

... words in abundance.

GTF will be holding the 5<sup>th</sup> Missiological Seminar on the Life and Ministry of Rev. Gudina Tumsa at Wester Wollega Bethel Synod in Dembi Dollo from February 6 to 8, 2007. The theme of the Seminar will be "The Role of a Christian in a Given Society". Approximately one hundred fifty participants are expected to attend the seminar. The aim of the seminar is to create a forum for today's ministers where they can learn from their own church history and leaders by reflecting on pertinent theological issues raised by Gudina Tumsa and his contemporaries, which are currently pressing the church. The topics to be addressed include self-reliance, ecumenical harmony, Christian Muslim relation, holistic ministry and the role of a Christian in a given society.

We should be delighted if you would accept our invitation to speak upon the topic of

You may adjust your topic as you see fit. We would be delighted to provide you with materials related to your area of topic upon your request.

Your participation will undoubtedly contribute to the enrichment of the seminar. We look forward to hearing your response.

With kind regards,

Lensa Gudina  
(for the GTF)

GTF will be holding the 6<sup>th</sup> Missiological Seminar on the Life and Ministry of Rev. Gudina Tumsa at the Southern Synod in Awassa town from February 27 to 29, 2007. The theme of the Seminar will be "**The Role of a Christian in a Given Society**". Approximately one hundred fifty participants are expected to attend the seminar. The aim of the Seminar is to create a forum for today's ministers where they can learn from their own church history and leaders by reflecting on pertinent theological issues raised by Gudina Tumsa and his contemporaries, which are currently pressing the church. The topics to be addressed include **Self-reliance, Ecumenical Harmony, Christian Muslim Relations, Holistic Ministry and the Role of a Christian in a Given Society and Assignment of Heaven to be Fulfilled on Earth.**

We should be delighted if you would accept our invitation to speak upon the topic of "**Christian Muslim Relations**". You may adjust your topic as you see fit. We would be delighted to provide you with materials related to your area of topic upon request.

Your participation will undoubtedly contribute to the enrichment of the Seminar. We look forward to hearing your response.

With kind regards,

Lensa Gudina  
(For the GTF)



# Gudina Tumsa Foundation

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Ref. No. GTF/167/04/AS

Date 20-12-07

Mr. Lalisa Daniel  
EECMY  
Addis Ababa

Dear Lalisa,

Peace and grace be with you.

Gudina Tumsa Foundation (GTF) will be holding the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Missiological Seminars on the Life and Ministry of Gudina Tumsa at MYTS from Jan. 31 to Feb. 1 and in Awassa city from February 8 – 10, 2008. The theme of the Seminars will be "The Role of A Christian in A Given Society".

The Steering Committee of the Missiological Seminar kindly requests you to present a paper on the topic of "**Holistic Ministry**". It is our sincere hope that the presentations of the Seminars throw light on a challenging and fruitful period in the history of the EECMY and the churches of Ethiopia. Nevertheless, the aim is beyond historical interest, that the Seminars may stimulate the participants to consider what is involved in Christian, Evangelical, Ecumenical mission and ministry today.

May we kindly ask you to submit your paper by the 15<sup>th</sup> of January to allow enough time for arrangements prior to the Seminar dates. I look forward, with great anticipation, to hear from you and see you in Awassa during the Seminars.

In Christ,

Lensa Gudina  
Managing Director

# Gudina Tumsa Foundation

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Ref. No. GTF/8/001  
Date 14 DEC 2008

To: Bishop N.P Phaswana

South Africa

Peace and grace be with you!

Gudina Tumsa Foundation (GTF) will be holding the 11<sup>th</sup> Missiological Seminar on the Life and Ministry of Gudina Tumsa at Addis Ababa from January 26-28, 2009. The Theme of the Seminar will be **the Contribution of Gudina Tumsa's Legacy in African Theology**.

The Steering Committee of the Missiological Seminar kindly requests you to present a paper on January 27, 2008. It is our sincere hope that the presentation of the Seminar will throw light on a challenging and fruitful period in the history of the EECMY and the churches in Ethiopia. Nevertheless, the aim is beyond historical interest, that the Seminar may stimulate the participants to consider what is involved in Christian, Evangelical, Ecumenical mission and ministry today.

During his stay in Addis Ababa, January 26-28, 2009, Bishop Phaswana will be housed at the Bethel Guest House compound located in Gulalle sub-city, across the Pastor Research institute.

**The transportation, insurance, accommodation and all other expenses involved will be covered by the Gudina Tumsa Foundation. I look forward, with great anticipation, to hear you and see you in Addis Ababa during the Seminar.**

In Christ,

*Muse Gudina*  
Lensa Gudina

Managing Director



"So now Christ may be honoured in my body either through living or dying."



