

Christian Family Life Education Program (FLEP)

Annual Report -2006

Introduction:-

It is obvious that the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) has Focused more on Evangelism by reaching out to new areas. Nurturing its members is also a great challenge in the field of Family Life and marriage teaching. A teaching church nurturing its members in Christian growth.

Since 2000 the EECMY Family ministry program has a vision based on Biblical teaching, in the needs of people every day life that the Gospel be lived in our Homes, our marriages, our partners children relationships. As a church and Families a teaching church has a concern about the wholeness of life and persons development.

It is true to express that Family ministry teaching has enormous potential for enriching life of a congregations relate to all generation as Christian Faith, mission, economy and all Family members. Such as where elderly, youth, children, single, couples and parents are respected. Congregations and Ministries with a Family consciousness are prophetic voices for Christian Faith, spiritual fellowship, unity, and social changes beneficial to Family in general. No other institution so completely represents Families more powerful Life of human community than a church. It should be strategic role of congregations to build bridges with membership, schools, employers, with governments and with whole commonly about the values and possibilities of healthy Family life and Marriage.

Based on the above truth, the significant of Family ministry teaching needs at grassroots level for all congregations and ministries strongly recommended by the EECMY leaders and units to implement at all levels. Though our budget was very limited we have achieved quite encouraging progress implementation activities through out the EECMY-units in 2006.

1) Family ministry teaching at Theological Institution of EECMY

A special intensive course on marriage and Family life and pastoral counseling in marriage and Family life teaching at MYTS, HMY, SNS NCTC and Bibles Schools of the EECMY units are encouraging.

A course on pastoral counseling in marriage and Family Life was taught at MYTS for degree 3 and degree 4 Theology student at the end of 2005. Due to that no course, took place at the MYTS during the 2006.

Intensive course on marriage and Family ministry was taught at (ONS) Mekane Yesus seminary for 13 Diploma Second theology students during the beginning of 2006 for twenty periods.

The second and third year Diploma theology students of ONS Mekane Yesus Seminary was taught on Marriage and Family ministry for 17 periods during the month of June 2006. Participants of the course 7 couples and 35 singles students all together there were 49 students some of them were participated with their wives.

The Central Synod NCTC taught a course on Marriage and Family life 28 Diploma two students during the month of second and third semesters for twenty periods. We would like to appreciated all the Regional Seminary family ministry Teachers for their great effort and training given to these key ministers of local congregations.

2) Teaching on marriage and Family Life at different synods. Training of Trainers (TOT)

- A. During the first and the second weeks of February, Jan. 30- Feb. 11/2006 ten course days or seventy six course hours of 8th TOT was conducted at Dibre Zeit. There were 11 couples and one single or 23 participants from six different synods (SCES-Awassa, SCS - Hossana, SES- Hegere mariam, CES Addis Ababa, WBS-Dodola, EECMY- DMT. Among the participants were Department for mission and Theology (DMT) directors.



Couple discussion



FLEP action planning



Group photo of 8th TOT at Dibre Zeit

- B. In the second and third weeks of March 6-18/2006 another ten days or seventy six course hours of 9th TOT workshop on marriage and Family life were offered to Begi Gidami synod for 34 participants. Out of the Seventeen couples 14 couples were from parishes, grasses root Congregations and three couples were from BGS synod Department Directors. Currently Begi Gidami Synod is a model to have 21 couples Family ministry instructors for the grass root congregations work.



Group photo of 9th TOT



Couple discussion



men group discussion

- C. The 10th TOT workshop was conducted during the first and second weeks of April 3-15/2006. It was a ten course day or seventy-six course hours that was conducted at Mettu (IBS). Ten couples 20 participants were participated in this workshop from Two synods (EGBS , Gembella, IBS-Mettu). Tow synods (SWBS-Mizan Teferi and WGBS- Gambella) didn't send their participant to workshop center, while the workshop proposed for 16 couples of the 4 synod.



10th TOT Group photo



Couple discussion



Teaching practice

- D. The 11th TOT workshop was held before the rainy season in the middle of May 15-27/2006 at Gimbi. Eleven couples 22 participant from Four Western Synods (BDS- Aira, WWBS, Dembi Dollo, CGS-Ijaji, and GJS Gimbi) were taught while two synods (CS- Nekemete, and WS-Boji), did not send workshop participants. At the end of the workshop EECMY-DMT Director Rev Alemu Shetta was visited the 11th TOT group at Gimbi and encouraged the participants as he emphasized on the importance of the Family Ministry teaching.



