



Faith2Share Leaders' Retreat, Consultation and Training Modules

3-10 October 2014

Red Cross Training Centre, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

When two walk together

The senior leaders of the member agencies and movements of Faith2Share have met together about every 15 months for the past 14 years. In 2000 it was just six people who met together but this year we gathered almost 70 from over twenty different nations. Our theme this year was "When two walk together: Building effective partnerships in mission leadership for global impact". This was an allusion to Amos 3:3 which asks, "Do two walk together, unless they have agreed to do so?" As one of our Bible study leaders reminded us we need to read this whole thing backwards, ie. **Global impact** comes from **mission leaders** who are in **effective partnerships** because they **walk together before God**. Our fellowship together was also



blessed by meeting together in a land, Ethiopia, where Christians have walked together before God for at least fourteen centuries. We had a strong participation during this time of mission and church leaders from Ethiopia and we hope that our time together was also a blessing to them.

Together in three ways

Following discussions at our last Leadership Consultation in Bangkok in 2013, we decided this time to meet together in three different ways, or for three different stages. We began with

Network Members

AIMS Sri Lanka, ARDF Australia, Antioch Mission, AsiaCMS, Asian Outreach International, BORN, Church Army Africa, Church of Nigeria Missionary Society, CMS Africa, CMS Australia, CMS, CMS Ireland, Friends Missionary Prayer Band, Global Teams, Indian Evangelical Mission, Interserve India, Ise-e Jamat, Mar Thoma Evangelistic Association, Mission Together Africa, Mission Together Inc. (Canada), NAMS Network, National Mission Commission, Nepal, New Life for India, New Zealand CMS, PMI, SAMS Ireland, SAMS USA, SOMA UK, The Sheepfold Ministries

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a **Retreat** for some of our more senior leaders, continued with the core **Leadership Consultation** for all participants and then concluded with two days of **Training Modules** for those who wanted to stay on and delve deeper into specific topics. About 75% of the participants stayed on for this last section. We were also blessed this year to have one of our members, NAMS Network, offering a whole series of workshops on Church Planting as part of the Training Modules. At the end a significant number of people stayed on for two days of engagement with the culture, faith and people of Ethiopia through our 'Experience Ethiopia' programme facilitated by a local Ethiopian Church elder. This concluded with worship in Orthodox, Anglican and Meseret Kristos churches on Sunday.

Participants and Visitors

A high proportion of our member agencies and movements were represented at the consultation, together with several who are seeking membership, and others who relate to us as emerging mission movements. The most significant gap was that we only had one representative from Latin America, mainly because our dates clashed exactly with a missions congress in Brazil which drew leaders from across that continent, led by Silas Tostes (who leads our member agency Antioch Mission). We were also disappointed to see few women amongst those attending, sadly a reflection of the gender of the leadership within our member agencies, but something we seek continually to challenge.



In total 61 mission leaders participated in the consultation with a few more locally based leaders joining us for specific sessions. The largest groups were from India, Nigeria and Ethiopia itself but we also had participants from New Zealand, Australia, Singapore, Nepal, Myanmar, Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, DR Congo, South Africa, Namibia, Ghana, UK, Canada, USA and Chile (two of whom work in Thailand and Tanzania).

It was particularly helpful this year to have a stronger representation of church leadership with no less than four bishops present (from India, Ethiopia, Kenya and Nigeria). This enabled a frank discussion of the tension that at times exists between missions and churches.

A full list of participants can be found at appendix 1 on page 12

Presentations from individual sessions Many of those who led sessions have given us very helpful papers or powerpoint presentations which are available to all Faith2Share members. These can be downloaded from the *Faith2Share* website once you are logged in as a member. (If you do not have a username and password consult the Faith2Share office.)

Mission Leaders Retreat

About twenty five of our participants gathered on Friday 3 October (with the rest due on Sunday 5 October).

