In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, the following is the preface of Metsafe Ankets.

1. Deggua
2. Tsome Deggua
3. Songs of Me’iraaf and Anketse Haleta. This book enables Deggua teachers to memorize and recite the various songs.

One of these books, Anketse Deggua, will enable church teachers who had been scripting on parchments with their hands to clearly appreciate the style and substance of the various songs. We prepared this book and made it available to all teachers in the belief that these books will facilitate their teaching putting them in a position to answer questions. That is why we prepared these books on Deggua, Tsome Deggue, Me’iraf and Ankets Haleta.

Basically, St. Yared being inspired by the Holy Spirit began his Zema lessons starting with preliminary Zema, Abiy Zema and others. His intention is to demonstrate the depth of wisdom reflected by songs. After hearing from the voice of heavenly angels, St. Yared expressed his appreciation for songs by saying, “Waay Zema Zesemaika Besemaay imelaa’ikt kidusan Inzeyibln kidus, kidus, kidus Egzziabher melia semayate wemidir Kidisate sibhatike.”

As explained above, this book called Anketse Deggua is collected from the books of Deggua, Tsome Deggua and Me’iraf. It is given the name Ankets or gate based on Psalms 117-20 where it says that this is the gate of the Lord through which the righteous enter. The Lord Jesus also said in John 10:1 that those who enter the sheep pen by the backdoor are thieves while those that enter through the main gate are the true shepherds.

So the book of Ankets as well as Deggua, Tsome Deggua and Me’iraf songs serve as the main gates. Scholars have therefore deemed it essential to sort out all the documents carefully and put them in print to facilitate easy reading for the clergy and other readers. The clergy, among others, will be able to easily understand the writings and be in a position to answer whatever questions are put to them. All these documents have been preserved in a special place so as to protect them against theft or destruction.

So Ankets which means the gate opens to a fuller understanding of the Gospel. It facilitates the explanation of the scripture which says, ‘knock and it will be opened unto you’. It has become necessary to publish this book Ankets in consideration of the fact that it saves time in digging into scriptural truths. Instead of referring to various other books, it is easier to go through one book. This is prepared in a small pocket size book and it is easily manageable. That is why we had to make best selection from the other books and print them in this book of Ankets. We recognize the contributions of the Tensae Zegubae Printing House in printing various other such books to make scripture reading easy. We also call on the printing house to once again print this publication and we pledge to circulate the books to readers.

Like Mihuran Mulu Gelaw

Ethiopian Orthodox Church

Bethelehem Deggua Witness.