

> **life and faith** <
Eine Reise durch Äthiopien

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>Our live in Addis Abeba is very difficult. But now we know God ... Therefore even we are hungry or we are thirsty – just we are happy by only knowing him. And he bless our house now. Just when I get something, I prayed to get that. And I never get lost. I never loose hope.<

>...and also I believe more. God is love he’s love. I think always he’s wow. Always appreciate him always. When I think about him I don’t know what can I say. About God? Wow.<



ABIB

My name is Abib Endshaw, i live in Addis Abeba. First I was live in Gondar, now I live in Addis Abeba because I am coming in this city at the first time to go to th promised land. I am a Jewish (woman). That is about me.

We was live in our house in Gondar. My father is a farmer and all of us lived by the life of farmers. Farmer Standard. And we come to Addis Abeba because of to go Israel. All our relatives are found in Israel and thats why we were coming here. And we are living in AA for eleven years. But we expect at the first time that we would go to Israel – immediately. But it is not Gods willing. We are here still now. Before we were in a good live. Because w had have our house and – its better , it was better.

They said: You have to go to Israel. Therefore it is better in Addis to go Israel. They said. So we live for eleven years. We are not going until now. But in Addis there is many problem. There is a difficult situation for a Jewish people. That means all of the eleven years – it was bad. Because we live in rent houses. And always we change house. Because the other peoples – most of the other people that live in Addis are Jewish people - The Owner of the house. Therefore they dislike us I think. They dislike Jewish people. Therefore every month they add – they add money. So it was not good, all years.

That is a good and special religion. Their not like other people. They are unique by their religion. And they believe by Tora.- that is Oyd in Amharic. Therefore they believe by that order: You have to respect Sabbath and also You have to respect your family. And also “Don’t believe by other picture” - We should not believe by any picture. And we believe by God is one. And it is really. Really faith. Because God, at the first time God give his order and his – holy order to a Jewish people. When they was in Egypt – there was a depended person. But God give freedom to his people. And he give his holy commandment. So it is a reality faith in the word.



And also he explain himself God – I am only the lord, you have to believe be me – there is no God without me. Therefore I believe by only God. And I believe all in Jewish faith and Jewish order – by Tora.

Our live in Addis Abeba is very difficult. But now we know God, Gods Love and God doing. Therefore even we are hungry or we are thirsty – just we are happy by only knowing him. And he bless our House now. Just when I get something, I pray I prayed to get that. And I never lost. I never loose hope.

HEYMI

I’m Heymi Manouk. I was born in Addis. When I was a child all of my family was orthodox. When I was eight years or above that I go by my choice. That means my choice was protestant means Pentecostal that means: I believe by Jesus. - I believe by Jesus. Jesus is not religion. He is the way, he is the life and he is truth. Because he says I am the way the truth and the life. It’s not religion – it’s not religion only.

What the bible say about Jesus, I respect that. That is my faith. And also I believe by baptism. But baptism not... I said Jesus saved my life, not baptism. If you are a Christian, orthodox, you have some understanding by yourself and others by himself and others by himself. But they are not describe the orthodox doctrine. Many like cultural things or ceremony, many things are not bible legal. So I don’t respect, I don’t receive this.

One day I I was going to a church. At that time I listen to God words. At that time I can read more. I can pray with God. I can communicate with God. So I continue by that way because it’s a good way I think.

What is God means: God create all things. All things are create by God by the word of God. Also Jesus. That means Jesus – he was alive, he was alive. And God first all things create. After that he create me and you. He create me and you. And at that time he gave for us all things all... like a manager. He gives the power.

At that time Satan was angry, by what means he fell. He can’t by power because he is not pure at that time. He said foolish things. At that time God said: No! Satan go! At that time he is happy because all people dominate by this, by Satan. So God thinks one thing. Because he is almighty. But not bad judgment. He’s freely God. So at that time Jesus is coming. Because not others give for the men the freedom.

First Jesus coming by miracle. It’s a miracle thing. When Jesus is coming under by his blood, challenged the Satan and went for the first place he’s put. So when he’s put at the first place, we are put this place because we are the men. Not by baptism. This way was given for me not by baptism.