Responding to requests made at our 2013 gathering our time in Addis Ababa began with what we termed a “Leaders’ Retreat” designed to give some of our more senior leaders time to relate together and consider a few issues in a less pressurised environment. We realise now that by using the term “Retreat” we built up expectations which we did not fully meet and this learning will shape what we do in future. The programme, as planned, was to contain four main elements:

- Bible Study and prayer
- Interviews with three leaders
- Discussion of just three mission issues
- Free time for networking

We were given three excellent Bible studies by Bisoke Balikenga (DR Congo), Margaret Kumapayi (Nigeria) and Bishop Joseph Mutungi (Kenya) which set the tone for these two days together. Following each Bible study a member of our staff team interviewed one of the mission leaders about their experience in mission, the challenges they face and some of their hopes and vision for the future. We also took time to pray for them. The three leaders interviewed were Wondimu Mathewos (Mekane Yesus International Missionary Society, Ethiopia), Margaret Kumapayi (Church of Nigeria Missionary Society) and Bishop Joseph Mutungi (Diocese of Machakos, Kenya).



The three mission issues we took time to address had all been suggested by participants and the sessions were led in a participatory manner by key mission leaders. They were:

- **Healthy mission leadership and how to avoid burnout**, led by Aila Tasse (Lifeway Mission International) and Richard Mayabi (Church Army Africa)
- **Creating effective member care**, led by Stewart Wicker (SAMS-USA), Titus Kumapayi (Church of Nigeria Missionary Society) and Solomon Doss (Indian Evangelical Mission)
- **Mentoring younger leaders and growing the next generation of mission leaders**, led by John Amalraj (Interserve India)

What we learnt this year was that it is not really possible to deal with such important and engaging topics in the context of a ‘retreat’. Because of the desire to discuss each in depth almost all sessions over ran and we lost all of the free time except for one evening which had been designated for ‘informal sharing’ and prayer. We now know that in future we need to either plan for two days of “discussion on key topics” for senior leaders or a retreat with no attempt to address mission issues. It is fair to say that most of the leaders really appreciated the input on these three issues and the chance to discuss them with colleagues who hold

similar responsibilities. But, at the same time, there was some disappointment that we did not get the space to fully step back from our work and engage with God in a more relaxed way. Our current thinking is that next time we will plan a real “Retreat” and keep the issues for the Leadership Consultation that will follow.

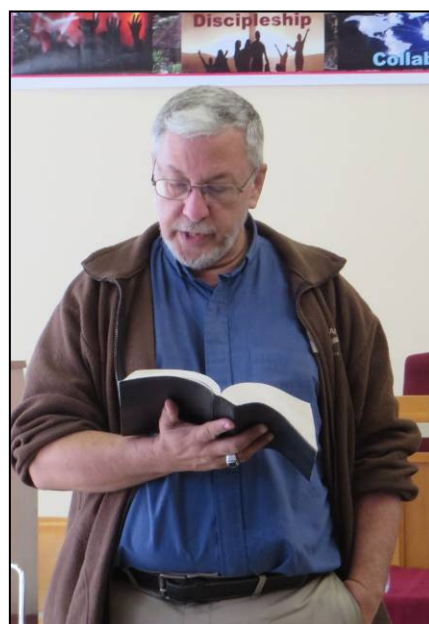


It was during the Leaders’ Retreat that we began to see one of the key themes emerge which was to be reflected throughout the whole consultation (see below), this being the role of mentoring in mission, both as a model for training disciples and also as a key methodology for equipping effective mission leaders.

Leadership Consultation

During the morning of Sunday 5 October most of our remaining participants arrived so that we could begin our Leadership Consultation with worship soon after lunch. As part of this opening worship Bishop Grant LeMarquand, Anglican bishop of Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa, gave us the first of his three Bible studies. For this first study he took as his text Revelation 7 (with Revelation 7:9 being the Faith2Share vision verse). He spoke of the people of God as being multi-national, forgiven, redeemed and worshipping, suggesting that today we see multitudes going through tribulation (e.g. refugees) and needing to be brought under the shelter (verse 15) of “the One who sits upon the throne”.

After a session in which our trustee, John Wesley (General Secretary of IEM) and Mark Oxbrow introduced the Faith2Share network to newcomers and brought others up to date with our current strategy and focus on Discipleship, Collaboration and emerging Mission Movements, participants spent the rest of the afternoon in small groups. The objective of this time, led by Phil Simpson (Global Teams) was to enable us to hear each others’ stories and to get to know those we had not met before.



