

ANNUAL REPORT OF 2005

Even though the EECMY has focused more on Evangelism reaching out to new areas, nurture its members is also a great challenge in the field of Family life and Marriage teaching.

The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) Units and Leaders have realized the importance of the Christians Family life ministry and Marriage program. They strongly recommended that Family Ministry Teaching program is timely and highly needed for the Grass Root Congregations. And special attention should be given to Train Instructors at all Units to reach with this teaching all parishes and congregations of the EECMY Units. By the Almighty God's mercy and bless we have enabled to conduct the following Training of Trainers and Basic Marriage Courses in 2005 with very limited budget.

FLEP ACTIVITIES:

If not otherwise mentioned, Sr. Anna-Kaarina Palmu and Rev. Matti Palmu have been together the facilitators, working and teaching as a team together with W/ro Aberash Tolossa and Kes Geneti Wayessa. The teaching method has been participatory; there has been not much of lecturing.

A. TEACHING AT THE THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTIONS OF THE EECMY

A.1 MARCH 3,24 AND May 12,2005 the family Ministry part of the “pastoral Care in Africa Christianity “ course at the Mekane Yesus Theological Seminary (MYTS), for Degree 3 Theology and Degree 3 Leadership classes, altogether 12 periods. The whole course consists 32 periods, thus the Family Ministry part of it is about 1/3. The course language: English.

Participants: 21 theology-degree students of the 3rd year, and 8 leadership-Degree students of the 3rd year, altogether 29 students. For some Practical Theology students this course acted also as an introduction to the full Family Ministry course during Degree 4 course. The students were active and eager to presents topics for discussions. The participants did as Writing Assignment the 5-page paper titled “Marriage customs and attitudes of people in my home area”

A.2. May 13, 14 and 16 the Special Course on Marriage / Family Ministry at the Hossana Mekane Yesus Seminary, Diploma 2nd and 3rd Classes at HMYS, Hossana. Participants: 20 Theology students of 2nd year, 17 of 3rd year, total 37. The course was given as an **intensive course**, two and half days, 4 periods on Friday afternoon, 4+4 periods on Saturday and Monday, altogether **20 periods**. The course language: Amharic. Much of the time was taken for the questions presented by the students. The students were really actively presenting topics for discussions.

A.3. August 31/2005-DEC.28/2005 the Family Ministry part of pastoral care ”pastoral counselling in Marriage and Family” teaching have been given at the MYTS for Degree 3 and 4 Theology classes ,altogether 32 periods. Participants: 10 theology students of the 3rd and 7 Theology students of the 4th year. The course was given as an intensive course two periods every Wednesday during the first Semester. The course given also as Practical Theology and an introduction to the full Family Ministry course . The students were active and eager to presents group work, reports and class discussions. The participants did as Writing Assignment 3-5 pages paper titled,”Marriage in your area”, Family Ministry,Practical guide for a teaching Church, Group work on “Marriage customs and attitudes of people in my home area” .



The ideal length of Family Ministry courses at the Seminaries is five full days, i.e. 25-30 periods. The best form is an “intensive course” within a week, NOT having periods on weekly program. **The Course on Family Ministry shall be in the permanent Curriculum for 2nd or 3rd year Diploma Course (at Regional Seminaries) and Degree 3-4 Course (at MYTS).**

MYTS Degree 3rd year Theology & Leadership<HMYS 2nd & 3rd year classes.**B. TEACHING ON MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE IN THE EECMY SYNODS ETC**

In the beginning of the FLEP Program the advisors arranged a Basic Marriage Course in each and every EECMY Synods and Work Areas. The Synods invited pastors, evangelists and other responsible persons to courses with their wives or husbands. The emphasis has been on **Marriage Enrichment** having the wish that participants would also teach these issues in their work or home areas. Since 2003 the TOT trained local people have taught the Basic courses in Synods.

Starting 2005 the FLEP of the Central Office has arranged Basic Marriage Courses only for C.O. Staff or as preliminary courses for the Training of Trainers' courses for Family Ministry.

B-1. Feb 24-27 Basic Marriage Course for the C.O. Staff couples : 4 Course Days, 25 periods marriage course was conducted at Debre Zeit. They were **12 couples**, i.e. 24 participants.

B-2. Pre-TOT Training: course was given for southern Synods (SES, SCES, WBS and SCS) at Hossana from August 1-6, 2005. And the participants were (Synod evangelism Directors, Parishes Coordinators, HMYS and Synod Leaders) 22 people (11 couples).

B-3 Pre-TOT Training Marriage Course was conducted for 11 couples for four Synods in the West (BDS, GJS < BGS and WS) from April 11-16, 2005 at Aira.).