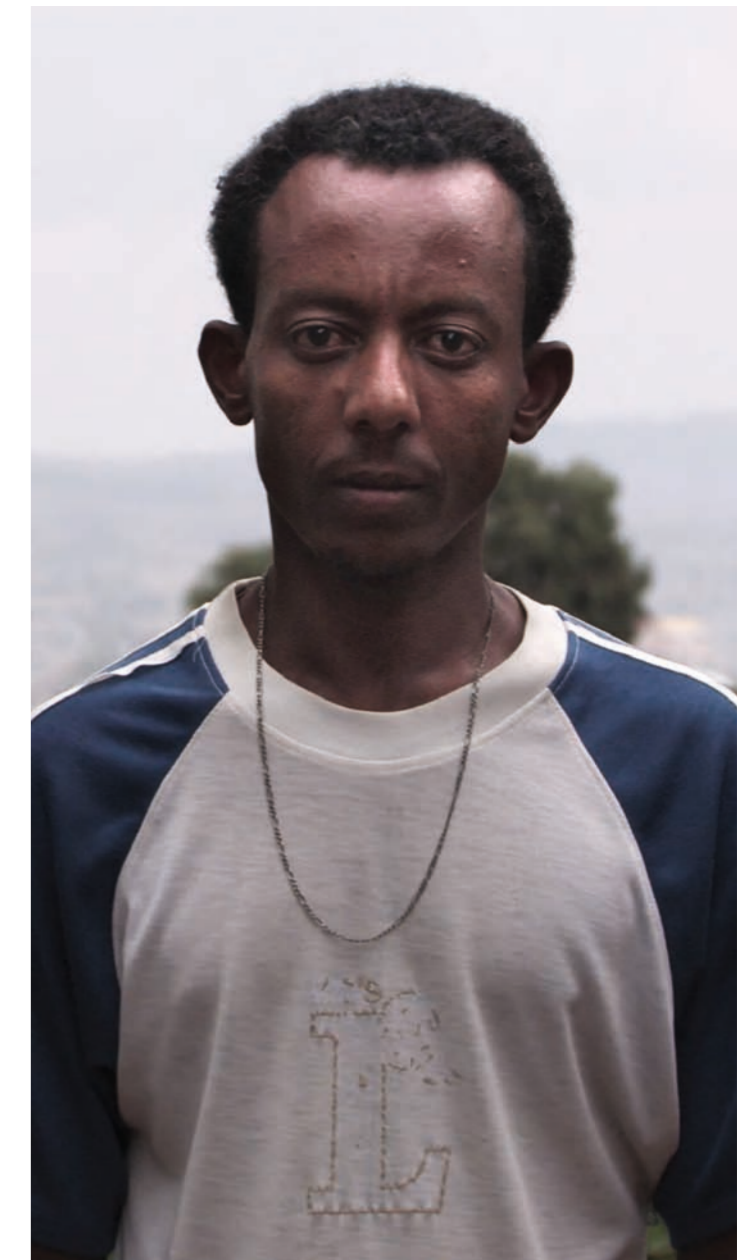
Always always I was praying. I was praying for God: Please God show me the truth way. Always: Please God show me the truth way.

By the way faith is: Bible, old testament and new testament – I believe this two things and also I believe more. God is love he’s love. I think always he’s wow. Always appreciate him always. When I think about him I don’t know what can I say. About God? Wow!



>...father please fullfill my objectives. I will like to success my education, and also protect me for other different damages for instance HIV is on of the epidemic disease in the world. So please God avoid this thing!<

>God ordered the Tora to the people, to the jewish people – its not other people ... „So don´t believe, don´t worship. From the heaven, from the earth from the sea. Don´t worship! Don´t believe without me!“<



MATHARA KASSOUM

My Name is Mathara Kassoum. I am a Christian student. I will be a medical doctor future. Because of I will like to develop our country. Si I will develop our country by hard working. And I will be a doctor. I have an own case for be a doctor: most of the teacher and other knowledge level people they were patients, but they can´t treat. In this case they disappear or die. They past away. You know epidemic. In this case most of the teachers they are attacked by HIV. SO I will like to become a medical doctor.

Most of the Ethiopian people following the orthodox faith. I already took it from my family. My family is follower of orthodox faith. I pray or I fast different month and sometimes I go to church.

After I go to the church, I pray in my own language. It may take three hours. Praying is already contact with God. You know? In our belief. In my belief really.

I prayed that he strength my education and my health well. And the well being of my family. I pray like this to protect from different damage. Please God... like this. Please avoid anything. Any unnecessary thing. In this case I can pray so many things. But I don´t like to explain by now. Like this praying: father please full fill my objectives. I will like to success my education, and also protect me for other different damages for instance HIV is on of the epidemic disease in the world. So please God avoid this thing!

By the way, contact with God – it is impossible by eye contact. You cannot see God. Mostly they can contact by different idols like St. Georges, St. Mary, St. Gabriel... St Georges – he is the Ancient to talk with God. He struggle different for his religion and after that he was the winner by God. He´s a person before. They told us that. He´s a person who fight for his religion. After that he is in the church by now. As the priest told that.