The day concluded with an evening of worship and celebration at which we benefited from the musical leadership of a choir from Beza International Church, who were to serve us again

later in the week with their talent for music and sensitivity to inter-cultural worship. The preacher at this service was Wondimu Mathewos the Director of the, relatively new, International Missionary Society of the Mekane Yesus Church (Lutheran) in Ethiopia. His message was an inspiration and challenge to all nations, not least his own, to take their place in the mission of God.

Leadership Consultation : Day 2

The focus of most of this second day was mission in and from the Horn of Africa. After beginning the day with worship and Bible study we invited *A R (name withheld for security reasons)* of City Teams International to present on the “Mission Challenges and Opportunities in the Horn of Africa”. With references to the strategic geopolitical position of the Horn, its rich Christian heritage and its significance as a meeting place of religions, A encouraged us to think about how our mission commitments relate to this region. He defined the Horn of Africa as Egypt, Sudan, South Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somaliland, Somalia and Djibouti, a region that also faces many challenges which in recent years have included famine, persecution of Christians, civil war and terrorism. Some of the oldest Christian communities in the world are to be found in Egypt and Ethiopia and the history of these churches is entwined with the birth and spread of Islam across the region. (In the century before the birth of Mohammed Ethiopian Christian kings ruled parts of the Arabian peninsula.)



A encouraged us not to forget the persecuted Christians of the region, not only in Eritrea but also in Sudan and parts of Ethiopia itself. He then introduced us to the growing missionary movements of the region and encouraged us to pray for these and the growth in confidence of the churches.

The second half of the morning allowed us to listen to Bishop Grant LeMarquand and Wendy tell us about the amazing growth of the Anglican church in Gambela (SW Ethiopia) and the work of his church in other parts of the region. Wondimu Mathewos then introduced us to the churches of Ethiopia setting each in its historical and contemporary context giving due credit to the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church for preserving the Christian faith over so many centuries and especially during the communist period. Most of his time, however, was given to discussing the challenges of establishing cross-cultural mission work through which Ethiopians can serve around the world. In addition to the practical challenges of organisation and finance he spoke about the need for a major mindset change. Ethiopians need to start



thinking of themselves as missionaries and mission as their responsibility, not something that comes from Europe or the USA. He told us that Ethiopians have a huge potential and opportunity for mission (not least through their diaspora) and described how his own Mekane Yesus Church is beginning the process of sending out Ethiopians.



In the afternoon consultation participants visited four different mission projects in Addis, each run by a different church or local NGO. We saw the excellent work undertaken with street boys, the disadvantaged, the disabled and many others in the community. One sad omission from our programme (realised too late!) was the provision of adequate time for debriefing after these moving and thought-provoking visits.

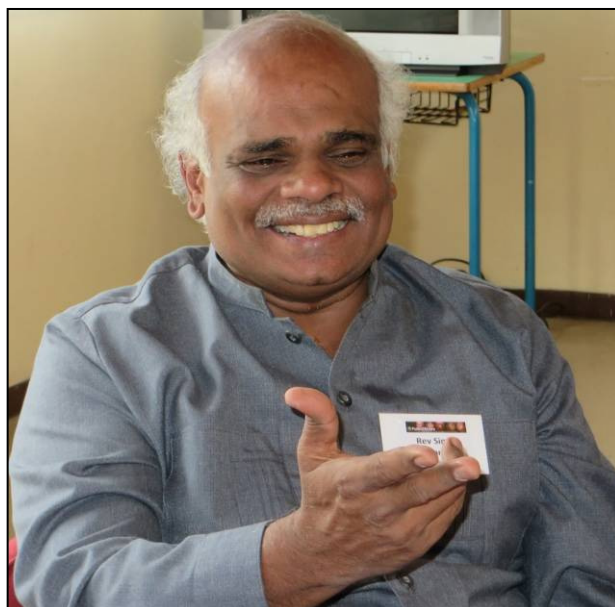
In the evening we changed track and had a session, led by Adeolu Adedapo (Nigeria) and Tek Prasad Rijal (Nepal) reflecting on the Faith2Share 'Depth Discipleship' programme, its contribution to date and how it might develop in the future. We were pleased to hear that in more than one case consultations run by Faith2Share have stimulated others to run similar consultations for other leaders later on.