Pr-TOT at Hossana August 1-6/2005

Pr-TOT Group at Aira April 11-16/2005



B.4. Another Pre-TOT Training course was given for southern Synods (SES, SCES, WBS and SCS) at Hossana from August 1-6, 2005. And the participants were (Synods DMT Directors, Parishes Coordinators, HMYS and Synod Leaders) 22 people (11 couples)

B-5. May 5-8/2005, 4 Course Days, 25 periods Basic Marriage Course for 7 couples, i.e. 14 participants of the C.O. Leaders/Staff was conducted at Debre Zeit. The participants were two couples from the CES and five couples from EECMY C.O, including CES Ex. Secretary and EECMY General Secretary.



<Marriage Course Group>



B-6. Basic Marriage course /Retreat/for the EECMY-Central Office Leaders had been conducted from July 22-24,2005 at CRDA Training Center for 16 people (8 couples) for three days. The participants were EECMY President, V/ president, Ass. Gen. Secretary, EECMY-DMT Director, CES President, CES Finance Director, PCS Manager, MYTS Administrator with their Wives.

Marriage Course group July 22-24/2005.

Women group

Men group



B-7. Basic Marriage Course/Retreat/: four days course was conducted for 11 couples/22 people/ from DEC.8-11.2005 at Dbere Zeit. The participants were from EECMY-CO staff, YDCS,PCS,PIB, SCS- Zuwai, and CES Congregations. See the Men, women, and group photos



Men Group Discussion



Group



Women Group Discussion

Dce.(8-11/05

C. TRAINING OF TRAINERS (TOT)

C.1. The 6TH TRAINING OF TRAINERS (TOT) COURSE

From March 7-19, 2005, 10 Course Days, 76 periods; TOT workshop was conducted at Debre Zeit. **25 Participants** (12 couples and 1 man alone) from 11 Synods: CGS - Ijaji, GJS - Gimbi, NCES - Dessie, SCS - Hossana, CES - Addis Abeba, SS - Dilla, SWBS - Mizan Teferi, SWS - Arba Minch, WS - Boji, and WWBS - Dembi Dollo. EECMY president Kes Iteffa Gobena was visited the course and gave encouragement advice about the importance of the Family Ministry teaching on the last day of a course program.

6th TOT Group photo March 7-19/2005



C.2. The 7TH TRAINING OF TRAINERS (TOT) COURSE :

During the rain seasons Four Synods in the West (BDS;BGS,WS,and GJS) have got 10 Course Days, 76 periods workshop from June 27-July 9,2005 at Gimbi Jorgo Synod. The participants were 26 people (13 couples) pastors with their wives, who had several years of work experience and service in their respected Synods.

Western Synods TOT June 27- July 9, 2005 at GJS



Women group with GJS President.

C. 3. GENERALLY ON 6TH AND 7TH TRAINING OF TRAINERS COURSE(S) 2005:

The participants were all **practising as trainers** leading turn by turn various teaching sessions of the Handbook. After the Teaching Practice sessions the facilitators led turn by turn the feed back discussions, which were very useful chances to learn. The participants reported on the Family Ministry activities in their respective Synods. There was an useful discussion on how to arrange Christian Family Life Education in different areas, how to manage if there is no specific budget for this work, who could be the target groups, which kind of courses should be the most needed, what are the most needed topics, how to train more trainers for this work, etc.

There were many active discussions during the Courses. Again at this Course the participants expressed that there are many questions on sexual life amongst our Christians everywhere; Celebrating the Holy Communion finished the Course.

The participants were given the following resource books: 1) "Questions Young People ask", 2) the same in Amharic; 3) "Answers for your Marriage", 4) the same in Amharic, 5) "Family and Child Raising" (in Amharic), [6-10 in Amharic by Ingrid Trobisch under the title Understanding your Wife, on] 6) Her Ovarian cycle and Fertile days, 7) Her Experience during Pregnancy, 8) Her Preparation for Childbirth, 9) Her Response in the Act of Love, and 10) Her joy in breast feeding.

The participants were given the **"Strengthening the Family" - A Trainer's Handbook for Family Ministry, 2005**". The facilitators taught the first parts of the Handbook and turn by turn all the mornings' Bible Studies. There was not much lecturing during the course, the teaching method is participatory. The Handbook for Family Ministry was thoroughly studied during the Course. Even more time would have been needed, but it seems that two weeks for this kind of TOT is good time.

FLEP paid the bus-fare part of the transportation cost (6th TOT only), but NOT other costs related to it. The idea in this was to increase gradually the self reliance of the synods on this field of Church work. These TOT Courses were very encouraging. The participants were very active. The EECMY Family Ministry has bright future, if we can train more people like these!

After the 7th TOT we have now 170 TOT trained instructors in EECMY Synods or Work Area. The next goal is farther away: to train ENOUGH instructors for all the Church Units!

