

## Family Ministry Annual Report of 2009

**1.Introduction:** Before 2000 the program was started as Counseling ministry Section. Since 2000 the EECMY-DMT has had a specific program for the Family life and Marriage. Focusing to the current challenges of the family life and marriage situation of our plant, The EECMY- DMT Family ministry seeks to be and 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 and individuals by providing training; relevant teaching materials; offering practical courses they need to strengthen a healthy family life and healthy marriage.

These include teaching at different EECMY Units; Theological Institutes; Training of trainers (TOT); TOT-T and 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 Oromo language. By Mercy and help of God, the Christian Family life Education program (FELP) has achieved quite an encouraging progress by implementing various activities in 2009 as stated below.

**2. Synods Level TOT Training:** The year 2009 is a new era to reach the grass root Congregation ministers with TOT Training on Marriage and Family Life at **their own Expenses**. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> quarters intensive TOT workshop have been conducted at **6 centers for 224 Key Ministers**; Three first phase 5 course days TOT for 109 Ministers; and 3<sup>rd</sup> TOT-T for 20 Teachers,( altogether 353 people) have been trained, and other activities done beriefed as following.

**2.1. Fist phase TOT:** March 19-24, 2009, five days TOT course took place at Begi (BGS) for 42 Participants (21 couples),which 5 couples from government office workers and 16 couples are from Begi Gidami parishes Congregations were trained at the Synod expenses. March 30 - April 3, /09, (1<sup>st</sup> phase) 5 course days TOT Course was conducted at Nekemte parish Central Synod for 85 Participants (38 couples and 9 singles ) elders, pastors and evangelists with their wives from 9 congregations. Participates are those who are service the Congregations and Leaders of the parish.

**2.3.** April 5 –10/ 2009, 5 course days of (1<sup>st</sup> phase) TOT training at **Bako** Parish conducted for 42 congregations ministers together with their Wives. Participants were 40 couples and 4 singles (84 people). The training expense was covered by the sending Congregations. Nekemte and Bako parishes Training was arranged by the Central Synod.

**2.4. Six TOT Training at Synods Levels:** Intensive TOT workshop have been conducted at **6 centers for 224 Key Ministers**. 1) From May 13-22/ 2009 10 days 16<sup>th</sup> TOT training has been given for 17 couples and 7 singles Ministers (41 people)of the EGBS at the Synod expense. Participants of the workshop were who serving the Synod presbyteries, government workers from Schools, Agricultural and Social workers of the area.

**2.5. 2), The 17<sup>th</sup> TOT** course was conducted from **June 1-5 /09** for ( 17 Couple and 7 Singles) 23 Bible School graduated with their wives( 41people) at Ijajii (CGS). Ten days TOT traning was given by the Bible School TOT-T Teachers and 4 days workshop was conducted by CO- FLEP Facilitators. At the end of the course EECMY DMT Director Rev.Yonas Yigezu has made very encouraging directive and motivated the Participants to take respocibility of family ministry work of their repective areas.

**2.6. 3) From July 20- 27 2009 18<sup>th</sup> TOT** was held at Bodji (WS) for 8 couples and 2 Singles(18 people). Participants were key Leaders of 10 parishes Pastors with their wives have got training at their own expenses. The Training was arranged and approved by the Synod leaders, Board and Council to run the Ministry. **4) Anther 19<sup>th</sup> TOT** workshop took place in Debre Zeite from September 6-13/2009 for 22 Ministers from Ethiopia Evangelical Fellowship (EEF) Denominations in Cooperation with ARC Christian Service and expense.

**2.7.** The 20<sup>th</sup> TOT and 21<sup>st</sup> TOT workshops (**5 & 6**) were conducted in Central Synod (CS) at Nekemte and Bako Parishes from October 19-30/2009 for **40 Couple and 22 Singles**, altogether **102 Ministers** were trained for the grass root work of the Family Ministry sustainability. Especially effort of the 42 Congregations of the Bako Parish report is very encouraging. As a result within 6months they gave Basic Marriage course for **670 Couple and 406 Singles (altogether for 1746 people)** have been trained. All the Training were opened and closed with speech made by the Synods and parishes Leaders. The Facilitators of the courses were DMT-FLEP together with the Units' TOT-T Family ministry Staff.

