

ETHIOPIAN MISSION

Berkeley, CA - Circuit 17

The main spark that has, and still is, is the call to preach the Good News to all peoples and nations. Rev. Dereje Fantaye has taken this mandate and is reaching his own people, Ethiopians and also Eritreans that live in the Bay Area. This mission has been with the CNH District since 1999. We are still a young mission but growing to be a self supporting church. At this level, the mission has its own leadership and able to propagate the Gospel doing word and sacraments, but still is not a self supporting mission. The population of Ethiopians in the greater Bay Area is in the thousands yet the combined membership of the 7 Ethiopian and Eritrean Churches in the Bay Area doesn't even reach 500 members.

We have reached out to other Ethiopian and Eritrean churches in the Bay Area to strengthen ties, to form common goals and visions and to encourage one another. We provide a family environment where members can share the ups and downs of life together. The Church membership is comprised of various ethnic groups (Tigre, Amhara, Eritrea, and Oromo) that put all differences aside and come together to worship one God. We have reached out to the community at large through our own evangelism and we have collaborated with other Churches and ministries to organize and or facilitate programs that benefit believers such as: marriage seminars and an open air meetings and drama program designed to reach unbelievers. In addition, our Church has helped new comers to the United States to find employment, find housing and get settled. We have also helped people in need of financial assistance.

We have faced discouragement in various forms. Having recently immigrated members is a challenge, where members can be caught up in trying to move up economically by working several jobs and going to school. Some members with a lot of potential have become caught up in this race and given their spiritual life less emphasis. Another obstacle has been financial. We need to be able to be self sufficient and we are teaching the importance of giving and tithing.

The church is divided into four groups: Dorca, Hanna, Debora and Gideon. These groups will have a responsibility of doing ministry in and out of the Church. When the lay people started to involve the body will grow up. Therefore our next event is to lead these segments of the church to involve in relational evangelism among our communities and share the responsibility of leadership.