I don´t really understand my religion. Because I told you – I haven´t spare time to follow.



BABI

My name is Babi Meskerem. I came from Gondar. I stay in Addis since ten or eleven years ago. I live now alone. I am student now to the colege. I´m studying in natural sience. In the future I will like to study medicine.

The main reason was one target: I came from Gondar to aleach (Exodus to the promised land) but I don´t know the case- Not God allowed. I stay here ten years. But I´m happy to stay here. Because the God has not allowed to aleach to Israel. One day maybe God willing I will aleach to Israel.

Now my age is twenty-three. My father and my mother is, when I was child, childhood they past away. My brother now live in Israel. He married and he go aleach with his wife. He speak with me: Only he register or he filled the Israel embassy the Visa and he aleach. He was asking the Israelian embassy or the Israelian government: why my brother stay in Addis Abeba? But the Israelian governement gave no response until now. I lived with him just befor he aleach. After he aleach I lived alone still now. My father is jew, my mother is not.

When I lived in the countryside of Gondar. That time the jewish people mixed with the Christian. They were afraid to build a Synagoge or worship with the God – they were afraid. Only they teach the history of the jewish religion at home to their children. Never outside. Never teaching, never worship. Because the were afraid for the christian discrimination.

When I lived in Gondar, I learned the history of jewish and their religion and the practics at home. But when I came to Addis we build the Synagoge to collect each other of the jewish people to learn the jewish culture and to learn the jewish history. Strongly we practi-cized. We collect the children or the young boys and daughters by prayer. Three times, in the morning, in the mid day and in the evening. Three times we will pray. We pray the only one God. There are Abraham, Jakob, Isaac. The book is divided into three. In the morning prayers in the midday prayers and in th evening prayers. And the shabbat prayers are different from other days.

By shabbat or saturday we celebrate, we take the tora and we read the tora. Long time is that time. The God decided: you have to work six days. You have to rest at the seventh day. This is the God order. It is not human being order. We celebrate Gods orders. In shabbat we celebrate. This is the prayer time. At thw shabbat after the prayer we teaching and reading some story of the bible. After that we finished.

First of all I believe by the God. Without the God is not moved one step. God is creator of the world. God is created for us. Everything had God created. So God is for me – I cant explain in the words. Its my heart toaching. You know I believe strongly by God.

I don´t believe any idols, any picture. God said: without me don´t believe any picture, any idols. I´m your God or I´m your Elochim out of the Egypt. Don´t worship any picture, any idols.

Without the God is nothing. The God out of Egypt from the slave. God ordered the Tora to the people, to the jewish people – its not other people . „ So don´t believe, don´t worship. From the heaven, from the earth from the sea. Don´t worship, don´t believe without me.“

So other peoples believe different kind of ... what is religion. What is the belief. Some religions they belief by the Idols, some religion they believe by prophets. But the jewish people or the israel people only believe by the only God.

You know most of the people were displaced from Gondar. So they left their property at Gondar like home and land. But now they left from Gondar to Addis so they havent property himself. Most of the peoples have not yet good education. They were farmer so it is difficult for rent house, for the survive, for the food, for the school payments for the children. Very difficult. But thanks of God – some peoples come to help. Like from Germany and from America. They help some things. But it is not enough.

Most of the peoples aleach. But we are now still here. This is the God willing. I don´t know why that. God willing. Maybe when we stay here, God think some things to us. If it´s bad or it´s good – I don´t know. God willing.



>So if you help those who are in need, then you really believe in God because God will be happy also. If you say I believe in God and you do not help your neighbour and you don't help the people who are in need. Then you are just faking it ... I mean if you don't live in it, so what is the point then.<

TEDDY

My name is Theodrus. I am a logistician about profession. What I do here is – I am just a volunteer, helping this Ngo-Organization. When I get free time. I took my Masters Degree from Norway. I lived in Norway for almost six years and it is now two years since I moved back to Ethiopia. Just because it is my country. I have to be here. In a material context it would be much better to live in Norway than in Ethiopia. I could have made a lot of money. I mean it is a wonderful place to live in. But still it is not my country. I did not feel very comfortable to stay there. Because I have to do something in my Country. I have to contribute. You know I could not change the whole Ethiopia but I believe my contribution, my positive contribution could count. So that's why I moved back to Ethiopia.

Personal. It is your personal thing. But I can say that it is my religion has a good roll so that I have this kind of outlook. You know what I believe is. It is obvious that God is everywhere. God is everywhere. God exists in everywhere. So people be it in Ethiopia or be it in Europe or in America. If a person believes in Jesus Christ. Then no matter where he lives. Because he has God he is full. He is content, satisfied inside. The blessing of God does not put the place where you live as a condition. So it is everywhere. If you believe

God and if you believe Jesus Christ. So the blessing of God will get you wherever you live. Be it in Ethiopia or in Norway. So my believe is – God will bless me even in Ethiopia.

