of ordinary teaching in all levels of EECMY Church**. The plan is also to strengthen the **Structure for Marriage and Family Counselling activities**. **To achieve the goal of the Family Ministry there is a great need to secure sufficient resources and support towards the development of this ministry.**

**1. Introduction** The EECMY Family Ministry seeks to be an advocate for those ministries of the Church Units that strengthen the Christian family life and marriage according to God's design and biblical teaching. Family Ministry serves all Church Units' congregations, pastors, leaders, workers, couples and individuals by providing training, relevant teaching materials, offering practical courses they need to strengthen a healthy Family Life and healthy Marriage.

By mercy of God the EECMY-DMT-FLEP has accomplished most of the planned activities for the year 2008. These include teaching at different EECMY theological institutes, Training of Trainers (TOT), TOT Refresher courses for instructors of Family Ministry, distribution of various marriage and family related books, follow up of the process of Family Ministry Handbook translation into Amharic and Oromo languages, printing the Handbook in Amharic, printing the Participant's Book for Family Ministry in English, and other work related activities toward the development of healthy Family and Marriage. Thus the Family Ministry has achieved encouraging progress by implementing the planned activities in all Church Units, even with limited budget during 2008, as stated below.

## **2. Family Ministry teaching at Theological Institutions of EECMY**

Marriage and family teaching has been included in the Curriculum of the Theological Seminaries and Bible Schools of the Church. **A special course on Basics of Family Ministry** was given at the Seminaries in Addis Abeba (MYTS), Hossana (HTS) and Aira (ONS).

**2.1. May 28-30, 2008** at the Hossana Theological Seminary; 33 Theology diploma students of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year, altogether 21 periods in three days. The students come from 9 different Synods and one Work Area. The facilitators were Sr. Anna-Kaarina and Rev. Matti Palmu. Language: mainly Amharic.

**2.2. November 19, 26 and December 3** at the Mekane Yesus Theological Seminary (Addis Ababa), the elective course "Pastoral Care in Marriage and Family" for Degree III & IV students, altogether 12 periods (out of 32 periods of the whole course), 3x4 periods in three days. The students come from 11 different Synods and one Work Area. The participants were 23 degree students of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year. The facilitators were Sr. Anna-Kaarina and Rev. Matti; present was also Ato Teferi Hundessa, who is responsible for the whole course.

**2.3. Spring 2008** at the Onesimos Nesib Seminary (Aira); 18 Theology diploma students of 3<sup>rd</sup> year, altogether 40 periods of psychology; 19 students of Pastoral Course for Pre-marriage and marriage counselling, altogether 40 periods. The facilitators were Sr. Helena and Mr. Tapio Räsänen. Language: mainly English.

**2.4. Autumn 2008** at the Onesimos Nesib Seminary (Aira); 32 Theology diploma students of 3<sup>rd</sup> year, altogether 20 periods of psychology; and 32 students of Pastoral Course for Pre-marriage and marriage counselling, altogether 40 periods.

## **3. Training of Trainers (TOT) for Family Ministry**

Currently **374 people** have got the **Training of Trainers (TOT) for Family Ministry**. Through them the **Family Ministry activities have expanded to all Church Units**. About half of the trained instructors have reported about their Family Ministry activities. **During 2008** there were **two Training of Trainers (TOT) courses** (altogether for 45 persons).

**3.1. The 14<sup>th</sup> Training of Trainers course** (75 Course hours) was held July 21 - August 1, 2008 in Debre Zeit. There were 23 participants, including some DMT directors and teachers of EECMY theological seminaries. The facilitators were W/ro Aberash Tolossa and Kes Geneti Wayessa.

**3.2. The 15<sup>th</sup> Training of Trainers course** (75 Course hours) was held August 18-29, 2008 in Addis Abeba in cooperation with the women ministry and at their expenses. There were 22 participants from EECMY Women's Ministry. The facilitators were W/ro Aberash Tolossa and Kes Geneti Wayessa.

In all the TOT workshops we use "**participatory teaching method**", that means learning by doing. The participants learn through practice by teaching turn by turn various teaching sessions of the Handbook. After each teaching and practicing session the facilitators also lead feed back discussions. The participants also prepare an action plan for their Family Ministry service. The participants are asked to report to their respected Synods what they have gained from the training. - Both TOT courses were opened by synod leaders and closed by taking part in the Holy Communion.

The following 8 books were distributed to the TOT participants: Questions young people ask (in Amharic), Biblical Marriage (in Amharic), Family and child raising (in Amharic), Understanding your wife (the 5 booklets in Amharic: Her ovarian cycle and fertile days, Her Experience during pregnancy, Her preparations for child birth, Her response in the act of Love and Her Joy in Breast feeding).