**2.8.** Sustainability of this Ministry is promising and proved during the Six TOT ( 16<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> TOT) Training of Trainers courses altogether 224 Instructors were trained at the expenses of the Synods was estimated about (291,200ETB). Currently 596 people have got the Training of Trainers for Family Ministry. Through them Family ministry activities have expanded to all Church Units. The participants learn through practice by teaching turn by turn various teaching sessions of the Handbook and also prepare action plan for their family ministry service. Both TOT courses were opened by synod leaders and closed by taking part in the Holy Communion.

**3.1. Training of Trainers of Trainers (TOT-T):** April 20- 30/2009, 3<sup>rd</sup> TOT- T Course have been conducted in Addis Ababa (EECMY Entoto Guest house) for 20 Participants from 14 Synods. at the expenses of the DMT-FLEP 30,000ETB. The following 6 books were distributed to the TOT-T participants: 1) A Trainer's handbook for family ministry in English and in Amharic; 2) J.L. family ministry; 3) theological Advisory group; 4) K.B the obstacles of marriage and solutions; 5) marriage and family guidance/counseling manual. The facilitators were Sr. Anna-Kaarina Palmu, Rev. Matti Palmu, partly with Kes Yohnnse Chawaqa and FLEP Coordinators.

**3.2.** In order to be able to train much more family ministry instructors, the plan is to hand over the responsibility of arranging the TOT course to the synods. Thus we need at least **3-5 trainers**, to run TOT courses and who can serve as contact persons on the synod level. At present there are 54 Educators TOT-T trained (from 20 out of 21 synods), who hopefully soon will start arranging TOT courses in their respective synods.

**4. Theological Institutions:** Family ministry teaching in all the 4 Theological Seminaries and accepted (in 2009) as Bible Schools Curriculum teaching for various other groups are going well. Hossana Theological Seminary has got training from April 8-9 / 2009; the participants were 35 Theology diploma students of 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> year in two days. The facilitators were Sr. Anna-Kaarina palmu and Rev. Matti Palmu. In Onesimus Nesib Seminary Diploma II students (37 students) got the Pre-marriage and marriage counselling teaching for 40 periods. Also in Mendi Bible school 56 students got the 40 periods teaching about the questions of premarital and marriage life.

**5.1. Premarital Teachings in synods, parishes, schools:** In the beginning of February there was a workshop in Nedjo, (WS), seven parishes came together to study about premarital teaching. In the end of February the three sections of BGS was taught representatives of each congregation. This is the first synod where the

teaching systematically has reached the grass root level. In November there was a combined Premarital workshop on leadership and development for the youth (6 people from each parishes) in BDS. Harmful traditions

Teaching is ongoing at the Nursing school of Aira. After this teaching the students went to one elementary school and taught to all the girls about the FGM. There is a big demand for the school visits: Students are very eager to listen and ask questions and the teachers are ready to accept to visitors.

**5.2. Teaching Material:** The book “Questions young people ask” in Orominya printed in 2008 and in Dec. 2009 which 5000 copies were distributed. There is a tremendous need for teaching the young generations on issues related to dating, Marriage and sex. This is not only needed because the HIV/Aids pandemic, but to help the young to build their future healthy family life. Facilitators are S/r Helena and Mr Tapio Raisanen. We hope that pre-marital teaching would not only be the work of the five synods in the west, but that it could be expanded to all EECMY Synods in 2010. This will be more fruitful when done in cooperation with the youth ministry and the women’s ministry of the EECMY. The goal is to build up a healthy congregation and community growing from a healthy family.

**6. Marriage and family counseling:** strengthening the structure for marriage and family counseling activities and providing training for marriage and family counseling is a great task for EECMY family ministry. March 24-26, 2009, 3 course days was held on Counseling at Begi for 28 TOT trained Instructors (14 couples) of Begi Gidami Synod. It is encouraging that the training was conducted as self-support of the Synod. The facilitators were CO-DMT-FLEP with two TOT-T facilitators of the Begi Gidami Synod. It is the first phase of training to train Trainers who will take the responsibility of counselling at the Congregation levels.