Money is not everything. Right? I mean I could have made a lot of money. Everyone, my friends, they stay there. They got nice jobs. They are paid well. But money is not everything. I have more values than money.

We have a lot of, many things to be done here in Ethiopia. Many many, quite a lot of things. We don't do our assignments. We don't do our homeworks there are a lot of things that should be done in Ethiopia. So if the people who get educated, than who should do the assignments. Who should do the homework? Nobody? So that is also another reason why I came back to Ethiopia. I believe God will bless me here.

The people of Ethiopia – I mean Religion is part of the people of this country. So it influences the way people behave. We do not have a very strong security forces, polices and so on, but people live peacefully here. I mean there is no high criminality rate and things like that. Though we are very poor.

> So everything that is done for humanity – the father is blessed and we are also blessed. So anything that we do for each other is a blessing that go to Christ and the godly father.<



Brother Carl

My name is Brother Carl Hamilton. I was born in Jamaica. I left Jamaica to America, New York for a decade and then I came to Ethiopia for the last 29 years. And I have been involved with the educational situation in Ethiopia from that time until now.

This opportunity that came about in Ethiopia was very wonderful and meaningful in that situation because his majesty when he went to Jamaica in 1966. It was tremendous. One of the result of that visit in Jamaica was that his majesty Emperor Hailee Selassie the First, laid a cornerstone for a school at Pan Avenue in Jamaica when he went there. It is like a sign to us Jamaicans that as the majesty saw that education is a very important tool for the good and the development of young minds. We the brothers want to recreate the same thing.

I myself went to the University in America. And I finished the University in New York, Long Island. In our mind that see that his majesty is so great in Jamaica to us with education. We in the back of our minds have always wanted to emulate his majesty efforts even in Ethiopia. Because Ethiopia and Jamaica basically faces the same problems when it comes to education and obligation and progress of his people.

As you know the Rastafarian is all about Christ. And Christ – one of his main teachings was the good Samaritan. The base or foundation of Christ teachings is goodness. And his Majesty as a man who strengthen up the teaching of Christ God he said: No do not you member reading in the of old Phillip baptized the Ethiopian official. The ancient Ethiopia and the

modern Ethiopia which his majesty has linked up in this time as a government official. He linked up the state and the church in one mis. And we Rastafarian looked up both at his humanity and his divinity when we scrutinized the Majesty life on orthodox. And as Rastafarian know: We were given the land grant here in Sheshemane. And we believing in trying circumstances in the west as you know the history of black people.

So I know education is a workable tool to make a man becomes a better man. And the Rastafarian Brotherhood have been fostering this one Love for all mankind. So with this of a perspective, wherever we go we have to help. And we are now in Sheshemane Ethiopia with the blessings of our Ethiopian people. So our all thought and mind and everything is to us: building a great Africa- building a greater Ethiopia-, building a greater World-humanity.

As the Rastafarian brotherhood would go. We believe in the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. Because yes we as Rastafarian believe in humanity growth and development of our godly father.

As believers in Germany and believers in Ethiopia we share the same sacrament – the body of Christ. So everything that is done for humanity – the father is blessed and we are also blessed. So anything that we do for each other is a blessing that go to Christ and the godly father.

From the time of Martin Luther until now we have been in the same convection – a better world. And how you can have a better world? - by people working together. God's people working together. And also remind the rest of humanity - I and I Jah love God. And you own it to yourself humanity and God. To live a better life.



>When I lived my life, I work in Denmark and I have a normal life, but it's European time and it's going very fast. And often I forgot to listen to God and to use time on what is really matters for me.<

MARTIN

My name is Martin and I'm here in Ethiopia with my danish bible school. I'm going at the bible school for five month to study the bible and Christianity. Therefore we go to Ethiopia to visit different churches and different projects at the churches here, that we support from Denmark. And we talk with the people in the church. with students, Christian students and we learn from them and get a view in their life's to see how they live with God. That is very special. It is a lot of difference from Denmark to Ethiopia. So it is very exiting to be here.

They are more spiritual here and they are not frightened to tell everyone what they believe. They believe very strongly and they pray very much. They pray, every time when they have to go to the streets to preach the Gospel they will pray for maybe one or two hours before.

They are living in a different kind of way. They are doing what we trying to do in Denmark. We trying to live on the words from God and when we come here we can see that they are really doing it. Their just believing that whatever they do – God will always protect them. And what ever they say – if they are get in trouble with the government or with any people – God will protect them. And I believe he will do. But I have just a hard time believing it in my own life. So thats some of the good thing I learn here.

