Southern Ethiopia Assemblies of God Make Bold Decade of Pentecost Commitments

Pastors and delegates gathered from across the Southern Nations Region of Ethiopia for an Acts 1:8 Conference held in the city of Hawassa.

The conference occurred on January 26-29. It was conducted by the Acts in Africa Initiative under the auspices of the Ethiopia Assemblies of God. It was led by Rev. Dereje Guda, the church's National Missions Director. During the five days of the conference, the delegates sought God, experienced the power of the Holy Spirit, learned about New Testament missions strategies, and developed a local plan to move forward in church planting and missions.

In the closing session of the conference, the regional church leaders publicly signed a "Decade of Pentecost Declaration" on behalf of the delegates. In the declaration, they committed themselves to, among other things, seeing 90% of their members baptized in the Holy Spirit, planting 440 new churches, deploying 200 church planters, and sending 32 missionaries to the 16 unreached peoples groups in the region.

—*Dr. Denny Miller, Director, Acts in Africa Initiative*

Southern Regional leaders of the Ethiopia Assemblies of God pray over the "Decade of Pentecost Declaration" developed at their Acts 1:8 Conference in Hawassa.

The Spirit Moved in Power

Many were filled with the Spirit during the Acts 1:8 Conference in Hawassa.

Each evening the conference venue was moved from the church to the city's public square where outdoor Holy Spirit empowering services were held.

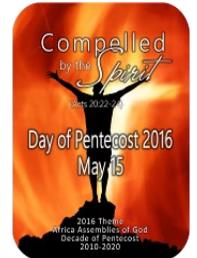Many came to Christ, and many were filled with the Holy Spirit. One evening as seekers were praying, a powerful and unexpected wind blew across the public square. It appeared that God was giving the people a sign that it was His time to move in power across Southern Ethiopia. The conference began each morning with intercessory prayer. Based on Acts 1:8, the delegates prayed that God would empower his people to reach the lost and plant new churches among unreached peoples. There are 16 unreached tribes residing in the South Region. Intercessory prayer is a vital ingredient of every Acts 1:8 Conference.

May 15 is "Day of Pentecost 2016" in Africa

May 16 is "Day of Pentecost 2016" in the Africa Assemblies of God. On that day, every Assemblies of God pastor in Africa is called upon to preach a message on the Holy Spirit and Missions and then pray with their people to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

The Decade of Pentecost theme for 2016 is *"Compelled by the Spirit."* It is taken from Paul's words to the Ephesian elders, "Compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there" (Acts 20:22, NIV). Paul then explained why the Spirit was compelling him to go: "My only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace" (v. 24).

The Acts in Africa Initiative has produced 2016 DOP theme posters in four languages, including English, French, Portuguese and Spanish. In addition, the posters are available in two formats: poster format and bumper sticker format. They can be downloaded for free as PDFs or JPGs from the Decade of Pentecost website: www.DecadeofPentecost.org/2016-theme.

New Amharic *Proclaiming Pentecost* Book

At the beginning of the conference in Hawassa, a copy of the new Amharic version of the book, *Proclaiming Pentecost: 100 Sermon Outlines on the Power of the Holy Spirit,* was presented to each delegate who attended. Across Africa, thousands of pastors are using this book as a tool to preach effectively on the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

For free Pentecostal resources visit our websites at www.DecadeofPentecost.org or www.ActsinAfrica.org