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THE ETHIOPIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH MEKANE YESUS
ILLUBABOR BETHEL SYNOD

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 METTU, ILLUBABOR

Rev. Tariku Tolessa
 IBS Evangelism Department Director
 Mettu

August 7th, 2004

Grace and peace to you!

Ref: - **Submitting the 2004 (1996) Youth and Sunday school Section Activity report**

Attached, please find the narrative report of IBS Youth and Sunday school ministry activity report prepared per your request.

With best regards,

Amanuel Teferi

Amanuel Teferi
 Youth & Sunday school Ministry
 Coordinator



CC:

IBS-General Administration

IBS-Finance Department

IBS-DASSC

Mettu

Mr. Doug Sensabaugh

Shenandoah Presbytery PC/USA

VA-USA

The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus
Illubabor Bethel Synod
Youth & Sunday school Ministry
Narrative activity report of the year 2004 (1996)

I. Background

The purpose of IBS Youth and Sunday School Section is to strengthen and coordinate the overall ministry of the youth and children within the Synod. In order to meet its goals, in the current physical year a number of significant works have been accomplished. Having the motto of the church, "serving the whole person", IBS youth and Sunday school section is also entertaining social, spiritual and economic issues that are linked to the situation of the contemporary youth and children. Generally, the ministry of the youth and Sunday school section of the Synod is one of the actively running works among others.

II. Trainings, Seminars and Conferences

The 1996 Ethiopian Calendar activity of the section was began by the University/College Students Seminar that had 40 participants. On the other hand there have been several trainings that were facilitated in different level of the Synod. All the trainings, seminars and conferences conducted were in partial fulfillment of the AIDS Education Project. The places where the seminars were conducted are Saylem Presbytery for 48 leaders, Jimma Presbytery for 32 leaders, Masha Presbytery for 48 leaders Salle Nono Out-rich area for 23 people, and Darimu Presbytery 48 leaders. In addition, a workshop was facilitated in Hurumu Parish by the support of AIDS Education Fund.

Youth Conference has been undertaken in Ermich Congregation of the Yeki Godere Presbytery and Dupha Congregation of Darimu Presbytery. In Dupha congregation, a lecture about the need of education has been conducted for more than 50 young students.

The other significant part of our training was the "Youth Festival Against AIDS" that was performed in Mettu Community Hall. More than 3000 people from all denominations were participated during the Festival. During this Festival 283.50 Birr was raised to assist people living with HIV/AIDS that was utilized by Illubabor Zone AIDS Secretariat Office.

Recently, In Yeki Godere Presbytery, Godere Parish and in Dingerech Parish, youth and Sunday school leaders were also participated in the Congregational Leadership Training.

The IBS Youth and Sunday school Leaders consultation and Training of Trainers workshop was commenced in IBS Training Center, from August 3-6, 2004 having 59 participants from all the Synod Units. During this consultation different kinds of issues including HIV/AIDS and discipleship were raised and whereby the overall activity of youth and Sunday school ministry of the Synod was evaluated and recommendations were gathered for a better ministry in the coming budget year.

Generally, more than 370 Youth & Sunday School Leaders were addressed, excluding huge number of congregants approached on different regular worship programmes, on youth services, conferences and festivals. Thus, the trainings, seminars and workshops that have been facilitated have a positive impact on the growth of the church and on the productivity of the youth and children ministry within the Synod.

III. Implementation of Projects

As it is mentioned above, the implementation of the AIDS Education and capacity building Project for the Youth and Sunday School Ministry is started to be well accomplished in this year. As you well know, Shenandoah Presbytery PC/USA has approved the AIDS Education and Capacity Building Project of Youth and Sunday School Ministry for three (3) years that costs \$ 21,000.00 USD. Therefore, our strategy should be utilizing the fund appropriately not more than \$ 7,000.00 USD, every year.

The English Tutorial Class Project that is supported by the Shenandoah Presbytery PC/USA is also started this summer. As a part of fulfilling the project, we have donated 90 dictionaries and 50 reference books that worth 3700.00 Birr to Mettu Senior High School. There is a room for the continuation of the project that we shall remain contributing all the necessary efforts to our best in the coming year.

As we know, the Opequen Church PC/USA also has approved the Multi-Purpose Youth Center Project that we are now waiting for the release of the fund to establish the center fully. This work needs due attention and follow-up of the Synod so that the local government shall provide a plot of land where we build the library. We hope that a group of people is coming in the fall 2004 to visit the Center and thereby handover the initial fund.

IV. Anti-AIDS Club

The exemplary self-supporting Anti-AIDS club organized among Mettu Bethel Congregation Youth (BYCLAPC-Bethel Young Christians Literature & AIDS Prevention Club) is performing awareness raising dramas and literatures in different congregations and on Youth Festivals, Seminars and conferences; by the Support of the Synod and some willing personnel and Congregations. IBS Youth & Sunday school section in its part has provided 500. ETB, so that this club would buy necessary equipments that are helpful for its mission. This section shall remain working with this club and assist the club in any way found to be fitting, in the process of fighting against AIDS.

V. Challenges Encountered

- The absence of appointed youth & Sunday School ministry coordinators in many Synod Units
- The lack of ample training materials (Information, Education and Communication materials)
- The delay of the first check of the fund for the AIDS Education Project

- Unable to gather evaluation forms that were distributed to the Synod Units, because most of the Units did not send back the evaluation forms.

VI. Future Plan

- To continuously implement Trainings and Seminars in all the Synod Units and in some highly demanding congregations in towns.
- To prepare Youth and Sunday School Ministry Discipleship and AIDS Education training manuals (ICE materials) at the Synod level.
- To buy necessary office supplies, a computer and camera for the activity of the Section, especially for the AIDS Education Project implementation.
- To evaluate the activity of Youth and Sunday School Ministry in the Synod Units
- To support some Synod Units to employ a contractual Youth and Sunday School Ministry Coordinators.
- Working on New Project Proposals that are related to the youth and children.
- Implementing the next phase of the AIDS Education Project.
- Facilitating Seminars annually for IBS University & College students during their break time, in order to familiarize the AIDS Education and other doctrinal and experiential issues related to our Church.

VII. Acknowledgement

I would like to thank: -

- Shenandoah Presbytery PC/USA for funding the AIDS Education and Capacity Building project.
- EECMY IBS Evangelism Department, General Office, and DASSC-Health Section for their unreserved cooperation and support for youth and Sunday school ministry.
- IBS Finance Department for providing proper and updated financial reports of the fund for this section.
- All IBS staff, IBS Units, national and international colleagues who directly and indirectly assisted youth and Sunday school ministry of the Synod.
- God who is strengthening the ministry and who is providing helpful resources of the Synod.

**“For from him and through him and to him are all things.
To him be the glory forever! Amen.” Rom. 11:36**

Respectfully presented,

Amanuel Teferi

August 7th, 2004
Mettu