There is a clear need of continuation for this training. The TOT Refresher Courses are also very clearly needed after a year or two after the basic TOT course.

D. ABOUT THE "EECMY HANDBOOK FOR FAMILY MINISTRY"

- The advisors finalized in January the English version of the **"Strengthening the Family" - EECMY Handbook for Family Ministry**" (30 learning periods, 15 Bible Studies, 67 pages of appendices, altogether 235 pages).
- The text was handed over for English language checking (to be done by Rev. Michael Weller); the work was not finished by November, 2005.
- The negotiations with YDCS are going on concerning the future translation of Family Ministry Handbook to Amharic and Oromo languages.

The Handbook includes teaching aid for 30 lessons and 15 Bible Studies, altogether 160+52= 212 pages.



The List of Contents of "Handbook for Family Ministry" is attached as an appendix of this report.

- 30 "Learning Periods" of the Handbook consist of 108 pages;
- 15 Bible Studies of the Handbook consist of 60 pages;
- The Appendices consist of 67 pages;
- Including the Covering page and Page of contents
the size of the Handbook is altogether 235 pages.

E. OTHER ACTIVITIES

- February 2: introducing Family Ministry to the CMCR;
- February 6: Meeting at W/ro Aberash and Kes Geneti's home with FELM Area Co-ordinator, Ms Päivi Anttila and FELM Ethiopia Representative, Sr. Elisa Blomberg, concerning future FLEP activities;
- March 30 meeting on FLEP future activities, especially on the Pre-Marital teaching field, at Palmus' home together the Palmus, W/ro Aberash, Kes Geneti, Sr. Helena Räisänen and Mr. Tapio Räisänen;
- The Palmus: January 12 Teaching for one day the **Family Counsellors' Course** at the Evangelical Churches Fellowship of Ethiopia office; 8 periods, 38 participants;
- The Palmus: April 2-3 the **Course on Counselling at the AAMY** (Addis Abeba Mekane Yesus Congregation); the Palmus being the only teachers;
- Sat 3 + 4, Sun 3 periods, altogether 10 periods;
- 44 participants, voluntaries from AAMY;
- At the end of the Course the participants elected a Counselling Committee for the AAMY; Sr. Anna-Kaarina was elected as a committee member;

Besides training and teaching of the Family ministry courses: we are also doing work related service, preaching and teaching in the EECMY Synods and congregations. From June 5-July 17/2005 the EECMY CES Bole Kotobe Congregation 26 people(13 couples) have got a basic marriage course for 5 days. On July 3/2005 at (GJS) Gimbi Congregation for more than 1200 people, on July 31,2005 in CES at Kokaa Congregation for 65 people, and on August 21,2005 CES at Gulale Bethel Congregation for 70 people Christian Family life teaching have been given during the Sunday service. Special Marriage training program is ongoing for Young people who are deaf, through A.A.M.Y. Congregation. A day Training have been given on August 27, 2005 for 55 Young people (30 male and 25 Female). Mrs. Aberash Tolessa has got opportunity of Family ministry consultation (training) arranged by the Evangelical Church Fellowship in Addis Ababa from June 6-17,2005.

Marriage course for Deaf Young people at the A.A.M. Yesus Congregation



<Marriage>
Course



< Bole Kotobe Cong.group

F. THE STAFF OF FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PROGRAM

As of September, 2004, the FLEP Program got remarkable enforcement, when the counterparts of the Palmus started their service in the Department for Theology and Mission. **Mrs. Aberash Tolossa and Rev. Geneti Wayessa** (who earlier served as Central Ethiopia Synod Evangelism Director) have ever since been actively involved in the Family Ministry activities, both in planning and implementing.

Since end of May, 2005, after the Palmus had left for furlough, Kes Geneti together with Mrs. Aberash has been in charge of FLEP, i.e. of the whole of EECMY Family Ministry work. In June, 2005, the Missionary couple of Finnish Lutheran Mission (FLM), Sr. Helena and Mr. Tapio Räisänen started (after the year of oromo language study) their service based at Onesimos Nesib Seminary, Aira. The aim is that they would concentrate on the Pre-Marital teaching, starting from the oromo speaking synods in the western part of EECMY. The Räisänens have earlier been serving the WWBS at Dembi Dollo.

G. ON ACTIVITY OF THE FLEP-TRAINED INSTRUCTORS IN CHURCH UNITS

Even though We have expected annual report of 2005 from the all Units TOT Instructors, only the following 12 Syonds BDS, DGS,CES,CGS, CS,GJS,NCES,SES,SWS,WS,SS,WBS, altogether 15 Instructors were sent their report on time. The received feed back report of the 15 TOT Instructors are encouraging that they enabled to trained 3,360 Couples, 14,797 others, and total 21,517 people.

