

Ethiopia Asks for Help

Exodus Global Alliance has received an important request for help from Ethiopia. And we need your support to respond to this request and enter into this newly opened door in Africa.

Dr Tesfaye, Secretary General of the Ethiopian Kale Heywet Church (EKHC) is asking Exodus Global Alliance to equip them to bring the truth and grace of Jesus Christ to the emerging issue of homosexuality.

The secular world's response to AIDS is to look for things that will slow the spread of AIDS and stop it from killing people while encouraging and enabling people to continue to pursue sexual freedom and whatever sexual lives they want to practice.

The promotion of sexual freedom in Ethiopia and across Africa means that increasing numbers of children, teens and adults across Africa are struggling with and being hurt by actions promoted by sexual freedom including homosexuality. The damage includes broken families, wounded hearts, damaged lives, diseases such as AIDS, and death.

Christian churches and organizations have stepped up to meet the challenge of AIDS and participate in the measures that the world takes to prevent the spread of this pandemic. But only God's truth and grace can answer effectively the problems brought about by pursuing sexual freedom.

Tim Jacobson of SIM Canada arranged for Pat Lawrence to meet with Desta Demessie, Deputy Secretary General of the Ethiopian Kale Heywet Church. Mr Demessie introduced the EKHC as the largest evangelical denomination in Ethiopia with more than 6000 local congregations, more than 5 million members and 260 seminaries. He said that there are many ministries working with them in the area of AIDS. But they need help addressing the emerging issue of homosexuality in their country. Organizations have arisen in Ethiopia promoting homosexuality

and same-sex marriage. Their power and influence in parliament has forced this issue onto the national agenda. It looks like these forces are trying to accomplish in 5 years in Ethiopia what took 30 years to accomplish in Canada.



Dr Tesfaye, General Secretary of the EKHC and Tim Teusink, partner in the MEDAN ACTS AIDS program. Dr Tesfaye asks Exodus to equip the churches of Ethiopia to face the emerging issue of homosexuality.

Dr Tesfaye and Mr Demessie is asking Exodus Global Alliance to help them equip their church leaders, seminary teachers, AIDS workers, pastors and churches. What they are asking for will require a sustained effort over a 3-year period. They want to be equipped to bring the truth and grace of Jesus Christ to the emerging issue of homosexuality across their country. This is a new level of ministry involvement for Exodus to become involved in Africa.

Mr Demessie wants this mission to include the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, the Ethiopian Catholic Church and SIM Ethiopia.

This means the mission will reach almost all of the churches across Ethiopia.



Children in Ethiopia—already facing serious trouble from AIDS, now face the emerging issue of homosexuality.

Your gifts will enable Exodus to send people to Ethiopia over a 3-year period to teach & equip church leaders, establish an African Exodus Development office and start an Exodus member ministry. This would be followed by an ongoing Exodus presence in Africa organized through the Exodus Africa Development office.

Yvonne Mildred, SIM International's Projects and Community Services Coordinator says that if this mission is successful, the next step would likely be an invitation to Nigeria and other parts of Africa – who also need to be equipped to bring the truth and grace of Jesus to the issues of sexual freedom as they are emerging in Africa. We are very

grateful for SIM's help in receiving this call for help and working out how Exodus can respond.

Exodus will not be able to respond to this call for help unless we receive your financial support. We need \$7,000 by September for the first trip to Ethiopia. We need an additional \$18,000 over the next 12 months to fund the first year of this mission. Your gifts, large or small, are needed to help us prepare and send the resources and people that are needed in Ethiopia.

Our message to nations across Africa is that they do not have to repeat the mistakes of the West. Now, as they are asking for our help, we are asking for your help. Support for this mission will

come from people like you—not institutions, company sponsors or government grants. Will you give as God directs you? Send your gift using an Exodus response card or contact the Exodus Global Alliance office. You can designate your gift to Missions—Ethiopia.

We also need your prayers. Your prayers help sustain us. They are needed to break down the gates and strongholds that bind so many people in homosexuality. Your prayers for the resources and financial support are needed.

opening doors

Starting a New Ministry in the Caribbean

The vision of Exodus Global Alliance is to establish an Exodus ministry in every country in the world that will equip and strengthen the church to reach out with the message of salvation and sexual redemption through the Lord Jesus Christ to the gay community and those affected by homosexuality.

In 2006 God opened a door in Barbados for a new ministry in a country where there were no ministries for people affected by homosexuality. Exodus Global Alliance and the Bajan ministry Project PROBE organized a conference in Barbados. Our goals for the conference were to equip Christians and churches to respond with truth and grace to people affected by homosexuality and to encourage the start of a new ministry in Barbados.

We included a special workshop on starting a ministry. Out of the nearly 250 people who came to the conference, more than 20 people participated in the special session on starting a ministry. We encouraged this group to begin meeting regularly after the conference to seek the Lord about starting a new ministry.

A group of just over 20 people began to meet monthly. We stayed in touch with them and encouraged them as they sought direction from the Lord. After 6 months of the Lord's leading, these men and women asked Exodus to return to Barbados to help them start a new ministry.

In May 2007 Pat Lawrence and DJ Thompson travelled to Barbados and met with 12 people who want to start a new ministry. The 12 people were from a broad representation of churches ranging from Anglican to Apostolic.

Pat and DJ led the group through planning, organizing and praying. Pat helped them assess their personal skills and gifts, and how their skills and gifts would work together in ministry. They selected a name for the ministry – Waves of Love. They created a mission statement – *Waves of Love is a national Christian ministry to educate the church and society about the issues of homosexuality and minister the transforming love of Jesus Christ to those affected by homosexuality.* Their focus will be to provide support groups, evangelism, a youth ministry and teaching among the churches of



Part of the Bajan team starting a new ministry called Waves of Love.

Barbados.

Their next steps are to register the ministry, set-up an office, raise finances and flesh out the board of directors. Training will be provided by Exodus Global Alliance, including sending some people to the Exodus Global Alliance 2008 international conference.



Waves along the beach in Barbados are an image of the new ministry called Waves of Love.

There are two more ministries in development in the Caribbean—a ministry called *Wired* in Jamaica and a ministry called *Operation Restoration* in Guyana. The need is clear—the lure of sexual freedom being promoted through popular culture and tourism is affecting all of the Caribbean. God has opened the door into this region. Exodus needs your support to continue working in Barbados, Jamaica, Guyana and the other countries of the Caribbean; developing the ministries that have been started and starting new ministries in each country.

We ask you to give and pray for the work of Exodus in the Caribbean.

What Can I Do?

Pray. God works through Exodus only when you pray. Exodus needs people who will pray for our ministry to youth. Will you send us a letter telling us that God has called you to pray?

Give. Exodus' ministry to people depends on your financial support. Most of our support comes from individual donors, not institutions, company sponsors or government grants. Will you give as God directs you? Send your gift using an Exodus response card or contact the Exodus Global Alliance office listed below. If you want to give specifically for the Ethiopia project, you can designate your gift to Missions—Project Ethiopia or Missions—Project Caribbean.

Invite Us to Your Church. That's right, invite us to your church. Exodus representatives regularly speak in churches or lead seminars that introduce the need for ministry to people affected by homosexuality, explain what ministry involves, and explain how the church can support such a ministry. Afterwards, many people often say they have never attended a service so understanding, so full of substance and so full of hope. We would love to be able to speak to your church. You can take the first step by contacting us to say you would like us to speak in your church. We'll take the next step of contacting your pastor.