When I lived my life, I work in Denmark and I have a normal life, but it's European time and it's going very fast. And often I forgot to listen to God and to use time on what is really matters for me. And therefore I go to the bible school, to learn more about and study and get some time to settle down. !!!!

It is no education for me. It is just something I volunteer. I do it because I will have some time for studying the bible and I want to have some time to listen to God and learning more about him.

I'm thankful when I go here because I see we have a lot of things that they need here. We have money and

we have food. We have whatever we want, whatever we need. And I thank God every day I'm here that I live in a world that have no needs. In the same time I envy the people here that they have so much time and that they have so much faith.

And every day here in Ethiopia hundred of people they convect to Jesus. They take Jesus in their life's. We miss that in Denmark. People in Denmark their to busy with their life. With earning money and spending them. Therefore they say: We don't need any God we don't any spiritual because we have a good life. Why should we believe in Jesus. When I'm going out of this life I have to go to one of this things. One is heaven and the other one in hell. I believing that If I go to heaven I have to be clean I have to be without a sin. And thats why I need Jesus because he is the only way that I can be without sin in front of God.

I hope that many people will reach to heaven and therefore I have a need to tell them about Jesus and to make them believe. Because that is the only way that they can go to heaven.

And I'm feel sorrow for the people that do not believe. But in the same time I'm a little afraid of telling the gospel to them. I don't know why and thats a thing I'm struggle with in my life. This is one of the things I learned from the Ethiopian people: to believe that when I preach the Gospel to the people, It is not me that is preaching that. I'm just a tool in Gods hand. And he will give me the words to... I'm always afraid of telling the wrong things and being wrong in a rich world. And the thing I learned here is to have the faith to believe that he would put his word in my mouth.



People, most of them they beg. They don't steal, they don't rob you, they just beg. And I think it is because of religion. Why people behave in this way. I has a big roll. Be it a Christian, be it a Muslim. It has a roll. I mean Christianity has a long history in Ethiopia. As you might know. Like 3000 years or so. It has a deep influence in the life of the society. I think it is a asset. It is a good asset we can use positively if we mobilize or move the religious leaders. If we change their mind. Because they have a power over the people. So they can... If they have something good they can easily, people will listen to them. We can use this leaders in a positive way if we come up with a good strategy.

Here in our Country, people come up with many different ideologies, traditions. I mean, most of them, many of them they couldn't succeed. I'm just wondering I'm studying why they failed and what should be done. I'm trying to get the wisdom and the way how it should be implemented. You may have a very wonderful idea which may not be practical. So what I need is, what I'm trying to see is... It might be simple. A simple thing but it should be implemented and make change in the peoples life. So I'm just trying to find out the, there are some, I have some ideas but I try to figure out... because that is very important. How you implement it. You might have an idea that work, but the way implement it fail. So I'm just praying for God to show me the way. How...

The most important thing I believe is: We should change the way how... There should be some kind of paradigm shift on the way we think, especially on the way we think. If we change the way we think, then our action will be changed. If our action will change then the result will be difference. So I think we have to work at the mind of the people.

Christianity is the orthodox church. So through time this faith it becomes a tradition. Peoples they simply said we are Christians because they are born from a Christian family. They don't read the bible they don't go to the church. Things changed a bit now in the orthodox church. Because before they used to preach the bible in Ge'es which is an old language which only the priests can understand but not the people. They preached, it is kind of a ritual. They read the bible in Ge'es which people who listen they don't have any idea what the preacher talk about, but they still go to the church. This kills the spiritually growth of the people of the Christian society. But things are changed now. They start to preach the bible with Amharic in which the people understand the language. Because ones the people read the bible or start to listen the preaching of the bible, then the peoples life will change. So I see positive things in the future.

My faith is the central part of almost my everything. It is my standard. How I interrupt with people, how I work. How I ... in my family as a husband. I mean I have a child also. It controls everything. So it has a positive big impact in my life. I'm just trying. I'm trying my best. Always I do try my best to life in line with the word of god. Thats how I judge things in the light of gods word.

The bible gives us an instruction on the way how we should be in relationship with god and in our relationship with our human beings. So its both side. If a person say I know God and I serve God then he should serve the people, his neighbors and his surroundings. So if you help those who are in need, then you really believe in God because God will be happy also. If you say I believe in God and you do not help you neighbor and you don't help the people who are in need. Then you are just faking it.

I'm just trying. If I don't have money as the situation lets me. I put my free time to help those people or those who work this kind of voluntary work. And I will just try to put some money, some percent of my income to help the needy to help the poor.