11th TOT group picture



miss understand of equality



Before bed forgiveness teaching

Thanks to God for His wonderful gifts and committed synods leaders, without their sincere cooperation none or the above mentioned activities would have been accomplished on time.

In the 8th - 11th TOT workshops, the participant were all practiced training, leading turn by turn various teaching sessions of the Hand book. After each teaching and practicing sessions the Facilitators also led feed back discussions turn by turn. Furthers more each participant doing action plan of Family ministry teaching and reported to their respected Synod what they gained from the training. If for any reason a budget constraint hamper our ministry the TOTS Trainees would handle to carry on conductive synods and congregations. All sessions were opened by synod leaders and closed by partaking from the Holy Communion.

The following different books were distributed among the TOT participants:

- ⇒ Questions young people ask,
- ⇒ The same in Amharic
- ⇒ Answers for your marriage
- ⇒ The same in Amharic's
- ⇒ Family and child raising (Amharic edition)
- ⇒ Understanding your wife
- ⇒ 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

Besides the mentioned books the participant were given main text for the course was "Strengthen the Family" a Trainer's Handbook for Family ministry in 2006. The course conducted was through two way dialogue as students teacher interacted. Participator TOT was worth while from this course. Even though two weeks second too short for such course it was believed more this allocated time could be boring.

3) Family ministry Handbook

We are very happy to introducing that the 500 copies of strengthening the Family consisting 241 pages Handbook written by Sr. Anna Kaarina and Rev. Matti Palmu has been printed in English. The text was given to translator in Nov. 1/2006 to Translate into Amharic and printing process is also ongoing even though it cost beyond our budget. We would like to thank Sr. Anna-Kaarina Palmu and Rev. Matti Palmu for their great concern and effort they did to produce Family Ministry teaching material for the EECMY Church.

4) Family Ministry Staffs in Finland

The EECMY Family Ministry Staffs have got a chance of work visit and service in Finland from August 3 - Sept. 21/2006 almost two month visiting and serving by Tamper parishes invitation.

Visiting program was arranged for FLEP staffs together with Sr,& Rev. Palmus to share and teach on Family ministry and gain from the Lutheran church experience Faith and Life. Workable program was arranged one to three weeks for FLEP staffs to teach, service and sharing on the EECMY-Family Ministry and mission.



FLEP Staffs in Finland



Sharing and Teaching on Family and Marriage

During this time we enabled to visited some part of Finland Lutheran church, congregations, parishes, FELM Mission Head Offices in Helsinki, Such as Vantaa area, Jarivipaarea, Tampered parishes, FELM Mission Office in Tampere, Kuopio synod, and some Parishes in Helsinki.

Tow month of EECMY-FLEP Staffs program in Finland was organized as follow:-

- A. The beginning of August 4-6/2006 FELP staffs hosted by S/r & Rev. Palmus and visited Ethiopian missionaries Families in Vantaa and Helsinki area
- B. During second week of August 7-11/2006 FLEP staff had a program of sharing and teaching five course day service of Christian Family for 34 people missionaries who are working in different Countries such as Botswana, Namibia, Taiwan, Ethiopia, Israel, Veaja, Bangladesh, Senegal, Tanzania, Suomi, Australia, Egypt and Japan was conduct at Jarvenpaa by FELM.
- C. Tampere parishes work visiting took place from August 12-25/2006. FLEP staffs hosted by kaleva parish who is sending parish of Kes Geneti, invited EECMY-FLEP staff for the 40 years anniversary of kaleva church week. Besides sharing, serving in Tampere Parishes, We participated also seminar of mission secretaries of Tamper district at Luopioinen and speech made by FLEP staffs on "Ethiopia Church and its Family work".
- D. In the end of August and beginning of September weeks Aug.27-Sep. 3/2006 in Kupio diocese (Savo), in addition of teaching and sharing on the Family Ministry with S/r,& Rev, Palmus EECMY Family ministry staffs had a program of Blessing for missionary journey by suonenjoki Congregation, Kuopio Mannisto Congregation Karttula Congregation and meeting with the Bishop of Kuopio were main programs.
- E. From Sep. 4-11/2006 another program was arranged by the Tampere parishes day time and divining. Messukla parish, viinikka parish, mission forum of Tampere parishes in Tesiko, elderly people seminar at Illiko, Family program for Aitolahti parish, Tampere University, Schools and Youth group in Harju parish, Tampere youth office, service at Lielahiti church in Harju parish.
- F. At the end of Our visiting 12 days program was arranged by FLEM in Helsinki, Vantta and hosted by Ms. Paivi Anttila, FELM area Coordinator, and S/r & Rev. Palums. During these days we had a time of learning, gaining FELM experience of mission and sharing EECMY- Family ministry work at EELM Head Office, Departments staffs, leaders, Sr. Elisa Blomlerg home Congregation Kannelmaki, FELM leaders families visiting Ethiopia Missionaries families in Helsinki families and FELP planning for 2007 was major visiting programs.

