

**The Legacy of Rev. Gudina Tumsa in the
Spiritual Charismatic Movements of EECMY.**

"Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness and who seek the LORD: Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn; look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth. When I called him he was but one, and I blessed him and made him many."

Isa. 51:1-2. (NIV)

When I was in junior secondary school one of our class mate asked us a riddle. He said:- "Once upon a time a car has got accident and passengers got injured. People from the surround run to the spot and watched what has happened. Some one was very much interested in the vehicle and was looking into the damaged part of it. Another person was watching on the suffering and dying people and was trying to encourage them. Still another person was taking care for the wounded and controlling the blood and tying the broken bones. Still another person was watching over the cause of the danger and was measuring the road side and how far the vehicle has gone out of the way. He asked who are these people? Some students tried to answer this and that, but none has got the correct answer. So he said these people are a mechanic, a pastor, a doctor and a traffic police."

There is so many things happening around us and many people pass-by without noticing it. But everyone has its own interest area. I just wanted to mention this to say how I got to know Rev. Gudina Tumsa. As Rev. Gudina Tumsa was a person of diverse quality every one at his day and even today wants to relate him to his/her/ interests. Some people refer to him as a good christian leader, some as a good politician others as a good spiritual father and still some as prominent nationalists. As for me I would like to say how I got to know him personally and also what I have heard of him from other as well.

In 1976 when I first joined Mekane Yesus Seminary and for the first time met Rev. Gudina Tumsa was right after his release from his two month prison. It was the time when he was lost for two months and nobody knew where he was. He was moved from place to place so that people could not visit him. As I was then interested in politics I was eager to see him as a hero of politics in that very risky condition of the provisional military government of Ethiopia. But what I have heard of him witnessing was that even though his doctor advised him to take medicine everyday, the Lord has helped him to survive without it in those bad days in the prison. He added that depending on the good care of God in those days is very important and without it no one could stand in the faith. Immediately my opinion about Rev. Gudina Tumsa was changed to another position and I started to see him as a church father of great faith.

It was in March 1977 that I started to participate in the Spiritual Charismatic movement meetings at the Mekane Yesus Theological Seminary. Soon the Synod leaders started to question our position of doctrinal bases. We were gathered for discussion and Rev. Gudina Tumsa, who was then the chairman of the Seminary board, was invited to hear us. He looked very normal, not ferious as it was with some of our leaders of that day, but with bright and sympathizing fatherly face recieved us. Some of our fellow students came with different questions to challenge us and the seminary principal for he was also accused of permitting the gathering. For me it was time of decision whether I should abandon Mekane Yesus Church or leave the Seminary and join politics which I