Leadership Consultation : Day 3

Having reflected on the context of mission (the Horn of Africa and our own) over the first two days we turned, on the third day, to look at how, as leaders, we facilitate mission movements in challenging contexts – mobilising, strategising, resourcing and building partnerships.

Simon Ponniah, General Secretary, of Friends Missionary Prayer Band in India got us off to a very good start with his Bible study and reflections which encouraged us to model our mission on the ways of God and to seek his ways of resourcing and training leaders. The choir from Beza International Church also enhanced the worship led by Robin Watson (ReachAcross) that morning.

The first session on '**Mobilising Churches and Prayer for mission**' drew on the experience of very significant recent mission movements in India, Nigeria and Burundi with input coming from Simon Ponniah (Friends Missionary Prayer Band (FMPB), India), Timothy Olonade (El-Rehoboth Global Leadership Foundation, Nigeria) and Onesphore Manirakiza (Harvest for Christ Ministries, Burundi). Now the largest member agency of Faith2Share, we were reminded that FMPB began a few decades ago simply as a movement of prayer for the nation of India and continues to prioritise prayer in all it does. Speaking from his experience as Executive Director of the Nigerian Evangelical Missions Association, Timothy talked about the importance of

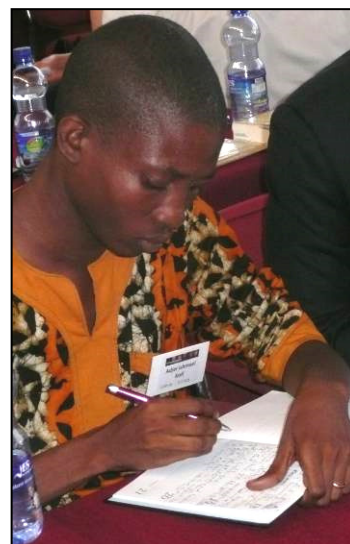


mobilising churches for mission and how we might go about this. Onesphore brought us back to focus on prayer quoting Matthew 9:37-38 “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few, therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest” and sharing the amazing growth of commitment to mission in Burundi.

As we then moved on to consider our strategy for mission John Wesley (IEM, India), Livingstone Nyanje (The Sheepfold Ministries, Kenya) and David Oludotun (Kingdom Gospel Missions, Nigeria) took us through an interactive session looking at the challenges of **“Mission in hostile environments”**. Livingstone has experience of working amongst people of a Somali background in refugee camps in Kenya, David of the clash with Islam in Northern Nigeria and Wesley drew from the increasingly difficult contexts of some parts of India where religious intolerance and persecution are on the rise.



After lunch our thoughts turned to **“sustainability in mission and dealing with the challenges of dependency and patronage”**, a session led interactively by Stephen Burgess (CMS, UK), Serah Wambua (CMS Africa) and Bisoke Balikenga (Anglican Church of Congo). The intense and sustained engagement in the discussion groups underlined how important this topic is for mission leaders within Faith2Share. There was recognition that dependency is often created “from both ends” with ‘Northerners’ having a vested interest in sustaining patronage and ‘Southerners’ not always wanting to, but feeling they need, to prolong dependency. The groups met three times to look at (a) Dependency, (b) Sustainability, and (c) Economic Empowerment. One thing that became very clear during these sessions was that Asian and African mission leaders often have a lot to learn from each other. It was also clear that ‘Northerners’ sometimes focus too much on ‘financial’ resourcing and that God has all sorts of different ways of resourcing His mission. We were also challenged to look at new models for mission more appropriate to our individual mission movements.



The final session of the afternoon focused on how we are “**building effective partnerships in mission**”. In this we were facilitated by Richard Mayabi (Church Army Africa) and Paul Radha Krishnan (Chair of Indian Missions Association).