The follow up of Family Ministry teaching and Marriage counseling ministry at Addis Ababa Mekane Yesus congregation is an ongoing program in cooperation with FLEP Advisors S/r Anna-Kaarina Palmu and Rev. Matti Palmu who are currently in Finland. For all 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 ministry in the congregational structure.

**7. 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 “strengthening the family” Manual in English in 2006; a participant’s text in English and Translated in Amharic manual book” was published in 2008. A participant’s book for family ministry translated in Amharic was published in early 2009. The materials were published by the great support of the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (FELM); which has been financing the program from the very beginning

**8. Follow up of the Handbook process:** Translated Amharic manual book; participants text book in English and Amharic of the family ministry books are very important tools to teach Basic marriage course and Training of Trainers course. **Since the printed copies are very few, the demand is high to print it again.** A Trainer's handbook of Family Ministry translation work from English to Affan Oromo work is going well and ready for printing, if fund will be secured for the printing process. There is also a need for additional teaching materials for Family Life Education for various target groups like Seminaries, Bible Schools and Counseling Ministry.

**9. Other duties:** Besides ordinary office work, the FLEP staff has also been involved in other family Ministry related service in 2009. March 28-29, 2009, Two days Marriage and Family Life Emporment course have been given at Gimbi Congregation for 17 couples and 17 sigles and during the Sunday service

for 1200 people. In the after noon for 1300 Youth people on pre-marital teaching taught by the FLEP Coordinators together with 5 TOT Instructors of GJS. September 3-5/09 at Awassa Tabor Congregation 3 course day was given for 700 youth people in the evening; on Saturday and Sunday afternoon 85 couples and during the Sunday service whole members about 1400 have got teaching.

**10. Progress Report of the Units Instructors:** we have been encouraged by receiving activity report and feed back from many TOT trained instructors in different Synods. Out of the 596 trained instructors 198 have sent the report on the activities of the year 2009. The Instructors are sending their report to their Synods, and as a copy to DMT –family ministry office. According to the Synods TOT trained instructors' reports they were enabled to train 5,155 couples, 24,106 others, altogether 36,486 people on marriage and family life issues in 2009.

**11. Impacts seen on Marriage and family Life relations:** since 2000 valuable changes that promoted healthy family and marriage relations have been experienced; **Having** time of open discussions together with their Spouses, with their children and even started discussing with on issues like sex before marriage, HIV/AIDS, marriage partner selection and etc. Taboo of sexuality is getting improved as open discussions on issues related to sexuality; Sharing burdens at home; responsibility sharing in child raising; openness of parents to their children and correcting own behavior contribute a lot to the establishment of peace in a family

After the course they were understood that the meaning of Marriage, equality of husband and wife is a blessing for their marriage and family. They have learned to discuss equally how to use their resources economically and the children have recognized the change. Their neighbors started to ask them: "What has happened? You have somehow changed!"

We understood bad and good customs of their area. Couples relationship have improved.

Their intimacy has become an example in their congregations, and further on in their neighborhood. The other best practices encouraged are peaceful coexistence, worshipping together, planning families work together, and working together, healthy, peace & stability within a family; living stable and healthy life are some impacts of the family ministry teaching.

**12. The Family Ministry Instructors:** are involved in many different activities. Some example 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 Congregation leaders; Teaching youth at HIV/AIDS programs; Instructing and counseling troubled couples; Marriage teaching, preaching at wedding ceremony; Ongoing Marriage teaching in congregation; Teaching at Bible Schools and Theological Seminaries; Teaching at a University and College are some mentioned testimony.

**13. Challenges of the work:** Limited resources for huge work of the Church family Ministry work which FLEM alone supported until 2005 150,000:- and since 2006 supporting 180,000:- every year including staff salaries and training expenses; To travel to all church units with teaching materials **Vehicle** for the program is great challenge; **Professionals** on this field, Only one telephone line for the whole DMT and Mobile phones and cards necessary for work are our present challenges.