H. FUTURE PROSPECTS OF EECMY FAMILY MINISTRY

Continuous training

1) The plan is to **expand the Training of Trainers courses** in order to have enough instructors in all the Church Units. This seems to be the only way to fulfil the tremendous challenge in strengthening the Family Ministry.

2) Obviously there is also need for **Training of Trainers of Trainers!** The training structure should produce area or sector based trainers for TOT Courses. Gradually we need TOT courses for each and every Synod or Work Area! In the long run the aim is to have Christian Family Life Education as an essential part of ordinary teaching in all levels of Church work.

Follow up

3) The trained ones need ongoing help, encouragement and further training for their service. Thus a **series of TOT Refresher courses** was started in 2004.

Material production

4) **Material Production** has been under process for years. The **Handbook** will hopefully soon be translated to Amharic and Oromo languages.

5) There is also a need for **handouts for the course participants**.

6) There is a need to search for suitable Family Ministry textbooks for Theological Seminaries and prepare **a textbook type teaching material for Bible Schools**.

Pre-marital teaching

7) One area of urgent need is **Pre-marital Teaching for the Youth**. As of June, 2005 we have rejoiced for expansion of the Family Life Education activities, when a Missionary couple started their work based at Onesimos Nesib Seminary, Aira. They will serve especially in Synods in the west, focusing on pre-marital teaching.

Marriage Counselling

8) **Marriage Counseling** is an area of crying need. There is an obvious need for a kind of model of a **Counseling Center in a local Congregation**. Further on there is a crying need for **Training of Marriage & Family Counselors**. Hopefully the Palmus, when starting their next period of service around October, 2006, will more than earlier concentrate on this field.

Gratefulness

We are really encouraged when receiving the **positive feed back from various directions**. Many people think Family Ministry needs to be made one of the priorities of EECMY. The happier their marriages, the better input the Church servants can give in their respective duties. Strengthening the Christian family life also improves the status of girls and women. As the AIDS pandemic is still worsening the teaching on Christian family life and faithful partnership with one spouse only is an important part of fight against AIDS.

The program has grown a lot within last six years. We thank God for that. Getting Ethiopian counterparts for the FLEP Advisors enables the growth and sustainability of Family Ministry in the Church. Getting another Missionary couple is still more enforcing the work. We are more than grateful to our God for the care, present status and expansion of the work. : We would like to take this opportunity to gratefully acknowledge to FELM, EECMY-DMT Director and Staff, EECMY CO Departments and Leaders who helped Us to gain more knowledge and experience toward this field and ministry. May God bless all of us to do His will and follow His right direction.

Respectfully submitted in December 2005,

(Sr. Anna-Kaarina Palmu and
Rev. Matti Palmu
FLEP Advisors, now in Finland)

W/ro Aberash Tolossa and
Rev. Geneti Wayessa
FLEP Secretaries

Appendices:

1. Program Description of FLEP (Appendix pages(p. 8-9)
2. FLEP Training's Handbook for Family Ministry (p.10-11)
3. The list and statistics of FLEP-TOT trained instructors & Training Needed (p. 12)
4. FLEP Courses in 2005 by the FLEP Advisors & Staffs (p. 13)
5. FLEP Courses of the SIX Years(2000-2005) (p. 14)
6. Family Ministry Course at Mekane Yesus Theological Seminary (p. 15)
7. Past and future FLEP Activities, updated December 2005 (p. 16-17)

The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY)**Christian Family Life Education Program (FLEP)****P R O G R A M D E S C R I P T I O N**

1. General Background The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) was constituted into a national church in 1959. The Church, being originally a mission-based association, has always stressed the importance of Outreach activities. The EECMY has also tried to focus on Christian Education ministries to nurture her members.

Much has been done on the basics of faith teaching for adult members, women, youth and children. However, very little has been done when it comes to focus on Christian family ministry, including parenting, family relations, couple communication, marriage counseling etc. In 1970-ies there was a trial to arrange "Christian Family Week Programs", but there was no continuation in that field.

Family is the foundation of the society. Consequently one can say that a congregation starts from a family. Christian families are the basic units of the church. The church is an assembly of family members.

If the church members feel happy in their marriages and families they are free to worship in their congregations. Likewise, if the church workers, paid and voluntary ones, live in joyful and healthy marriages and families they have a good starting point for their service in the church. Vice versa, if our people are troubled in their marriages and families this affects their worship and service, too.

The EECMY has been growing at least at a rate of 5-10 % every year for the last 30 years. Many of the new members come with many questions of family relations, some even have acute problems. Still most of the pastors and evangelists of the church do not have either the knowledge or experience in Christian family ministry to help these members.

