

THE LORD'S SPIRIT VISITS US THROUGH THE ETHIOPIAN VISITORS

The Susquehanna Valley Presbytery was privileged to have a visit from three of our Ethiopian Partners during January and February. Despite the cold temperatures, the warmth and joy of sharing between our partners was felt by everyone involved. Rev. Teferi Barkessa, Rev. Waretu Gelacha, and Elder Mrs. Gonfa Negassa preached at nine of our presbytery churches. They spoke about their faith and the challenges that face their Western Wollega Bethel Synod. They participated in Bible studies, PW events, meetings, and of course, several "Pass-a-dish" events.

Despite the extreme Ethiopian challenges of economic woes, drought conditions, limited access to education, and limited technology, our partner Synod has continued to have a strong growth in membership in the past decade. The strength and peace provided by a personal relationship with the Lord helps the Synod members to tackle the challenges of their daily lives. This is a wonderful example to us of how valuable faith can be in our daily struggles in the United States.

The Ethiopian Partnership Committee on behalf of the Presbytery thanks these visitors for making this lengthy visit to share their faith and work. The Partnership committee has had a chance to meet with them and receive detailed information of ways we can help them face their challenges. We will be working with the presbytery to focus this help to them. We remind the presbytery members to keep our Ethiopian partners in their prayers. We remind the churches to send letters to their sister presbyteries. If your church has lost their sister presbytery address, check with our Presbytery office. God's grace has been bountiful during this visit and we are thankful for this.

-The Ethiopian Partnership Committee