...that they believe in God and they said that they read the bible. I mean if you don't live in it, so what is the point then.



>In my family it was necessary that someone go to the church school. Not every child but one. So my parents made that choice for me.<



DIKON MENKER

Before six years I come from Sodjo. I already finished the studys as a dikon there but when I graduated as a dikon I wanted to continue in additional subjects of theology. Therefore I came here to Debrehem Selasie.

First I preach God to give me briefing for my studys. Then I learn with my lecture book. When I am finished I also thank to God. For Example when farmers ask to God : Please give us rain. In the same way I ask to God to give me briefings for my studys. So I contact with God by his response in my lecture book..

Early in the morning we go to the church and pray for God and Saint Mary. We have a the books of Saint Mary and the book of Jesus and many others. So every morning as the first hour we have to pray for God in the Church. Then we can go on study or we go in the city. We never will go without this. Because if we would go in the city without praying before, it could happen for example the dog bites us or we a car accident. So we never leave before the morning prayer. In the rest of the day we stay together to read the holy books.

In the end of the day, after the teacher has gone we make the preconservation for the previous studys. Which is about at 5 o clock. Then we pray.

Peoples come here in different way. I came from Sodjo. My parents elect me to go to become the dikon because I am the first child. Some of my younger brothers go to modern school, while I go to the traditional church school. In my family it was necessary that someone go to the church school. Not every child but one. So my parents made that choice for me.



I had one really awful situation when a mother who have had twins – a girl and a boy – the girl was like a stick. And the boy was full and plump. And I asked the mother – how is this? And she said I haven't have enough milk for the two. I said how could you choose to give a full amount to the boy and not to the girl. And I realized the gender issue in this country was so strong. I was really in a rage and said: God put two children in you, How could you decide which is more valuable. How can you think like this. But she came back, and she showed me the girl. And she has grown and grown and grown. Really a great success. I consider that Jesus was given by his father. Certainly his birth was one of the great events that he was planning. And he did not put him in a palace, he did not put him in a fine hotel. He did not put him in an elegant House. He did not even put him in a poor hotel. He put him in a Barren. Now why did he do that, I complaint this many many times. Why did he put him in a barren ?

We live in a intermediate technology. That means that we chose not to have a car or motorcycle. We chose no electricity and we chose not to use trucks. We use the donkeys and we buy local soil. In this way we have set up a deeper with the people. Although I am being nursing and I treated about 4000 people from malaria. We got donations and I have bought some medical supplies. We had nothing but successes. All of them. Every single child that came had have an improvement and eventually was released.

When you live with animals like we do. We have the donkeys, the sheep, the goats, the chicken, the rabbits, have I forgotten anybody? The dogs, the cats.

When you live with animals you discover the pure sweetness in them. They are sweet, sweet in their heart, sweet in their spirit ,when you see a donkey work, it gives totally, it does not contemplate not going to work, it does not consider to take a break. It is total. It pulls all with his strength. It digs into the ground and it pulls with his chest. And it gives, it gives it gives.

But I am telling you the life and the system within the church goes up and down. Thomas is out of that. This is a time outside the church.

And I will send you a copy of the gospel of Thomas. Found in 1945 the darkest time of the history of men. And in that time, thats the year I was born. I was born in 1945 and the book of Thomas was found in 1945. So I feel a correlation with Thomas and I feel my own destiny in that book..Because I can find the teachings in this. I had studied them since I was in the early twenties. I had been deeply interested in what is the world that Jesus gave. And I count on it. I hold on it. I really really decide by it. Not by doctrines not by things that come: The Mormons are doing this,The Presbyterians are doing this,The Baptists are doing this. Not by this things. But by his words. His words hold and it walks through – everything.

It is I think part of your destiny. You have come out of the place where so much darkness was. -And you come burying the name. And you come to the land...

Destiny: destiny have to do with an understanding of who you are and what God wants you to do. What does God want me to do? And nobody can tell you that. Nobody nobody nobody. That is something you find in the deep core of your own understanding.

Rainbow is the promise. The fire our heart, the spirit. Water – the mind. Water is the rain. Fire the sun. Our heart , our spirit , our mind. When these are together. You have the soul in right relationship. You have the kingdom. Your able to accomplish something for God.

Where did you come? You came to Ethiopia. Ethiopia is one of the oldest Christian nations from the world. But if you go to the churches you are going to see something and then it runs out. But the people they try so hard. Hungry people go fastening until three in the afternoon.