The duplicated version of the Amharic translation of the "Strengthening the Family", A Trainer's Handbook for Family Ministry, was given as the main teaching material of the course.

#### **4. TOT Refreshes Courses**

Since there is a need for follow up of the ministry, the trained ones are getting ongoing Refresher Courses. In the future, after the Synods have started running the TOT Courses for Family Ministry, also the Refresher Courses shall be run by the Synods.

For those who had got the TOT course before 2008 there were **three Training of Trainers Refresher courses** with 90 participants. The facilitators were W/ro Aberash Tolossa and Kes Geneti Wayessa, in Mettu together with Sr. Anna-Kaarina and Kes Matti Palmu. In all places there were 3 Course Days, 25 periods for each course.

- 1) January 15-18, 2008, Mettu (IBS) - 24 Participants** (11 couples, 2 singles) from IBS, EGBS, WBGS.
- 2) March 18-22, 2008, Awassa (SCES) - 28 Participants** (12 couples and 4 single) from SCES, AS.
- 3) April 7-12, 2008, Mizan Teferi (SWBS) - 38 Participants** (19 couples ) from SWBS.

The following 6 books were distributed to the TOT Refresher course participants to be used as resource materials for their future service: I Loved a Girl (in Amharic), I Loved a Young Man (in Amharic), Cut Flowers (in English or Amharic), True Love Waits Patiently (a pamphlet in Amharic), How to Raise Our Children (in Amharic), The Biblical Marriage (in Amharic).

#### **5. Pre-marital teaching**

There is a tremendous need for teaching the young generations on issues related to Dating, Marriage and Sex. This is not only needed because of the HIV/Aids pandemic, but also in order to help the young people to build a solid, healthy foundation for their future family life.

**The main aim of the Pre-marital teaching** is to give Biblical education concerning our sexual behaviour. This simply means **abstinence before marriage and faithfulness in the marriage**.

We hope that Pre-marital teaching would not only be the work of the four or five Synods in the West, but that it could be expanded to all EECMY Synods. This will be more fruitful when done in cooperation with the Youth Ministry and the Women's Ministry of the EECMY.

**5.1.** In January the **second round of the True Love Waits Patiently (TLWP) workshops was completed.** In December the fifth synod, WWBS, was added to the pre-marital teaching working area and the basic course was given there. Also the Gidada Bible School students in Dembi Dollo participated in this workshop. Then **the parish level work was started.** 1-3 parishes called the congregation representatives together and had 1-3 days teachings. In BDS there were 9 teaching days on the parish level, in WS 6 teaching days and GJS one teaching day on the parish level.

During the WWBS basic workshop also some schools were visited. In Dembi Dollo Birhane Yesus elementary school, 5-8 grades, and Bethel Evangelical Secondary school (BESS) 9-12 grades. Both of these schools are EECMY schools. In Kake participants visited the governmental High School (9-10 grades) and Preparatory classes. About 2000 students were taught in one day. The permission from the local education office was asked.

**5.2. Training of Trainers (TOT) - May 15-23, 2008, TOT course for Pre-marital Training** was held at Aira (BDS). There were 27 Participants from five Synods (WWBS, GJS, WS, BGS, and BDS). The participants got training on "True Love Waits Patiently" theme, teaching on Dating, Marriage and Sex, focusing especially to young people. The facilitators were Sr. Helena and Mr. Tapio Räsänen, partly also Kes Geneti Wayessa.

This workshop had for the first time practical training. Participants were teaching in 11 congregations the youth about True Love Waits Patiently (TLWP). They also visited the Walgo elementary school (government school, 5-8 grades), Biiftu high school (gov. school, 9-10 grades), Lalo Aira Secondary School (LASS, EECMY school, 9-12 grades). Walgo and LASS have been visited before, Biiftu was a new experience. Everywhere the participants were warmly welcomed and asked to come back soon.

## **6. Training of Trainers' of Trainers' (TOT-T) for Family Ministry**

Since 2002 the EECMY Family Life Education Program (FLEP) has been arranging Training of Trainers (TOT) Courses for Family Ministry. By now 374 people have got this training, at least some in each Synod or Work Area. Through them the Family Ministry activities have expanded to all Church Units. But obviously this is not enough!

There are about 6000 congregations and about 3000 preaching places in EECMY. The mid-term plan is to train one trainer for Family Ministry for each parish (or group of 10 congregations). Since the Church is still growing, the number of the working places is increasing. This means, there is a need for 900-1000 trainers, out of which we now have less than 400. **The long-term plan**, of course, is to have at least **one educated trainer for each and every congregation** - a huge task for training!