**14. Future proposal of Family Ministry:** There are 596 trained instructors to give basic Marriage and Family life education in Church Units. The EECMY has more than 6000 established congregations and close to 3000 preaching places (statistics of 2008). To have one instructor couple for every 10 congregations (or each parish) we need MANY more instructors to be trained during the coming years.

**It is the EECMY-DMT Plan**, to fulfill the tremendous challenge in strengthening the Family Ministry as **Family Life Institution**. Further more there is a need for additional Training of Trainers (TOT) for Family Ministry for a) the synods' Youth Leaders. b) Synods' HIV/AIDS Co-coordinators, c) Bible Schools and Theological seminaries Teachers. **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 Institutions and Congregations Life.**

**15. 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.

**16. Evaluation:** Family Ministry Program during 2000-2009 **has been evaluated at the end of 2009:** The general objective of this evaluation is to assess the Family Ministry activities since 2000- its implementation, outcome, and the impact it has made on the lives of the believers. The consultant has given due attention in the whole processes of the evaluation on the following areas: Major achievements of the Family Ministry Program during 2000-2009. Changes seen on the lives of the couples. Identify strengths and weaknesses of the Family Ministry Program; its contribution to the betterment of family lives of the believers and the future perspectives of the Family Ministry Program of EECMY-DMT.

In addition, the consultant recommended the sustainability issue need to generate strategic plan for the works of the Ministry. And EECMY is expected reflect the core values of Family Ministry in her Vision, Missions and Objectives to more integrate the Family Ministry into the her being. Incorporating the Family Ministry Program in EECMY structures from Head Office Level to congregational level and **staffing** it with necessary human powers have been recommended. Since the works EECMY-Women's Ministry Coordination Office, Youth and Sunday Section/Ministry and the Family Ministry have a lot of values and priority issues the consultant recommend the collaborations of the three Ministries of the Church or the urgency of networking together for better efficacy and cost effectiveness.

**17. 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

**Trained instructors in Church Units  
STATISTICS OF December 2009**

Unit	Center	Training of Trainers (TOT)			Training of Trainers of Trainers (TOT-T)	Unit	Center
		Couples	Alone	TOTAL (persons)	TOTAL (persons)		
ADS	Mendi		1	1	-	ADS	Mendi
AS	Amaro	3	1	7	2	AS	Amaro
BGS	Begi	21	1	43	2	BGS	Begi
BDS	Aira	6		12	2	BDS	Aira
CES	Addis Abeba	15	9	39	8	CES	Addis Abeba
CGS	Ijaji	21	11	53	2	CGS	Ijaji
CS	Nekemte	46	27	119	1	CS	Nekemte
EGBS	Gambella E	22	8	52	2	EGBS	Gambella E
Gal-Ab.				-	-		Galana- Ab.
GJS	Gimbi	11		22	2	GJS	Gimbi
IBS	Mettu	11	1	23	3	IBS	Mettu
NAW	Mekele	1	1	3	-	NAW	Mekele
NCES	Dessie	1	1	3	1	NCES	Dessie
SCES	Awasa	16	2	34	5	SCES	Awasa
SCS	Hossana	7	4	18	4	SCS	Hossana
SES	Hagere Mariam	5	3	13	3	SES	Hagere Mariam
SS	Dilla	3	3	9	3	SS	Dilla
SWBS	Mizan Teferi	20	2	42	3	SWBS	Mizan Teferi
SWS	Arba Minch	8	1	17	4	SWS	Arba Minch
WBS	Dodola	4	2	10	2	WBS	Dodola
WGBS	Gambella W	3	1	7	1	WGBS	Gambella W
WS	Bodji	13	5	31	2	WS	Bodji
WWBS	Dembi Dollo	7	2	16	2	WWBS	Dembi Dollo
Evangelical Churches Fellowship			22	22			
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>244</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>54</b>		

**Respectfully Submitted**

**FLEP Staff**