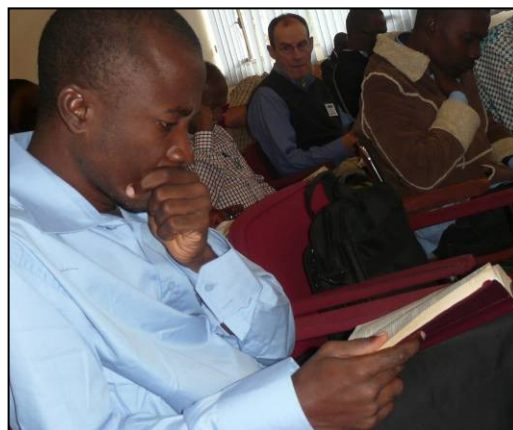


After dinner the consultation members welcomed a number of local guests, church and mission leaders, for our Open Evening which began with a traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony before we moved inside to be led in worship by musicians from a local Pentecostal church. After a small panel of Faith2Share leaders had introduced our local visitors to Faith2Share, the Guest Lecture was delivered by Dr. Peter Okaalet from Uganda. Peter holds degrees in

medicine and theology and in 2005 was named one of TIME Magazine’s Global Health Heroes. In his key note address he made two major points, firstly that we need to have a holistic view of mission bringing health to bodies and minds as well as souls, and secondly that across Africa there is an urgent need to mentor and train younger leaders. These young leaders will not only serve in the church or in mission but also bring a strong Christian influence in society as business leaders, doctors, teachers, politicians and parents.

Leadership Consultation : Day 4

The final half-day of our consultation began with a challenging Bible study from Manik Corea (NAMS Network) who is originally from Singapore but now lives in Thailand working out from there in church planting ministries. Worship was led by Deogratias and Gabriella Niyonzima from Burundi (CCDB).



We took advantage of Peter Okaalet’s presence with us and invited him to facilitate a more interactive session on ‘**Mission and Health**’ during which he confronted us with many of the health challenges of Africa and encouraged us to think of these as gospel challenges. Jesus healed people not as an ‘add on’ or bonus but as part of his ministry of salvation, reconciling people with God – we should do likewise.



Each day during the consultation some of the most important conversations took place during the extended coffee, lunch and tea breaks when people were able to engage on key issues closest to their hearts. We know that these conversations have already led to several new collaborations in mission around the world.

After the morning coffee break we returned for our

final session in which we asked participants to help us reflect on the **calling and future ministry of Faith2Share**. Much of the work was done in small groups and many helpful debates took place. In particular we have noted:

- The need to serve churches in mission and to help churches and mission agencies to relate to each other.
- The priority to strengthen the network rather than the organisation of Faith2Share.
- The tension between meeting regionally (cheaper and easier) but also wanting to learn from each other cross-regionally.
- The possibility of sponsoring consultations on specific mission issues/themes.
- The important of sharing our stories around the network, learning from each other, and taking time to do this.
- Prayer is an important part of our network and should be enhanced.
- Faith2Share should consider putting more resources into mentoring leaders.
- Faith2Share performs an important role in linking us with other networks (like WEA Mission Commission and Lausanne) and resource providers (like Vision 5:9, Business as Mission and those mentioned in the Leadership Briefing).

The leadership consultation ended with a brief act of worship before those who were not staying on for the Training Modules left for home.

Training Modules

Immediately after lunch on Wednesday, as others left, the 40 or so participants who were staying on began their training modules. These were run in three parallel streams with participants being free to choose which module they wished to attend during each session. In total 22 training modules were offered, some led by fellow participants and others by speakers invited in for that particular module. One of the three streams was particularly focused on Church Planting and facilitated by Faith2Share member NAMS Network.

