

Commemoration of
Gudina Tumsa's Birth
and Death in 2004

"The Role of a Christian in a Given Society"

Consultations

at

Hossana Mekane Yesus Theological Seminary

July 16-18, 2004

and

Nekemte Christian Education

Center July 1-3, 2004

28 -

Gudina Tumsa Foundation

February 2004

Table of Contents

I. Background	3
II. Objectives	4
III. Tentative work plan (for Oromo & Amharic program)	5
Iv. Budget break down for memorial events	6

BACKGROUND

"... When a person is called to follow Christ, that person is called to die. It means a redirection of the purpose of life, that is death to one's own wishes and personal desires and finding the greatest satisfaction in living for and serving the one who died for us and was raised from death..."

(Gudina Tumsa 1979, "The Role of a Christian in a Given Society".

July 28, 2004 marks the 25th anniversary of the abduction and subsequent assassination of Rev. Gudina Tumsa, the General Secretary of the Ethiopian Evangelical Mekane Yesus EECMY from 1966 to 1979. Gudina Tumsa Foundation, which was established in his memory to carry on his vision, has so far held two missiological seminars to publicize his life and ministry. Two books were published as a result of the first Seminar: the first one containing the essential writings of Gudina Tumsa himself while the second one was lectures and proceedings of the first Seminar. The two missiological seminars, conducted in April 2001 and May 2003 respectively, were geared towards church leaders and theologians with higher education, leaving little or no room for lay ministers with little or no theological background and non-English speakers, who make up a considerable part of the gospel ministry work.

Reflection on comments of the participants revealed the strong desire lay ministers harbor to learn from the life and ministry of this church leader, preferably in languages they feel most comfortable with. Taking this need into consideration GTF plans to use the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Gudina Tumsa's assassination to launch two seminars at two locations: one in Hosana Mekane Yesus Seminary and another one in Nekemte. The two locations were chosen for historical reason. Nekemte town was the place where Gudina started service as a lay minister and where he became the first national pastor of the Nekemte congregation after his ordination in 1958; and Kambata/Hadiya was the place where the Church Officers of the time sent him to integrate the Kambata/Hadiya Congregations and to organize them into a synod.*

The Seminar planned in Hosana will be conducted in Amharic for Amharic speakers while the second one addresses Oromo speaking ministers from all parts of Oromo region. The South Central Synod in Hossana and the Central Synod in Nekemte will cooperate with GTF in facilitating the Seminars.

* Stoffan Grenstad, Ambaricho, Uppsala 1995.

OBJECTIVES

The Seminars aim at:

1. Providing a forum for the participants where they can learn from their own church history and leaders.
2. Using the life of Gudina Tumsa as a model to inspire young ministers to follow the path; in Gudina's own words "... *redirection of the purpose of life, that is death to one's own wishes and personal desires and finding the greatest satisfaction in living for and serving the one who died for us...*"
3. Challenging potential church leaders to examine the predominant attitude in today's Christian youth, in relation to the self-less and sacrificial life Gudina Tumsa led as a leader and in response to his calling and for the sake of the gospel.
4. To reflect on pertinent theological issues raised by Gudina Tumsa and his contemporaries which are currently confronting the church, such as self-reliance, partnership & interdependence, ecumenical harmony, holistic ministry and the charismatic movement.
5. To publish lectures and proceedings of the seminars in the local languages for a wider audience.

**III. Tentative work plan (for Amharic Program)
Hossana Mekane Yesus Theological Seminary**

Date	Time	Activity	Speaker	Moderator	Remark
Day One July 16	Morning	Worship Sermon & testimony			
	Afternoon	The Life of a Martyr: The case of GT (Lecture & group discussion)			
Day Two July 17	Morning	The Role of a Christian in a Given Society (Lecture, group discussion)			
	Afternoon	Ecumenical Harmony among Evangelical Churches			
Day Three July 18	Morning	Stewardship of the Gospel (Lecture, group discussion)			
	Afternoon	Reflections and closing ceremony			

**Tentative work plan (for Oromo Program)
Nekemte (Christian Education Center)**

Date	Time	Activity	Speaker	Moderator	Remark
Day One July 1	Morning	Worship Sermon & testimony			
	Afternoon	The Life of a Martyr: The case of GT (Lecture & group discussion)			
Day Two July 2	Morning	The Role of a Christian in a Given Society (Lecture, group discussion)			
	Afternoon	Ecumenical Harmony among Evangelical Churches			
Day Three July 3	Morning	Stewardship of the Gospel (Lecture, group discussion)			
	Afternoon	Reflections & closing ceremony			