By now only the EECMY Family Ministry office staff has been running the TOT courses. In order to be able to train much more Family Ministry instructors, the plan is to hand over the responsibility of arranging the TOT courses to the synods. Thus we need **at least three trainers, who are trained to run TOT courses, for each synod. By end of 2008 there are TOT-T trained 34 educators** (from 18 out of 20 synods), who hopefully soon will start arranging TOT courses in their respective synods.

**6.1. The 1<sup>st</sup> Training of Trainers' of Trainers' (TOT-T) course** (75 Course hours) was held **June 2-13, 2008** at Debre Zeit. There were 17 Participants (4 women and 13 men) from 14 Synods (AS, BGS, BDS, CES, CGS, IBS, SCS, SES, SS, SWBS, SWS, WBS, WS, WWBS) and Central Office.

**6.2. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Training of Trainers' of Trainers' (TOT-T) course** (75 Course hours) was held **November 3-14, 2008** at Debre Zeit. There were 17 Participants (2 women and 15 men) from 14 Synods (AS, BGS, CES, CGS, EGBS, GJS, NCES, SCES, SCS, SES, SS, SWBS, SWS, WWBS).

For both TOT-T courses, the facilitators were Sr. Anna-Kaarina Palmu and Kes Matti Palmu, for two days also Sr. Helena Räsänen and Mr. Tapio Räsänen, the latter ones teaching about Pre-marital issues. There was also a half day teaching practice for the participants in order to learn how to teach the youth.

The following 6 books were distributed to the TOT-T participants: 1) Anna-Kaarina and Matti Palmu, *Strengthening the Family - A Trainer's Handbook for Family Ministry*; 2) The previous in Amharic; 3) Joe Leonard, *Family Ministry - A practical guide for a teaching church*; 4) Theological Advisory Group, *A Biblical Approach to Marriage and Family in Africa*; 5) Kebede Bekere, *The Obstacles of Marriage and solutions (in Amharic)*; 6) Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, *Marriage and Family Guidance/Counseling Manual*. - The participants of the 2<sup>nd</sup> TOT-T were the first ones to receive the newly printed Amharic version of the Handbook for Family Ministry.

## 7. Marriage and Family Counselling

Strengthening the **Structure for Marriage and Family Counselling activities** and providing **training for Marriage and Family Counselling** is a great task for EECMY Family Ministry. The counselling activities are there in most EECMY congregations, but there is very little (if any) training for the paid or voluntary servants on this field. The Family Ministry Staff started the training of these counsellors in 2008 in one congregation (AAECMY) in Addis Abeba and the participants got some material (47 pages duplicated) for their future service. Hopefully the Marriage and Family Counselling training could be expanded to cover all the EECMY Synods in future.

**7.1.** The 1<sup>st</sup> round of the **Marriage and Family Counsellors' Training** took place in Addis Abeba in **May 1,2 and 5, 2008**. There were 17 participants from 5 congregations of CES and one person from the CES-Synod. The facilitators were Sr. Anna-Kaarina Palmu and Rev. Matti Palmu.

**7.2.** The 2<sup>nd</sup> round of this training took place in Addis Abeba in **December 11-13, 2008**. There were 12 participants from 6 congregations of CES. The facilitators were Sr. Anna-Kaarina and Rev. Matti Palmu.

## 8. About the teaching materials for Family Ministry

One of the main tasks of the advisors, Sr. Anna-Kaarina Palmu and Rev. Matti Palmu, has been to produce teaching materials for the Family Ministry trainers. By now they have produced the following:

**8.1.** "Strengthening the Family - **A Handbook for Family Ministry**" was published in English in 2006 and in Amharic 2008. (The Oromiffa translation of the Handbook is being processed.)

**8.2.** "Learning Together How to Strengthen the Family - **A participant's Book for Family Ministry**" was published in English in 2008 and will be printed in Amharic in early 2009.

**8.3.** **Teaching materials for Marriage & Family Counsellors** are also being produced, first as duplications.

**8.4.** Further on, **Teaching materials for Family Ministry teaching at Theological seminaries** are being produced, duplicated for the students as well as for the seminaries' teachers.

**8.5.** The advisors for Pre-marital teaching sector, Sr. Helena Räisänen and Mr. Tapio Räisänen, are processing the "**True Love Waits Patiently**" -**materials for the teachers**. These duplications were distributed to the participants of the Pre-marital TOT course as well as to the TOT-T courses. The Räisänens are also processing the translation and printing of the books: "Questions young people ask" and "Answers for your marriage" in Oromo language. The first one should be out of the printing house in the end of 2008 and the second one hopefully will be printed in the beginning of 2009.