You have to believe when you feel like you have got to pull. Not only Comparison?? but within you, God is asking you to do something. This is something only you can know. Nobody else can know it for you. And it doesn't feel like – I understand. You know its nothing – it is not always like that it is a gentle thing.

You have no doubt that a person can do something. Jesus said: Mine are the solitary. I came to this country as a woman alone, I made three voyages before I moved here. So if I can do it as a woman, you can certainly do it as a young man.



>destiny ... have to do with an understanding of who you are and what God wants you to do. What does God want me to do? And nobody can tell you that. Nobody nobody nobody. That is something you find in the deep core of your own understanding.<

DONNA

I read a little article when I was living in Japan. I was living there for many years. And it was not very big about like this just a simple column. And it said: Four and a half million children die yearly in Africa. Yearly! And I thought that's a phenomenal thing. Four and a half million children.

It said that three reasons. The One was the lack of food. The second lack of medicine. And the Third War. And the next day it was like a little tug. Not so much physically but spiritual tug – if you can imagine such a thing. Somebody is pulling you.

I had long loved Mary the mother of Jesus. She has been one to whom I have - asked for help, prayed to an who has intersected for me many times. And it felt like her. So I took out the newspaper article and read it again. So I thought Its not that hard to grow food. It is not that hard to farm. I have been farming for years. What about a farm for children who are needing food. Who are the children who are needing food. What are these children doing out there if they do not have food. These sorts of question started roaring on into my mind.

I decided to save up my money – Africa has many countries, but I decided on Ethiopia. It was one of the most needy. And I came - alone. And I went into Addis Abeba. And I went to a church a catholic church. And I checked with the priest. Someone send me to this one priest who has interested to working with children. And I stayed and I looked for land to open a farming school for children.

Our dream is to bring HIV-Orphan-Girls, whose mothers have died from AIDS – which is a growing number of people in this country.

Just over the last years there is a sky rocketing increase in the cost of living. For example 100kg of maize has gone from below about 100 Ethiopian Birr to about sixhundredtwenty for the same 100kg. What had happened is, people have left their girls – it is a phenomenon to me but - they have picked up the husband the wife and the boys in the family. Leave in the night – they go. And the girls are left. They are abandoned. These abandoned girls wait for their parents and then sadly they realize: there is no parents – our family is broken. They leave them with no food – they just absolutely leave them.

And the girls becomes HIV positive. This comes out of men who are drunken or men who have eaten Chut. If you look at the countries information dating back 30 years. On topics HIV and Chut. They are low. They are just move along. And then they grow and they grow and they start up like an exponential curve, going in a sky rocket. And they look like: friend we are driving on the same vehicle. So for me it made a correlation between Chut, which takes the parameters of the given human nature. The sensing systems, the moral systems, the value systems. We have parameters we know This is good this is bad. This hurts - I don't like it. It makes my heart sad. This makes me feel sick. You know we have this type of reactions. They are like within a boundaries that I believe God gives us as human beings. Chut blows them way out so that the parameters are wide. And in that good and evil, love and hate, right and wrong, well and ill, these kind of things have a large field to deal with. So that what is ill – to have sex with a little five year old girl. They do not stop. So we have five or six, seven year old children who are HIV positive and they are abandoned. Our second target children are these girls.

SESI

My name is Sesi Ogayio, I'm an instructor at the Holy Trinital College and in Center Theological college. Now I'm teaching in both colleges. I'm teaching comparative theology and general churchestrie and new testament Greek. I was ordered as a deacon before 15 years.

In the monastery called Bahirdar the Maryam monastery. When I was learning in the school I was also learning in the traditional churches school. When I completed high school I had also completed those two subjects given in the traditional schools Ge'es poetry and church music which is called dequios.

You learn in Ge'es language, you don't know the meaning. You learn about... You may learn about 4 or 6 years and you may not also know the meaning. Because you are learning music, church music without knowing any meaning of the word. What is expected from you is to sing only. If you can sing it is the requirement or you have done the best. You may not know any meaning of any word which you sing.

>With much questions I got much Solutions... from day to day I'm increasing. If the ideas here conflict each other I will have to change at least those defense mechanism in getting my orthodox faith.<



And many priests are coming without explaining their faith because they learning in that way. What they learned is just singing. It is not interpreting or translating or understanding their belief or their faith in a logical and reasonable way. Sometimes I asked them also. I asked them what their thinking about when they sing without the meaning of the word. What does they feel. Some priests tell me that what is said in the church is true. So what we say is not bad at least. At least it is not bad. At least it is not illegal word. So they can use it to get gifts from their God and also mercy from their God.