**GUDINA TUMSA FOUNDATION**  
**Regional Missiological Seminar on the Life & Ministry of Rev. Gudina Tumsa**  
**February 27 – March 1, 2007**

Awassa

Time	Date Feb. 27, 2007	Time	Date Feb. 28, 2007	time	Date March 1, 2007
	First day: Tuesday		Second day: Wednesday		Third day: Thursday
		8:30-9:30 am	<b>Devotion &amp; Worship</b> Chaltu Tesfa	8:00-9:00 am	<b>Devotion &amp; Worship</b> Chaltu Tesfa
		9:30-10:30 am	<b>Lecture I</b> Topic: Serving the whole man By: Amensisa Ulfata	9:00-10:00 am	<b>Lecture IV</b> Topic: "Christian Martyr or ....?" By: Rev. Paul Hoffman
		10:30-11:00 am	<b>Tea break</b>	10:00-10:30 am	<b>Tea break</b>
		11:00-12:00 pm	<b>Plenary</b> Mod: Rev. Dinkisa Lamessa	10:30-11:15 am	<b>Plenary</b> Mod: Rev. Gelata Simesso
		12:00-2:00 pm	<b>Lunch</b>	11:15-12:00pm	<b>Lecture V</b> Topic: Self-reliance By: Rev. Dinkisa Lemessa
				12:00-2:00 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
				2:00 – 3:00 Pm	<b>Plenary:</b> Amensisa Ulfata
		2:00-3:00 pm	<b>Lecture II</b> Topic: "The Role of A Christian ...." By: Rev. Galata Simesso	3:00-4:00 pm	<b>Lecture VI</b> Topic: "Ecumenical Harmony" By: Chaltu Tesfa
4:30pm	Arrival & registration	3:00-4:00 pm	<b>Plenary</b> Mod: Chaltu Tesfa	4:00-4:15 pm	<b>Tea break</b>
5:00pm	Opening service	4:00-4:15 pm	<b>Tea break</b>	4:15 – 5:00 pm	<b>Plenary:</b> Dr. Belay Guta
	Worship	4:15-5:00 pm	<b>Lecture III</b> Topic: "Christian Muslim Relations" By: Dr. Belay Guta	5:00 pm	• Worship
	• Key Note: Mr. Paulos Shune	5:00-6:00 pm	<b>Plenary</b> Mod: Amensisa Ulfata		• Holy communion
	• Testimony (by Tsehay Tolessa, Rev. Gudina Tumsa's widow)		<b>Closing prayer</b>		
	• Reminiscences Elders				
	• Closing Prayer				

## COMMUNIQUE

From the Regional Seminar on the Life and Ministry of Rev.  
Gudina Tumsa "The Role of a Christian in a Given Society"  
(January 31 - February 2, 2006)

*"The Gospel of Jesus Christ is God's power to save everyone who believes it. It is the power to save from eternal domination, from economic exploitation, from political oppression, etc. Because of its eternal dimension the Gospel of Jesus Christ could never be replaced by any of the ideologies invented by men throughout the centuries. It is the only voice telling about a loving Father who gave His son as a ransom for many. It tells about the forgiveness of sins and the resurrection of the body. It is the Good News to sinful man, the only power to save mankind from its sinfulness. It is too powerful to be compromised by any social system. It is too dear a treasure to be given up (Mat. 13,4). Nationalism has its own place, but it can never replace the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I hope and pray that the EECMY will be able to make the right decision at this critical moment in her history."*

(The conclusion of the memorandum of July 1975 by Gudina Tumsa, accepted by the 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the EECMY at Nedjo in April 1976)

Under the theme "The Role of a Christian in a Given Society" a Regional Missiological Seminar on "The Life and Ministry of Rev. Gudina Tumsa," General Secretary of the EECMY from 1966-1979, was conducted in the Central Synod at Nekemte Christian Education College from January 31 to February 2, 2006. The Seminar, sponsored by the Gudina Tumsa Foundation (GTF) in consultation with the Central Synod of the EECMY, brought together 200 participants from the Wabe-Batu Synod, the Central Ethiopia Synod, the Central Synod, the Western Synod, the Birbir-Dilla Synod, the Western Wellega Bethel Synod, the Oromo- Speaking Full Gospel Church of Finfinne and the Assemblies of God. The Seminar was conducted in the Oromo language and translation was made where necessary.