2. Purpose of the Program

- 2.1. To explain the Biblical and Theological Foundation of the EECMY concerning Marriage and Family life;
- 2.2. To prepare the Church policy on Christian Marriage and Family life;
- 2.3. To raise awareness on Family issues;
- 2.4. To promote Christian Family Life Ministry, and
- 2.5. To finally achieve the goal of having Christian Family Life Education as an essential part of ordinary teaching in all the Church Units.

3. Objectives of the Program

- 3.1. To promote Christian Family Life Ministry through conducting awareness raising seminars and workshops etc.;
- 3.2. To educate church workers on Family issues including pre-marital teaching;
- 3.3. To offer the church workers an opportunity to renew their partnership in Marriage during a retreat-type of gathering;
- 3.4. To search for Key Persons to promote the Family Life Ministry in the EECMY;

- 3.5. To collect materials and create new materials on Marriage and Family life, and
- 3.6. To strengthen the Family Counseling activities in the Church.

4. Plan of Activities To achieve the above mentioned objectives through

- 4.1. Collecting materials for a Family Life Library in order to have a resource center for concerned church workers;
- 4.2. Promoting teaching on Family and Counseling issues in different Seminars and Bible Schools;
- 4.3. Conducting awareness raising seminars and workshops in different Church Units;
- 4.4. Running Marriage Courses and Retreats for different groups of Church workers;
- 4.5. Working on the Biblical and Theological Foundation and the Church policy on Christian Marriage and Family life;
- 4.6. Producing leaflets and booklets in order to raise awareness on family issues;
- 4.7. Creating materials including teaching aids for Christian Family Life Ministry;
- 4.8. Creating structures for Family Counseling activities in congregations;
- 4.9. Arranging program for Family Counseling in a local congregation, and
- 4.10. Producing a Training Handbook for the Christian Family Life Ministry;

5. Framework and the workers of the Program

In the beginning the program will be run under the framework of Hossana Mekane Yesus Seminary (HMYS). The working area, however, is the whole Church in close cooperation with the EECMY Gospel Ministry Department.

The Missionary Couple, who have been called for this service, shall be stationed in Hossana and teach according to special arrangements periodically in HMYS. As teachers of HMYS they shall also plan and act for the Christian Family Life Program in any Church Units.

One of the main objectives of the Program is to search for Key Persons in different Church units. These Ethiopians, whether Church workers or voluntary ones, will participate in teaching and otherwise act as resource persons for the Program. They should gradually take responsibility of promoting the Christian Family Life Program in their respective working areas. The idea is not to employ new people but to integrate Christian Family Life Ministry to the existing Church activities.

In the long run the program is to be run under the EECMY Gospel Ministry Department.

6. The Duration of the Program

The aim is to have Christian Family Life Education as an essential part of ordinary teaching in all the Church Units. To achieve this aim the Program is to be run for several years to support different Church Units in continuing it as part of their ordinary work.

7. The Budget, Administration and the Equipment of the Program

The annual Budgets and any administrative or financial procedures will be under the Central Office of the EECMY. Any equipment purchased for the Program shall follow the system of the EECMY Gospel Ministry Department.

“Strengthening the Family”, A Trainer’s Handbook for Family Ministry

- 30 "Learning Periods" of the Handbook consist of 108 pages;
- 15 Bible Studies of the Handbook consist of 60 pages;
- The Appendices consist of 67 pages;

- Including the Covering page and Page of contents
the size of the Handbook is altogether 235 pages.

The Contents of "Handbook for Family Ministry" 2005:

- How Family Ministry was developed in the EECMY starting from 2000?
- What is Family Ministry?
- Foreword to a Family Ministry Instructor
- Teaching instructions for the Facilitator

The Learning Periods:

- 1. Introduction: Why to take care of marriage?
- 2. Foundation of Marriage
- 3. What do I expect of Marriage?
- 4. Why Marriage?
- 5. Marriage and the Extended Family
- 6. The need to Speak and Listen
- 7. Speaking and Listening
- 8. Decision making
- 9. Constructive disagreement in Marriage
- 10. Emotions
- 11. Daily Life in Marriage; Signs of Love
- 12. Woman and Man - different but equal
- 13. Woman in Marriage; Man in Marriage
- 14. The Obstacles of Marriage: What are they?
- 15. What to do for the Obstacles of Marriage?
- 16. Forgiveness in Marriage
- 17. Marriage and Harmful Traditions
- 18. Domestic Violence
- 19. Living According to One's Means
- 20. Marriage, Family and Budgeting
- 21. The Church Worker's Family Life
- 22. The Day of Rest - Strengthening the Family
- 23. Marriage, family and spiritual life
- 24. Children as Gift of God
- 25. Child Raising
- 26. Family Planning
- 27. Youth, parents and the Marriage Preparations
- 28. Youth before marriage
- 29. Traditional, "Modern" and Christian Marriage
- 30. Christian Family Life