## 9. Other duties and activities

Besides ordinary office work, training and teaching of courses, the FLEP Staff has also been involved in other Family Ministry related service:

### 9.1. Teaching at Basic Marriage Courses

**9.1.1. January 11-12, 2008** in Addis Abeba; the **Basic Marriage Course for the Deaf Community**. 8 couples from different parts of country participated. The facilitators: Sr. Anna-Kaarina and Rev. Matti Palmu, also W/ro Aberash Tolossa and Kes Geneti Wayessa.

- 9.1.2. March 4-8, 2008**, Gelana Abya parishes; 49 Participants (21 couples and 7 persons alone) from 42 Congregations of 4 parishes; **2 course days and 2 evening programs**. The facilitator: Kes Geneti Wayessa.
- 9.1.3. May 3-6, 2008**, at Adwa congregation; 38 Participants (Married couples and young people); **a 2 days basic marriage course**. The facilitators: W/ro Aberash Tolossa and Kes Geneti Wayessa.
- 9.1.4. May 6- 9, 2008**, at Mekele congregation; 130 Participants (Married couples and young people); **a 4 days evening teaching**. The facilitators: W/ro Aberash Tolossa and Kes Geneti Wayessa.
- 9.1.5. May 10-11, 2008**, at Mekele congregation; 35 Participants: (11 couples and 13 singles); **a 2 days Basic Marriage course**. The facilitators: W/ro Aberash Tolossa and Kes Geneti Wayessa.
- 9.1.6. May 3-6, 2008**, CES Bole Kotobe Congregation, 38 Participants (young people, 16 male and 22 female) of the Bole Kotobe, Kotobe and Furi congregations; **a 4 days course on pre-marital teaching** (Feb.23, March29, May24 and June20). The facilitators: W/ro Aberash Tolossa and Kes Geneti Wayessa.

**9.1.7. One Saturday afternoon every month through the year**, Addis Abeba congregation, AAECMY **continuous Marriage teaching for married couples**; there are four trainer couples teaching turn by turn, one of them being Sr. Anna-Kaarina and Rev. Matti Palmu (as members of that congregation).

## **9.2. The Advisors' Family Ministry consultation visits to Taiwan, Finland and Kenya**

The Advisors, Sr. Anna-Kaarina and Rev. Matti Palmu, have during 2008 paid several Family Ministry consultation visits to other countries' Partner Churches. There they have besides the teaching on Family issues also got various opportunities to introduce the EECMY and her Family Life Education Program to the Christian leaders in those countries.

### **9.2.1. March 2-20, 2008 Consultation Visit to the Lutheran Church of Taiwan (LCT)**

- The Palmus were invited by the Lutheran Church of Taiwan (LCT) and her theological seminary, China Lutheran Seminary (CLS). During their visit the Palmus facilitated **two Basic Marriage Courses for couples**, one in Hsinchu (at the CLS premises) for 22 couples, another in Kaohsiung (in the building of LCT Central Office) for 10 couples.
- There were several meetings with the personnel of LCT (including the Church leadership), visits to several LCT congregations. In various places there were also presentations on the EECMY and her Family Ministry

### **9.2.2. July-September, 2008 Working Trip to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland (and the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission)**

- **July 9-14, 2008** in Kalajoki **Basic Marriage course ("Marriage Camp")**: 14 couples/families plus 4 leader-couples (the participant missionary couples coming from Botswana and Russia; the Palmus lecturing and leading.
- **August 19-21, 2008** in Kauniainen **Training of Trainers (TOT) for Family Ministry** for missionaries coming from various working countries; 15 missionary-participants from four different Finnish Missionary organisations, coming from six countries: Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nepal, Russia and Thailand. This year the main issue was titled "Living and serving as a single, non-married missionary".
- **August 21-23, 2008** in Kauniainen the **Conference on "Serving in Mission as a Family"**, arranged by the Mission Council of Finland, for about 90 participants from various organizations and churches. The Palmus had a presentation at the Conference.
- The Palmus have been for several years members in the **Family Ministry Working Group of the FELM** not only while in Finland, but also during their working period in Ethiopia.

### **9.2.3. October 15-27, 2008 Family Ministry Consultation Visit to Kenya**

- **The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya** (and the Lutheran Evangelical Association of Finland, LEAF): negotiations with the LEAF missionaries, teaching at the ELCK Matongo Lutheran Teachers' Training College and the ELCK Matongo Lutheran Theological College (45 students from Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Sudan), meeting with the ELCK Lake Diocese Bishop at Kisumu, etc.