The purpose of the Seminar was to inspire and guide young church ministers to bear the cost of discipleship by reflecting on the life and ministry of Gudina Tumsa, the former General Secretary of the EECMY. The topics of the lectures included "The Role of a Christian in a Given Society", "Ecumenical Harmony", "Stewardship of the Gospel", "Wholistic

Ministry" and a presentation entitled "Gudina Tumsa: Christian Martyr, or 'Narrow Nationalist'?".

The participants recognized the pertinence of the issues raised by the church under Gudina Tumsa's leadership in regard to the critical issues that face the church today. They also expressed their hope that the church recognize Gudina Tumsa's vision as a vision given to the church, and work to ensure that such seminars be conducted on synod, presbytery and congregation levels to allow for the participation of all members.

At the conclusion of the Seminar the following recommendations were put forward:

- Upon return to the respective congregations, to share all lessons learnt with fellow believers;
- In delivering the lessons, more focus should be made on women, youth and children;
- Ensure the participation of all church ministers in future missiological seminars;
- Work to encourage the participation of Christians in matters affecting the society they live in;
- Work to allow the usage of wholistic ministry in an organized manner in all the churches;
- Recognizing our stewardship for the Gospel, work faithfully to take the Gospel to those who are still in darkness and to provide pastoral care to those who have already heard the Good News
- Recognize that spreading the Gospel requires commitment and may require, paying the cost of discipleship and martyrdom. We have to prepare ourselves to work with full commitment to take forward the gospel entrusted to us by our spiritual fathers.
- Do our share of the work to strengthen the fellowship of the churches;
- The church has to prepare its members to respond to critical issues that face the church and society by conducting relevant seminars ahead of time.
- Put in writing and disseminate the histories of the spiritual fathers of the church;
- Encourage Theological Seminaries and Bible Colleges on the use of Gudina Tumsa's writings as textbooks for appropriate courses.

Nekemte, Feb. 2, 2006  
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20.05.2003

LWF President Pays Tribute to the Vision of Murdered Ethiopian Church Leader Gudina Tumsa

**For Many among the Poor and Disenfranchised, He Became a Symbol of Hope**

*ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia/GENEVA, 20 May 2003 (LWI)* – The President of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Bishop emeritus Dr Christian Krause has described slain Ethiopian pastor Gudina Tumsa as a fighter and dynamic church leader who gave his church the decisive impetus for independence in theological thought and practice.

Krause, on a recent visit to Ethiopia, said the former General Secretary of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) who was murdered by the country's military dictatorship in 1979, resisted both the foreigners' patronizing attitude and attempts to split his church into the different mission areas of individual groups from abroad. Tumsa did not allow himself to be intimidated by the financial dependency caused by the country's impoverishment. His concern was to create a new missionary community of Lutheran churches in which the EECMY, with its particular gifts and possibilities, would be an equal partner, Krause said in his tribute.

LWF president made these remarks during the April 30-May 3 "Second Missiological Seminar on the Life and Ministry of Rev. Gudina Tumsa," jointly organized by the Gudina Tumsa Foundation (GTF) and EECMY. Some 250 participants including guest speakers from Germany, Norway and the United States attended the meeting, whose theme was "Church and Society."

In his presentation titled "Gudina Tumsa, the EECMY, Ethiopian State and International Christian Community," Krause described Tumsa as a martyr for his church in the fullest sense of the word, as well as a contemporary witness to the gospel. He gave direction to the next generation and is a "great role model for our times."

The LWF president described the historic context of the events in the 1970s relevant to the topic, and also reflected on his close personal and professional relationship with the former EECMY general secretary and his family. Krause spoke of his final encounter with his friend and colleague, during which Tumsa declined an offer of a safe haven outside the country, and instead chose to remain with his people.

For Krause, Tumsa had acted in accordance with German pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer's motto, advocating that the final responsible question is not "'How can I emerge from this situation a hero?" but rather 'How will the coming generation be able to survive?'" Indeed, at the very moment when the EECMY leader had the opportunity to flee, he chose to stay with his church, though he was aware of the threat this posed.

Krause considered the opportunity to honor a close friend on his last trip to Africa as LWF President as a happy conclusion to his time in office. In July this year, delegates to the LWF Tenth Assembly in Winnipeg, Canada, will elect a new president. Krause, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brunswick, Germany from 1994 to January 2002, was appointed at the 1997 LWF Ninth Assembly in Hong Kong, China.

Krause said he was pleased that earlier tensions between the EECMY and GTF, which he together with friends and the Tumsa family had founded in the early 90's, had now been alleviated. The collaboration in organizing the seminar was a visible outcome of the improved relationship.

The seminar participants honored Tumsa as a church leader recognized throughout the worldwide community of churches. They supported a proposal put forward by the Mekane Yesus Theological Seminary board to set up a