Bible Studies:

- About Bible Studies as part of Family Life Education
- Advice for the Bible Study Leader
- Read Your Bible Through!
- Hints for Bible Study Group Members
- When Did the Couples Live in the Biblical History?
- 1. Adam and Eve - The Very First, Perfect Marriage
- 2. Abraham and Sarah - Growing Together
- 3. Isaac and Rebekah - Talkative Wife and Silent Husband
- 4. Jacob and Leah - Health and Prosperity but no Love
- 5. Jacob and Rachel - No Children but Love
- 6. Manoah and his Nameless Wife - Everybody is Somebody!
- 7. Samson and the Girl of Timnah - How Not to Marry
- 8. Hannah and Elkanah - Trusting God
- 9. Nabal's and Abigail's Difficult Marriage - The Necessity of Listening
- 10. Shulammite Girl and Shepherd - Physical Love without Shame
- 11. Rev. and Mrs. Ezekiel's Last Day Together - Marriage until Death
- 12. Hosea and Gomer - Forgiveness as a Basis
- 13. Mary and Joseph - Submission to God and each other
- 14. Ananias' and Sapphira's Falsehood - Money, Trust and Spirituality
- 15. Priscilla and Aquila - Serving Together as a Team

Appendices:

- 1. Bible Verses in connection to Marriage and Family
- 2. Teaching on Marriage (*Col 3: 18-19*)
- 3. Teaching on Marriage (*Gal. 6:2*)
- 4. Wedding Sermon (*Rom. 12:10*)
- 5. Wedding Sermon (*Eph. 5:21, 22, 25*)
- 6. Wedding Sermon (*1Pet 4:8*)
- 7. Headlines for Marriage Teaching for Youth
- 8. About Group Communication
- 9. Eight tests of True Love
- 10. Ten Commandments for a Healthy Christian Marriage
- 11. Guidelines for handling parent and in-law conflicts
- 12. The Christian Understanding of Marriage
- 13. Theological Aspects of Sexuality by Dr. Eshetu Abate
- 14. EECMY Principles & Doctrines on STD/HIV/AIDS Control
- 15. Information on HIV-AIDS
- 16. Information on the Kinds of Violence
- 17. EECMY Statement on Family Planning 1989 (1981 Eth. Cal.)
- 18. EECMY Nedjo Resolution on Polygamy 1976 (1968 Eth. Cal.)
- 19. EECMY Statement on Marriage related issues 1992 (1984 Eth. Cal.)
- 20. EECMY - FLEP Program Description
- 21. EECMY - FLEP Information Brochure
- 22. "Keep reading your Bible Through" leaflet
- References

**The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus
Christian Family Life Education Program (FLEP)**

The list of FLEP-TOT trained instructors in Church Units and Instructors needed for the Units in the coming years.

Unit	Center	Couples	Alone	TOTAL (persons)	(Congregations)	Parishes	Training needed
BGS	Begi	4		8	75	8	4
BDS	Aira	4		8	188	19	15
CES	Addis Abeba	8	1	17	279	27	17
CGS	Ijaji	3	1	7	98	10	9
CS	Nekemte	6	2	14	270	27	19
EGBS	Gambella	1		2	137	14	12
GJS	Gimbi	7		14	258	26	19
IBS	Mettu	5		10	280	28	23
NAW	Mekele		1	1	3	1	1
NCES	Dessie	1	2	4	13	1	1
SCES	Awasa	3		6	1174	118	115
SCS	Hossana	6	1	13	402	40	32
SES	HagereMariam	3	1	7	640	64	60
SS	Dilla	4	1	9	250	25	21
WBS	Dodola	2		4	64	6	4
SWBS	Mizan Teferi	2		4	156	16	14
SWS	Arba Minch	9		18	460	46	37
WS	Bodji	5		10	342	34	29
WWBS	Dembi Dollo	3	1	7	236	23	16
WGBS	Gambella	3		6	142	14	11
GAP					42	4	4
NEWA-G					5	1	1
TOTAL		79	11	169	5476	445	464

The need of Family ministry: To introducing and giving awareness of the important of family life and marriage 169 instructors have been trained to teach others, the Basic marriage courses in their units. The EECMY has more than 5500 established congregations at present and organizing into more than 780-1000 parishes. To have one couple instructor for 10 Congregations or at parishes level in the present of the EECMY-parishes more than 780 couples need to get Training of Trainers course during the coming years.