The topics covered were:

- Mentoring Younger Leaders*
- Influencing the influencers in mission
- Launching a new mission movement
- Security issues in hostile contexts
- Governance for mission movements
- Loving your Muslim neighbour
- Effective member care for missionaries
- Transformational discipleship*
- Disciples making movements
- Mission to vulnerable children
- The role of children in mission
- Emerging Mission Movements
- Mobilising Africans in Mission – the MANI story
- Teaching faith from an African perspective
- Building effective partnerships
- Prayer mobilisation for mission
- Global Strategy for Church Planting
- Training Church Planters



- Church Planting amongst South East Asia peoples
- Church Planting amongst Latin American peoples
- Church Planting amongst Nepalese peoples
(Those marked * were repeated twice)

The Training modules were spread over three days and during this time we also had two helpful bible studies led by Titus Kumapayi (Church of Nigeria Missionary Society) and Bishop Grant LeMarchand. The first of these was during morning worship and the second during our closing celebration of Holy Communion, enhanced by the return of choir members from Beza International Church. Manaai Cheng (Christ for All Nations, Myanmar) also led morning prayers on the final day with music from Myanmar and on the middle day we had a whole evening of personal sharing, prayer and ministry in small groups.



Experience Ethiopia

With the assistance of an elder of the Meseret Kristos Church, Gebriel Galatis, we were able to offer consultation participants the opportunity to stay on in Ethiopia for a further two days to experience the history, culture, geography and people of Ethiopia. On the first half day over twenty participants joined a sight seeing trip around the city of Addis Ababa getting a better idea of contemporary life in the city as well as the history of the nation. On Saturday 13 participants joined a full day trip out of the city to see the stone carved church at Adadi Mariam monastery, the prehistoric site at Tiya and Melka Konturie, concluding with a traditional Ethiopian meal and cultural entertainment at an Addis restaurant. Along the road there were many discussions about the life and mission of the churches in Ethiopia. On the final Sunday six participants worshipped at St. Matthews Anglican Church, where Bishop Samuel Ezeofor from Nigeria (one



of our participants) was the preacher. The remainder of the participants were welcomed for worship at the Bole Meseret Kristos church followed by a brief visit to the home of one of the elders.

Appreciation

Faith2Share consultations only work because everyone involved contributes to the process and the content in every way in which God has resourced them. However it is appropriate to thank just a few of the many local Christians in Addis Ababa who willingly gave us so much assistance. **Rosemary Burke** for liaison with the Red Cross Centre and finding us **Alex Welde** our ever helpful driver. **Samuel Kebreah** for working miracles with visa applications. **Pastors Moses and Yohannus** for lending us their choir members, **Peter Okaalet** for being our key note speaker, **Gebriel Galatis** for all his advice and arranging our Experience Ethiopia trips. The leaders of Retrak, Misrach Centre, Win Souls for Christ and the Kale Heywot projects for receiving us on mission visits and all those who came in specially to lead training modules or consultation sessions.