Generally it was successful blessing and fruitful work visit program both for EECMY-Church and Finland Lutheran Church Mission to strengthen our unit and partnership in God's Mission.



August 7-11,06
Jarvenpaa Seminar



Youth meeting



FLEP Staffs in Finland
Blessing for missionary journey

5. Other Activities

Besides our obligatory routine office and assigned work, we also participate in church and Family related services such as weeding program, teaching, preaching, on family life and counseling as stated above. Aside from our year plan we volunteered trained seventeen couples on Basic Marriage and Family Life three course days at Burayu Congregation of the CES in the second week of Jan 8-10/2006, by their own expenses. On March twelve FLEP staff preached on Christian Family life to 1300 people on Sunday worship at Begi Congregation, April 19, 2006 at Mettu Congregation to 1500 people, on April 12, 2006 after noon to 350 Couples and youth people at Mettu, on May 21st 2006 afternoon at Gimbi Congregation to 1400 youth and Families people Christian Family life teaching have been given. Special marriage training program is on going for the deaf young people by the A.A. Mekane Yesus congregation since 2005 every year.



Basic Marriage Course of Burayu Congregation picture

6. Progress of EECMY Units Family Ministry Instructors

Even though we sent report form to the EECMY- Synods before six month in June 2006, some of our synods are lagging report transmissions on time. So far we received annual report of 26 Instructors on the progress of Family ministry from 13 synods, we would like to mention and appreciate these synods by name as we have very encouraging efforts: EGBS Gemebella, WBS-Dodola, IBS, Mettu, NCES- Dessie, BDS-Aira, GJS- Gimbi, BGS - Begi , CES- Addis Abebea, WWBS-Dembi Dollo, SWS-Arbaminch, CS-Nekemete, WS-Boji, and SCS-Hossana. These Synods TOT Instructor sent us such heart warming news that they were able to train 2,232 couples,13,204 others altogether 15,436 people on Marriage and Family ministry teaching.

Future prospects of Family Ministry

The need of Family ministry: To introducing and giving awareness of the important of family life and marriage teaching 265 instructors have been trained to teach Basic marriage courses at the Church Units level.

The EECMY has more than 5629 established congregations at present. To have one couple instructor for 10 Congregations or at parishes level in the present of the EECMY-parishes more than 800 couples need to get Training of Trainers course during the coming years.

Training of Trainer program will expand in order to have enough Instructors at every EECMY-Church Units. It is our strategic to fulfill the tremendous challenge in strengthen the Family Ministry. Further more there is a need for Training of Trainers of Trainers at every Synod level. 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 and Congregations.

Follow up the TOT trainers need ongoing encouragement and further training for their service. Thus services of TOT refresher courses will continue during the year 2007. Material production: the long awaited Family ministry Handbook in English is printed and soon reached Ethiopian from Helsinki. Translation to Amharic Text is on the process, while translation in other language version will follow. There will also be a need for handout for the course participates. Other pre-marital teaching materials need to be developed. marriage counseling is an area of crying need. Hopefully when the Advisors Sr/ Rev. Palums will return from Finland they would concentrate in this area.

Gratefulness

Positive feedbacks of Family Ministry teaching from various directions are encouragements to us. We believe many are considering family ministry as one of the core EECMY priorities. The happier their marriages, the better input the church servants can give in their respective duties. As the HIV/AIDS pandemic worseness the teaching of Christian family life and faithful partnership would have no alternative. Our program momentum has doubled and tripled in the last few years and may even become a model for our country.

First of all we thank God for His grace, His presence in our work and bestowing His knowledge on us to become better servants in His kingdom. Such massive achievements are not possible without the whole support of the FELM and EECMY Units; and again we are grateful to God for such a community as that of EECMY. Thus we sincerely FELM and EECMY-CO staff and Leaders. Thank you all.

Respectfully submitted in Nov.28,2006

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