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MERF News

February 2026



Middle East Reformed Fellowship—“Declaring the Whole Counsel of God”

“Faithful, Fruitful and Cost-Effective Indigenous Missions!”

Ethiopia Update



Regional biblical training is hosted by local Ethiopian churches



At the dawn of Islam, in 615 AD, when it was a small sect, at the advice of Mohamed, a group of Muslims escaping persecution in Arabia crossed the Red Sea to the Horn of Africa to the safety and tolerance of the ancient Christian kingdom there. Thus began the historical tradition of religious freedom and coexistence of Christian and Muslim populations in Ethiopia. It is guaranteed in the constitution, although not always practiced.

idly, almost two thirds of the ethnically very diverse Ethiopian population still adhere to the ancient Coptic Orthodox Christian tradition. Amharic is the official Ethiopian language. About one third of the Ethiopian population adhere to Islam. In fact, Muslims are the overwhelming majority in the eastern provinces, including the arid Somali-speaking areas and Oromo-speaking regions of the fertile central highlands of the mountainous nation.

Today, although pagan animism still exists and the number of evangelical Christians is growing rapidly,

Media Ministries

Continuing over two decades, regular MERF gospel radio broadcasts in Amharic, Oromo and Somali languages reach across Ethiopian mountain and valley to bring the good news to villages, towns and cities -- unreached people, struggling inquirers, lonely believers and fellowships lacking Bible teaching. *Praise God for His wonderful work drawing men, women and children to Himself by His powerful Word.*

Radio programmes over the past year were based on the Amharic and Oromo language translations of the book of Hebrews, *Healthy Christian Growth* by Sinclair B. Ferguson

and two short books by Peter Jeffery: *Stand Firm* (Ephesians 6:10-18) and *Walk Worthy*. MERF has translated, printed and freely distributes these and other biblically based titles along with the Scriptures to listeners and at biblical training conferences to encourage solid growth in Christ. Reprinted in 2025: *Reading the Bible* by Geoffrey Thomas, *Living the Christian Life* by Albert Martin and *Duties of Parents* by JC Ryle.

OROMO Gospel Radio Programmes & Books Online:

sagaleedhugaaministry.com

SOMALI Gospel Radio Programmes & Books Online:

somalforchrist.com

“He will raise a signal for nations far away, ... and behold, quickly, speedily they come!”

— Isaiah 5:26

2026 Youth Spiritual Opportunities

at John Calvin Centre, Larnaca, Cyprus for qualified high school or college students or graduates church members:

- **July 7-14 Biblical Missions Youth Retreat** (limit 40)
- **Sat & Sun, Nov 7 & 8** - One or two youth are invited to accompany each MERF support committee representative to the MERF International Council. They meet and interact directly with indigenous field workers.

Apply by email to MERF@MERF.ORG with Name, Birth Date, Recommendation by Church Leader and completion of the following as short sentences:

*The Bible impacts my daily life by Christ is precious to me because
I serve Christ by
I share the gospel by*

Biblical Training

Despite rough roads and at times regional insecurity, throughout the year the MERF Ethiopia team travels to different regions of Ethiopia to provide basic biblical training in short seminars and one-week conferences for pastors, evangelists and other leaders gathered from churches and fellowships in the area. *Praise God that scores of church leaders are being built up in God's Word, learn Bible study skills and receive solid literature and also pray together and encourage one another.* MERF also partners with local Ethiopian churches to assist in the support of 50 evangelists in rural areas.

To meet the pressing need for materials to ground youth solidly in God's Word, in 2023 book one of the teacher's guide: *Ten-to-Teens Westminster Shorter*

AMHARIC Shorter Catechism Study Book 4



Regional biblical training hosted at a local church

Catechism Study Course by Tom Waldecker was translated and printed in the Amharic and Oromo languages. Distribution began along with training on ministry to children and youth. This was well received and so by the end of 2025 the fourth book was printed in both languages. *Praise God that there is a great demand for the course among the churches.* The fifth and sixth books of the nine-book series are now in translation. *Pray for Ethiopian churches to persevere in teaching their youth and be blessed for years to come by studying God's Word using the Shorter Catechism.*

majority areas are burned down and believers face life threats. MERF seeks to provide care for persecuted congregations to enable them to rebuild or relocate. Also, recent armed conflict in several regions of Ethiopia has forced many to flee their homes. MERF has enabled Ethiopian churches to provide food to displaced believers and others along with the comforting message of the gospel. *Please pray for those suffering or displaced by persecution or armed conflict.*

We are grateful for your partnership. *The Ethiopian MERF team especially requests prayer for the Lord's mercy to end armed conflicts creating fear and instability and for the restoration of peace and security.*

Diaconal Aid

Each year a number of church buildings in Muslim

MERF-England & Wales

103 Merewood Avenue, Headington, Oxford, OX3 8EQ www.give.net/MERF

MERF-Ireland

(charity no. 103181) 246 Vow Road, Rasharkin, Ballymena BT44 8TB www.give.net/20221778

MERF-Scotland

1 MacAdam Way, Dalmellington, East Ayrshire KA6 7FD Scotland UK www.give.net/20035868

International Evangelical Church

Sundays 10:30 am & 6:00 pm – John Calvin Centre 57 Stylianou Lena St., Larnaca, Cyprus



Gospel Radio Listeners in rural areas often request the Bible