Mark Oxbrow
International Director
November 2014



Faith2Share Leadership Consultation 2014

Participants

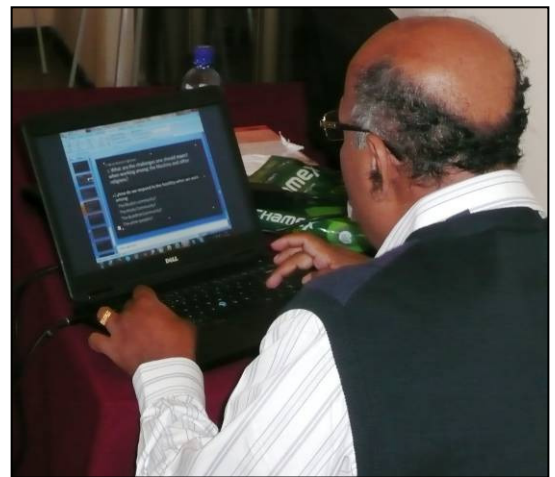
Adeolu Adedapo	Apostolic Discipleship Movement
Abebe Adey	Win Souls for Christ
Eled Admasu	Win Souls for Christ
John Amalraj	Interserve India
Bishop Niranjan Bardhan	IGOSA, India
Bisoke Balikenga	The Anglican Church of Congo
Tekle Belachew	Addis Ababa
Mengistu Bunaro	Win Souls for Christ
Stephen Burgess	CMS
Rosemary Burke	CMS
Andres Casanueva	New Anglican Missionary Society
Manaai Cheng	Christ for All Nations Mission of Myanmar
Manik Corea	New Anglican Missionary Society
Stephen Dinsmore	SOMA-UK
Solomon S Doss	Indian Evangelical Mission
Bishop Samuel Ezeofor	Diocese of Obaru, Anglican Church of Nigeria
Lorraine Green	TEAM
Vijay P Isaac	FMPB/Faith2Share
Lynn Kay	Retrak
Roger Kay	CMS Australia
Samuel Kebreab	MANI
Bishop Joseph Kioko	Diocese of Machakos, Anglican Church of Kenya
Adjei Ishmael Kofi	Torchbearers Mission International
P Radha Krishnan	India Missions Association/Mahanaim Ministries
Margaret O Kumapayi	Church of Nigeria Missionary Society
Titus O Kumapayi	Church of Nigeria Missionary Society
Bishop Grant LeMarquand	Anglican Church, Diocese of Egypt (Ethiopia)
Wendy LeMarquand	Anglican Church, Diocese of Egypt (Ethiopia)
Desire Mukanirwa	The Province of the Anglican Church of Congo
Onesphore Manirakiza	Harvest for Christ Ministries
Wondimu Mathewos	Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekene Yesus
Iri Mato	New Zealand CMS
Richard W Mayabi	Church Army Africa
Timothy Mazimpaka	Church Army Africa
Gabriella Ndayishimiye	Christian Community Development of Burundi
Deogratias Niyonzima	Christian Community Development of Burundi
Michael Niguse	Win Souls for Christ
Livingstone Nyanje	Church Army Africa/ The Sheepfold Ministries
Ifeanyi I Ogbuelli	Diocese of Ogbaru, Anglican Church in Nigeria
Peter Okaalet	Okaalet Consulting
Timothy Olonade	El-Rehoboth Global Leadership Foundation

Sam Olubo
David Oludotun
Mark Oxbrow
Rev Simon Ponniah
Anton Ponomarev
A R
Tek P Rijal
R C Bernard
Jon Shuler
Phil Simpson
David Phijam
Nicki Stevens
Aila Tasse
Umeh Ephraim
Johann van der Bijl
Serah Wambua
Robin Watson
John Wesley
Stewart Wicker
Michael Shiferaw Wolde

Integrity Missions International
Kingdom Gospel Missions
Faith2Share
Friends Missionary Prayer Band, India
Faith2Share
Cityteam International
Vision Network Nepal
Console Evangelical Missionary Movement
New Anglican Missionary Society
Global Teams
Manipur Christian Foundation
Faith2Share
Lifeway Mission International
Diocese of Ogbaru, Anglican Church of Nigeria
SAMS - USA
CMS Africa
ReachAcross
Indian Evangelical Mission
SAMS USA
4-14 Window Movement



FINAL ACCOUNTS						
	US\$	Birr	UK£	UK£	Budget	Variance
Exchange rates	\$/£=1.62	Birr/\$=19.91				
				-		
INCOME				-		
Participant Accommodation Fees	9,625.00	6,300.00	1,360.48	7,497.16		
Total Experience Ethiopia Inc.	1,650.00			1,018.52		
Less expenditure				731.85		
Profit on Experience Ethiopia				286.67		
EXPENDITURE						
Total Travel bursaries	12,458.00		909.56	8,599.68	9,000.00	-400.32
Consultation Core Costs						
Red Cross Centre Hire		361,283.31				
Airport transfers	1,050.00					
Staff travel costs			2,199.23			
Choir Travel (Beza Church)		2,100.00				
Taxi for 4 participants (in Addis)		300.00				
Buses for Mission Visits		9,200.00				
Loss on exchange rate			8.11			
Total Consultation Costs	1,050.00	372,883.31	2,207.34	14,416.26		
Less participant payments				7,497.16		
Less profit on Experience Ethiopia				286.67		
Nett Consultation costs				6,632.43	6,000.00	632.43
Nett Budget overspend						232.11
Experience Ethiopia						
Buses		10,810.00				
Meals + Entrance fees		12,773.20				
Total Exp. Ethiopia Expenditure		23,583.20		731.85		





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