FLEP COURSES 2005: (courses by the FLEP Advisors&Staffs)

Number of courses	Synod, School Etc	Place	Date	Days of the Week	Type of Course	Couples / Persons	Oth. participants	TOTAL participants
1	EECMY C.O.	Debre Zeit, Bethlehem Center	Feb.24-27/2005	Thr.-Sun	Basic Marriage Course for Couples , for four days (32 teaching periods)	12 / 24		24
2	MYTS	Mekane Yesus Theological Seminary, A.A.	Feb 17, 28, March 9	Thursday	“Family Ministry part of the ‘Pastoral Care in African Christianity’ Course at the MYTS, Degree 3 Theology&Degree 3 Leadership class. The whole course consists 32 periods, thus the Family Ministry part of it is about 1/3		29	29
3	HMYS	Hossana MY Seminary	May 13,14,16		“Family Ministry part of the ‘Pastoral Care in African Christianity’” Course at HMYS Diploma 2 nd &3 rd Classes,20 periods		37	37
4	MYTS	Mekane Yesus Theological Seminary, AA	August 31-Dec.28/05	Wedn 2 periods	“pastoral counseling in Marriage &Family” Course at the MYTS, Degree 3 &4 Theology class. The whole course consists 32 periods.		17	17
5	4 Synods in the West	BDS at Aira	April 11-16/05	4days of weel	Pre-TOT Course on Marriage / Family Ministry at Aira,32 periods.	11/22		22
6	4 Synods in the South	At Hossana(SCS)	August 1-6/05	4 days	Pre- TOT Course on Marriage , 4 course days, 32 periods. Participants from 4 Synods(SCES,SES,WBS,and SCS)	11 / 22		22
7	EECMY C.O. Leaders	Debre Zeit Beth. Center	May, 5-8/05	Tue, Sunday.	“Basics of Family Ministry” 4 days Course ,25 periods for 7 couples of the EECMY C.O. Leaders.	7/14		14
8	EECMY C.O. LEADERS	At CRDA	JULY 22-24 /05.	3days	“Basics of Family Ministry” 3 days Course ,20 periods for 8 couples of the EECMY C.O. Leaders	8/16		16
9	PCS;YDCS;C.O, CES-CONGS	. Debre Zeit, Beth. Center	Dec.8-11/05 4days	Thu-Sun	Basic Marriage Course and Family ministry For key ministers and leaders 32 periods. Participants :11 Couples	11/22		22
10	From 11 Synods	Debre Zeit, Beth. Center	March 7-19/05	10 days courses	The 6th training of Trainers' Course (TOT) for Family Ministry12 couples and 1 man, 10 days course, 76 periods. Participants from 11 Synods (CES,CGS,SS,WS, WWBS, BGS,NCES,SCS,SWBS,SWS,, SCES,)	12/24	1	25
11	4 Synods in the west	At GJS-Gimbi	June 27-July 9,2005	10 days	The 7th training of Trainers' Course (TOT) for Family Ministry13 couples, 10 days course, 76 periods. Participants from 4 Synods (BDS,WS, BGS and GJS)	13 / 26		26
					TOTAL NUMBER OF COUPLES / PARTICIPANTS DURING THE YEAR 2005	85/170	84	254

Therefore, to promote Family Ministry Program in all Units, additional financial support is highly needed to teach and strengthen marriage and family ministry Courses.

FLEP COURSES**TOTALS OF SIX YEARS 2000-2005 (by the FLEP Advisors & Staffs)**

(2000) 17 courses				COUPLES / PARTICIPANTS 2000	97 / 194	191	385
(2001) 15 courses				COUPLES / PARTICIPANTS 2001	157 / 314	107	421
(2002) 11 courses				COUPLES / PARTICIPANTS 2002	127 / 254	70	324
(2003) 3 courses				COUPLES / PARTICIPANTS 2003	22 / 44	27	71
(2004) 12 courses				COUPLES / PARTICIPANTS 2004	72 / 144	155	299
(2005) 8 courses				Couples PARTICIPANTS 2005	85 / 170	84	254
TOTAL 69 COURSES	TOTAL PARTICIPANTS IN 6 YEARS:			TOTAL NUMBER OF COUPLES / PARTICIPANTS DURING 2000-2005	561/ 1122	634	1,756

Mekane Yesus Theological Seminary, Division of Practical Theology

I. Course Title: “Pastoral Care in Marriage and Family”

School Year: 2005

Class: Degree III& IV, Term I, Block A+B,
basically 2 periods (1 double period) per week,
altogether 32 periods (16 double periods)

Instructors: **Sr. Anna-Kaarina Palmu and Rev. Matti Palmu**, Advisors for Family Life Education Program (FLEP) of EECMY-DMT at the Central Office,

II. Course Description: course builds on "*Pastoral Care in African Christianity*" studied during Degree III. The course examines the nature of Christian marriage and family life from a biblical perspective. Particular pastoral issues found in Ethiopian/African contexts are examined, sometimes using case studies, role play and discussion. The aim is to strengthen commitment to support and strengthen marriage and family life in the local congregation, and to equip with practical ideas and skills for developing such a ministry.
- The course **is specially focused on Family Life Education.**

III. Learning outcomes: After the course the students should:

- see the necessity of Family Ministry in all levels of church work;
- be aware of the importance for a church worker to take care of one's own couple relationship and family;
- consider their personal chances to serve as marriage counsellors, and
- be able to apply new information in counselling activities of their future work.