Many people here, are getting their Belief from their parents. That means if my parents are Christians as a principal, the children also must be Christians. They will explain it by themselves: If you give a baby a food. He may not ask you to get food, but you give him. And if you give food and milk without question you have to give also belief without question. That means you take him to be baptized. In that time he can not speak a word. But he has to be baptized as a principal.

In the future... many people asking now about their belief. Even those who are learning at the Universities asking the priests what is being said in the church. To explain them clearly. If their asked they have to say something, but they do not allow you to ask them. So people are coming to be doubters. Someone who did not learn. Who has no reason for the existence of God may hesitate or doubt many things. That is why – without learning believing may be difficult in the future here in the church.

The Ethiopian Church base or Background is just the Old Testament. When we compare it we can say the Ethiopian Church is one of the Oriental Orthodox Church. But among the Oriental Orthodox Church we can consider it as the ancient one. -----The others may not start from the old testament. At least their culture shows that they are not -----

My Faith is. I believe in God who is one in Person and three in divinity. That means those three persons the father, the son and the holy spirit are the same in each sense. And I believe in Jesus Christ. That means he is one of these three persons and he is begotten from the father before the creation of this universe. And I also believe in the holy spirit because he is from the father before the creation of this universe. And I also believe in the holy spirit who proceeds from the father. All from the bible parts have been written by those inspired people, by God – I believe this. The church, we, believe that if when two people are together there will be with them Christ. Jesus Christ since he has promised to be there.

With much Questions I got much Solutions. Every Day, from Day to Day I'm increasing. If the ideas here conflict each other I will have to change at least those defense mechanism in getting my orthodox faith. That orthodox faith may be in trouble when I learn more. I'm sure that. People who became very good philosophers were doubting much. That means when they learned, when they searched for more truth they are going away from the faith. To be like them is very difficult here in Ethiopia. I can not even if I want I can not. I'm sure. At least I maybe to be the one who can be a good theologian. That means a person who can get a good defense for religion.



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Was bedeutet Glauben? Was bedeutet Leben? Wie beeinflusst das Eine das Andere? Glauben heißt nicht Wissen. Glauben ist die Entscheidung für eine persönliche Gewissheit.

In einer Gesellschaft welche von hartem Überlebenskampf und persönlichem Verzicht geprägt ist, manifestiert sich der persönliche Glaube als Lebensinhalt. Dann wird Spiritualität zu Passion und Glaube zu Schicksal.

Auf der Suche nach Bestimmung und Erkenntnis durchstreift der kosmopolitische Mensch die Höhen und Niederungen des menschlichen Seins. Muss er das? Gibt es nicht eine einfachere Möglichkeit derer sich schon viele mit Erfolg angenommen haben? Glauben für die Seele und Arbeit für das Leben? Kann es es so einfach sein?

„... this sort of question starting roaring in my mind.“
(Sister Donna, IW, 04/2009, Awasa, Ethiopia)

Vor 10 Jahren lernte ich Afrika erstmals kennen. Nun kurz vor meinem Diplom drängte es mich sehr den Kontinent wieder zu besuchen: Es sollte doch möglich sein, ein afrikanisches Thema zu finden, welches über das allgemeine Bedauern der Lebensumstände seiner Einwohner hinausgeht und von dem wir noch lernen können.

Auf meiner Reise durch Äthiopien suchte ich Menschen, die glauben müssen. Weil sie leben wollen, und Hoffnung brauchen. Denn in einer Welt in welcher die Realität jeden Tag die eigene Existenz in Frage stellt ist der persönliche Glaube eine Festung die Sicherheit und Kraft verspricht. Auf dieser Suche kam ich den Menschen, ihrem Land und ihren Glaubensvorstellungen näher und hatte sehr intensive Begegnungen mit beeindruckenden Menschen.

Diesen Menschen, die durch ihr Schicksal daran gebunden sind ein Leben in einem zutiefst verarmten Land zu fristen und ohne Ausweg diesen beschwerlichen Weg mit der Kraft der Religion zu bestreiten, ist diese Arbeit gewidmet. Sie sollen dabei zu Wort kommen, präsent sein und mit dem Stolz den sie verdienen ihren Beitrag zu dieser Arbeit leisten.

Als visueller Botschafter versuche ich stets, Wahrheiten und Inhalte medial erfahrbar zu machen. Um den veränderten Sehgewohnheiten der Betrachter in unserer hypermedialen Umwelt gerecht zu werden, wurde diese Arbeit deshalb in Form einer Videoinstallation realisiert. Dabei wird außerdem die Aufgabe der Gewichtung interaktiv an den jeweiligen Betrachter übergeben, wobei der zeitlich lineare Charakter des Films sowie der Fotografie aufgebrochen, und die Tiefe bzw. Länge der Bilder erhalten wird.