- Teaching on Family issues at the **Fida International missionaries' workshop** in Limuru (missionaries from Ethiopia, Kenya, Tansania, Rwanda and Uganda);
  - Presentation on EECMY and her Family Ministry and teaching on family issues at the Fida missionaries' and their local co-workers (from the Full Gospel Churches of Kenya and Tansania and the Genet Church of Ethiopia)
- Gender Project consultation** in Nairobi.

## 10. Progress of the Family Ministry in EECMY Units

We have been encouraged by receiving activity reports and feed back from many TOT trained instructors in different Synods. Out of the 374 trained instructors about half have sent the report on their activities of the past two years. The instructors are sending their reports to their Synods, and as a copy to the DMT - Family Ministry office.

According to the 88 TOT trained instructors' reports they were able to train 2.134 couples, 29.231 others, altogether **33.594 people** on marriage and family life issues.

The Family Ministry instructors are involved in many different activities. Some examples of those:

- Starting the Marriage and Family education from their own families!
- Pre-marital teaching for young people; teaching youth together with their parents;
- Teaching at confirmation classes;
- Teaching engaged people;
- Marriage courses for couples;
- Women's courses and meetings;
- Teaching Congregational leaders;
- Teaching youth at HIV/aids programs;
- Instructing and counseling troubled couples;
- Marriage teaching, preaching at wedding ceremony;
- Ongoing Marriage teaching in congregations;
- Teaching at Bible Schools and Theological Seminaries;
- Teaching at a University and College; etc.

## 11. Challenges of the work

**11.1.** Limited resources for huge work.

**11.2.** Only one telephone line for the whole DMT

**11.3.** Mobile phones and cards necessary for work, but not provided.

## 12. Future prospects of Family Ministry

There are 374 trained instructors to give basic Family life education in Church Units. The EECMY has more than 6000 established congregations and close to 3000 preaching places (statistics of 2007). To have one instructor couple for every 10 congregations (or each parish) we need MANY more instructors to be trained during the coming years.

**12.1.** Two rounds of the **Training of Trainers of Trainers (TOT-T)** has been conducted in 2008. There is at least one TOT-T trained person now for all synods (except CS and WGBS). Continuation of the TOT-T courses in the coming years will be highly needed to have enough TOT-T trained instructors for all Church Units. We need **for each synod at least three trainers, who are trained to run TOT courses** for the needs of the synods, parishes and congregations throughout the church.

**12.2.** It is our strategy to fulfill the tremendous challenge in strengthening the Family Ministry. Further more **there is a need for additional Training of Trainers (TOT) for Family Ministry** for a) the Synods' Youth Leaders, b) the Synods' HIV/Aids co-ordinators, c) teachers of the Bible Schools and Theological seminaries. In the long run the vision is to have Christian family life education as an essential part of ordinary teaching in all levels of EECMY Church.

### **12.3. Encouraging the TOT trained instructors of Family Ministry**

There is a need for follow up of the ministry. The trained ones, as well as the trainers, need ongoing Refresher Courses, access to Family Ministry Library, encouragement and further training for their service. - There is also a need for additional teaching materials for Family Life Education for various target groups like Seminaries, Bible Schools and other schools.

### **12.4. Pre-marital teaching**

Biblical Pre-marital teaching needs to be expanded to all EECMY Synods. It will be good to work in cooperation with the Youth Ministry and the Women's Ministry. This is especially necessary in our times of transition, when the old family values are largely being ignored. Pre-marital teaching materials need to be developed. The goal is to build up a healthy congregation and community growing from a healthy family.

### **12.5. Marriage and Family Counselling**

Strengthening the **Structure for Marriage and Family Counselling activities** and providing **training for Marriage and Family Counselling** is a great task for EECMY Family Ministry.

### **12.6. The recognition of Family Ministry in EECMY structures**

For the sustainability of Family Ministry in EECMY the recognition of this ministry is highly needed in all levels of the Church. It needs to be included as one of regular ministries in the congregational structure.

## **13. Appreciation**

First of all we thank God for His grace and mercy. These massive achievements would not have been possible without the whole support of the FELM and EECMY Units. Again we are grateful to God for such a community as that of EECMY. Thus we sincerely thank FELM and EECMY-CO Staff and Leaders. Thank you all.

Respectfully submitted, in December 29, 2008

EECMY-DMT Family Ministry Staff,

*Rev. Geneti Wayessa* (the Co-ordinator),  
*Mrs. Aberash Tolessa*,  
*Sr. Anna-Kaarina Palmu*,  
*Rev. Matti Palmu*