

## **Ethiopian Partnership Mission Team (EPMT)**

PSV website as of 09/30/2025

It has been our pleasure to sustain the 27-year partnership between our Presbytery and the Western Wollega Bethel Synod in western Ethiopia. We continue to witness the good work of the gospel -- faith, education, mission -- being done by our brothers and sisters in Ethiopia. Those who have so much less than we do, in material terms, are nonetheless following the call of Christ to do faithful kingdom work there. It is our joy to partner with them in prayer and financial support, and to keep our blessed relationship strong.



## **Presbytery Partnership with Western Wollega Bethel Synod (WWBS), Ethiopia**

The Ethiopian Presbyterian church was established in 1919 by missionaries from the Presbyterian Church of America. The mission started with the work of evangelism, and the operation of a school and clinic. The missionaries were forced to leave from 1936 through 1941 because of the Italian occupation. When the missionaries returned in 1942, they left the work of evangelism to the indigenous church leaders and they continued the work of the school and clinic. Many churches, clinics and church schools were built from 1942 until 1974 when the communist revolution occurred. The Bethel Evangelical Church encountered severe persecution from 1974 until the communist government was ousted in 1991. Churches were closed. Many members were put in prison, and some were killed because of their faith. Church buildings were converted to storerooms, dance halls and offices for peasant associations. After 1991 the revival of church work began with great vigor. Today there are nine presbyteries with 240 congregations and over 250,000 members.



The Synod operates a kindergarten, an elementary school, a secondary school, a Bible college, women's ministries, the Ethiopian Rural Education Project and many more important outreaches. The dynamic membership growth of the church is primarily attributable to the holistic ministry that is addressing the spiritual, physical and social needs of the communities of Western Wollega. People are serving people. The poor and the needy are serving the poorer and more needy. Church members are "living for Christ." They are praising God in spite of the economic, social and other crises they face. Worshipers walk hours to standing-room-only Sunday services. Cell groups of up to one hundred souls praise the Lord at weekday worship services and Bible study in neighborhood homes. The strong fellowship of

believers acts as a positive influence for evangelism. Due to a shortage of pastors much of the work of the church is being carried out by lay members. Elders are provided with training, so they can effectively perform their duties. Students are enthusiastically participating and serving in all levels within the church. In spite of current adversity, the churches of the Western Wollega Bethel Synod are alive and actively growing. The members are enthusiastically praising God in worship and prayer and living for Christ by sharing what God has given them.

**Your congregation can support our partnership with the following:**

1. Pray daily for our brothers and sisters in Ethiopia.
2. Prayerfully consider how your congregation might give to the Ethiopian Partnership in general, or to one of the particular ministries that we support in WWBS. (Specific donations must be identified.)
3. Consider becoming involved with our partnership.

***We look forward to your continued support and thank you for sharing our passion of God's love for the whole world.***

**The Ethiopian Partnership Team:**

Junietta Brooks, Cheryll Berg, Lynn Reeves, Diane Vredenburg, Rachel Mae Rose, Dorothy Thomas, Jean Fairbairn, Charles Colton

**Photos**

All the photos from the November 2024 Ethiopia trip (including the ones we didn't get to see during the February Assembly Meeting) can be seen [here](#).

**Videos**

Ethiopian Partnership team trip to Ethiopia in February 2014 -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1eAZpOZg9h4>

In 2023, Kes Chali Yosef, President of the Western Wollega Bethel Synod of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, visited the United States. The following video was recorded at Walton United Presbyterian Church on June 6, 2023-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DDQ0blq6rPY>

Zoom meeting with members of the Ethiopian Diaspora <https://youtu.be/II357SiNRqs>

Presentation with photos and videos from the November 2024 Ethiopia Trip, which were shown at the February and April 2025 Presbytery Meetings - <https://youtu.be/YAoW6vZB0Kg>

**Documents:**

Covenant pages [1](#) and [2](#)