IV. Course Requirements: a) **Reading assignments:**

- Waruta and Kinoti, "Pastoral Care in African Christianity", pp. 101-155;
- Joe Leonard, "Family Ministry, A practical guide for a teaching church"
- TAG, "A Biblical Approach to Marriage and Family in Africa", chapters 8-9 (pp. 137-218)

b) **Writing assignment:**

"What is Family Ministry?" and "Planning Family Ministry"
to be submitted on Wednesday, November 17, 2004.

c) **Exam**

d) **Participation** in lectures, discussions, Case Studies etc during the Class Periods.

V. Course Schedule: **Double periods every Wed. during the first semester A&B.**

Addis Abeba (September 24, 2004,) updated December, 2005

The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus
Christian Family Life Education Program (FLEP)

Past and future Family Ministry activities (Updated in December, 2005)

Past and planned activities	On Process	Done	Status / Remarks
- Arrange one 4-day Basic Marriage Course for each Synod / Working Area		√	Done in 2000-2004
- Prepare a Training Handbook for Family Ministry	√		3 rd draft done 2004
- Prepare handouts related to the Handbook for Family Ministry, to be given to participants			
- Prepare different teaching materials for teaching on marriage for various groups (e.g. Youth groups, Couples getting married soon, Newly married couples, Elderly couples, etc)	√		Only partly included in the Handbook for Family Ministry
- Search for suitable Textbooks on Family Ministry for Theological Seminaries	√		
- Prepare a Textbook type teaching material for Bible Schools			
- Prepare a Training Handbook for Pre-marital teaching			This will be done possibly in co-operation with the to-be-started ONS-FLEP Program in Aira
- Arrange the first series of Training of Trainers Courses (up to now 5 courses in different areas of EECMY, i.e. in Hossana, Mettu, Nekemte, and two courses in Debre Zeit)		√	1 st TOT Course in April 2002 2 nd TOT Course in February 2003 3 rd TOT Course in April 2003 4 th TOT Course in September 2004 5 th TOT Course in November 2004 6 th TOT Course in March 2005 7 th TOT Course in July 2005
- Create a sustaining system for Training of Trainers (TOT) Courses according to the needs of the different Church Units	√		More TOT's 2006 onwards
- Arrange TOT Courses for future Teachers of TOT Courses (Training of Trainers of Trainers)			
- Create a ongoing system for TOT Refresher Courses	√		1 st TOT Refresher Course in March -04 2 nd TOT Refresher Course in future
- Encourage and assist the Church Units to arrange teaching / Courses on Marriage / Family Ministry	√		Going on in (at least) 19 Synods or Area Works; the Units will get trained instructors during coming years
- Arrange Special Course on Family Ministry for all the Theological Seminaries (at least one course for each graduating class, during their years of study)		√	Done yearly at MYTS, once every two or three years at HMYs, ONS, NCEC
- Prepare a FLEP-curriculum for MYTS and EECMY Regional Seminaries		√	Done in 2004

Past and planned activities	On Process	Done	Status / Remarks
- Nominate a Responsible Contact Person for Family Ministry for all the Synods and Work Areas			These people are to be nominated from amongst the FLEP-TOT Trained people, in co-operation with the Units.
- Build up a Library on Marriage / Family Ministry, in Amharic and English	√		
- Prepare a list of available books on Marriage / Family Ministry	√		
- Encourage the Synods to provide for sale books on Marriage / Family Ministry	√		
- Arrange Marriage Courses for EECMY Central Office Leaders	√		
- Prepare a FLEP-curriculum for EECMY Bible Schools	√		
- Make plans for Marriage Counselling activities in co-operation with a local Congregation in Addis Abeba	√		
- Start plans for kind of Marriage Counselling Center in co-operation with a local Congregation in Addis Abeba, in order to provide more marriage counselling services and start Training of Marriage&Family Counsellors.			
- Prepare statements on fundamental issues concerning Marriage			
- Arrange a course for Social Health Co-ordinators and other key-persons in various fields of Church work			
- Arrange Family Ministry Consultations for concerned target groups (Youth Work, Student Ministry, Women's Work, Social Health Co-ordinators, Bible Schools' & Seminaries' staff, DASSC staff, Synod / Area Work leadership, etc.			