



BUILDERS

Building the Kingdom. Transforming Lives. One Investment at a Time.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER:
More on Culture Wars

CHURCH SERVICES:
Unsecured Loan Program

A Place
to Belong

CHURCH SPOTLIGHT:
Addis Kidan Evangelical Church,
Aurora, CO

Addis Kidan Evangelical Church

ADF CHURCH LOAN

Church: <i>Addis Kidan Evangelical Church</i>
Pastor: <i>Teame Desta</i>
Address: <i>15150 E Evans Ave</i>
<i>Aurora, CO 80014</i>
Phone: <i>(720) 857-9402</i>

Loan type:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building purchase	<input type="checkbox"/> Land purchase
<input type="checkbox"/> Building renovation	<input type="checkbox"/> New construction
<input type="checkbox"/> Refinance	

Ministry Focus:

*Reaching the Ethiopian
and Eritrean population
in America.*

Ethiopia in the Alliance - Part 1

The C&MA excels at taking the gospel to the nations, but what about when the nations come to us? Do we welcome them as brothers and sisters? What if their worship style and culture are distinctly different? Do we simply assume that ethnic churches prefer to “stay among their own”?

Pastor Teame Desta of Addis Kidan Evangelical Church in Aurora, Colorado, would encourage us to “Remember, America is also a mission field. Don’t be afraid to talk to ethnic groups and encourage ethnic churches. The Alliance is supporting us to grow and reach our people. Don’t be afraid of reaching the ethnic church.”

Currently, more than 20 Ethiopian and Eritrean* churches are found in more than a dozen districts of the Alliance. Estimates show that the Ethiopian and Eritrean population in Denver exceeds 30,000. Other American cities have large concentrations of immigrants from these African countries, many who came to escape religious

(Continued on inside)

COVER STORY (cont.)

persecution. They arrive looking for familiarity and a place to belong. Addis Kidan is the story of a church longing to belong.

Pastor Teame was born and raised in Ethiopia. He came to faith while his homeland was under communist rule. “It was a tough time,” he explains, “to believe [in Jesus] was almost deciding to die for Him.” Yet he felt called to serve Christ all over the country, leading a lay ministry movement while working as an economist for the government, but God wanted more from him. When a door opened at a seminary in Denver, he went through it. He planned to return to Ethiopia after graduation, but when a group asked him to stay and lead them in reaching the growing Ethiopian population, he willingly accepted.

Addis Kidan (“New Covenant”) began in 1999 as a home Bible study. It eventually faced a good but difficult challenge – it needed a home. Each time they arranged to meet in another church’s facility, a complication arose. “It became a nightmare,” Pastor Teame explained. He considered dissolving the now 300-member fellowship because they simply couldn’t find a place to meet.

God provided. Pastor Jonas Wharton and the Aurora Alliance Church invited Addis Kidan to share their space indefinitely. For

more than three years, the congregations ministered side-by-side, until God provided a place of their own. Sooner than expected, another Ethiopian church in the area wanted to sell to Addis Kidan – immediately.

“We were not ready when they approached us. Everything came suddenly,” explained Pastor Teame. “ADF understood our situation and helped us. They wanted us to have this beautiful church building. Another church was competing with us, and ADF was able to expedite the situation.”

After 15 years, with the help of an Alliance church and ADF, Addis Kidan finally found a place to call home.

In the next issue of Builders, read more about the Ethiopian churches in the Alliance.

To share with our Alliance family what God’s doing in your fellowship to advance the Kingdom, please contact us at adf@adf-inc.com

*Until 1993, Ethiopia and Eritrea were one nation. Immigrants from these countries come from the same culture.



“Addis Kidan (“New Covenant”) began in 1999 as a home Bible study. It eventually faced a good but difficult challenge – it needed a home.”

President's Corner

Sharing with Larry McCooey



MORE ON CULTURE WARS

Dear Fellow Investors and Friends

In the Spring 2014 issue of *Builders*, I wrote about culture wars and their impact on our nation and our world. I also stated that to the extent that the Christian worldview is overcome, the question of suppressed religious liberty arises. According to one survey, the majority of senior pastors of Protestant churches said religious liberty is on the decline in the U.S. and a like majority of Christians believe we are losing the culture war.

In addition to the sources I referred to in my last article, I recently read a speech that President Ronald Reagan gave at Moscow State University in 1988. Reagan explained that freedom had to be built on a strong spiritual foundation and included this quote from President George Washington in his Farewell Address: "Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."

In light of this entire discussion, I want to share with you what one international worker, Tim Westergren, wrote to me in response to my Spring article. I found it challenging and encouraging:

"We will lose the culture war. The decadence of societies that abandon an absolute source of moral knowledge is inevitable. There is a war in the heavens that will reflect itself in our history until the

end comes. We know that the antichrist must grow in power and deceive the nations. Will we be found faithful? Will we, like those faithful ones under persecution, continue to love justice, show mercy and walk humbly with our God? Will we spend our energies in service to the poor and in appealing to every person's conscience in the sight of God?...

I write these words on Good Friday. It seemed to the disciples that all was lost. We may mourn the loss of our moral majority, but Friday is not the end of the story.... Death could not hold him back. And godlessness cannot either. The beleaguered believers in the Roman Empire had no way of knowing that the Way would flourish in the face of a pluralistic society. It did—and will again!"

Thank you again for standing with Alliance churches that are impacting individual lives, communities, and cultures around the world through your investments in ADF. Please share your thoughts and comments by contacting me at presidentcorner@adf-inc.com. They are always most welcome.

Lawrence L. McCooey, CPA, PFS, CGMA
President





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