

TW 2020 Movement English Speaking Africa 2019 Report

*“Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets,
so that a runner may read it”
- Habakkuk. 2:2*

The Vision made plain on tablets - There are many reasons for me to commend the TW 2020 Movement. One reason that probably stands big and tall in the midst of all is that, it has made the proper siren call to the Bride of Christ to reclaim its rightful place in the leadership and management of the affairs of this planet that our glorious God called into existence through His powerful Word. The other reason for which I highly commend the TW 2020 Movement is because it has ‘written and made the vision plain and put it in tablets’ for the Church of Jesus Christ to arise. The vision of this Movement has been written in many “tongues”.

I was unable to get information, within the timeline we expected them, on what is happening in many countries of English speaking Africa on putting into practice what we learned and received from this Movement. This is not to say that nothing is happening; things are happening in many countries. The problem lies primarily in failure to report on time.

Hence, I have confined this report on what is happening in Ethiopia in line with the vision of the TW2020 Movement.

I want to share a few points about what the Church in Ethiopia has started to do or is doing with much greater intentionality and commitment as a result of its association with the TW2020 Movement. The “Runner”, the Ethiopian church, has **seen** the vision of the TW2020 and has started running with it. The following is a bird’s-eye view of how the lessons we gleaned from the TW 2020 Movement Summits Translated itself in Ethiopia:

1. **Exciting news from Ethiopia** – Ethiopia’s prime Minister is a person who loves God and I believe one main reason why he won the Nobel Prize is attributable to his deep roots in the Christian faith. We are exceedingly glad that another African, the only one to date after Mandela of South Africa, has won this prize. We are thankful to God for this unique opportunity. We see this prize as a prize for the whole of African Christian leaders who serve their respective countries with integrity and love for their people uphold justice.
2. **Celebration Challenge** – The Ethiopian New Millennium Prayer Chain **has** kept the body of Christ in the country in year long vigil and prayer 24/7 for Ethiopia and Eritrea in particular and the Horn of Africa (Djibouti, Eritrea Ethiopia, Sudan, and South Sudan,) in general. Most of the times the prayers are supported by fasting. In addition to this many different local churches/congregations and denominations have also been doing several rounds of 40day fasting and prayer.
3. **The Family Challenge and the family Sphere** - One of the groups that can be cited, as an example of faithfulness to the goals of the TW Movement is the Ethiopian wing of the TW Movement Family Challenge and Sphere. The Ethiopian members of the Family Challenge and Sphere that were brought together during the 2018 TW 2020 Movement Addis Ababa Summit. The group has identified areas that they address together and areas that remain within their respective ministry sphere. Some of the members of the group run radio and TV to teach and inform about the family. They have created network with Para churches like the Ethiopian University Students Union to teach and train young people about sexual purity and the challenges and opportunities of the Christian youth.
4. **The Orphan Challenge** – one of the areas in which much is being done and significant change is being registered in Ethiopia is in the area of orphans and vulnerable children. Many Christian NGOs and Para churches that work with and for orphans and vulnerable children have formed

an association under the umbrella of the Evangelical Churches Fellowship of Ethiopia. This association organizes annual events in several cities of the country to create awareness about the state of orphans and vulnerable children to challenge and encourage people to adopt orphaned and vulnerable children. As a result, the number of Ethiopian families that are adopting orphans has shown growth.

5. **Church Sphere** – Holding the TW 2018 Summit in Addis Ababa has given an impetus and huge encouragement for the body of Christ to get more and more involved in social issues. Many local churches and denominations now work on social issues like poverty, environment, peace and reconciliation. The following are some examples in this regard:
 - a. ***Salt and Light Initiative*** - An initiative called, the ***Salt and Light Initiative*** was launched by the Compassion Ethiopia Office in partnership of 11 local churches in two different Regions of the Country to equip, empower and challenge the church to engage the in social action and transformational ministry. Five topics that were agreed upon by the Ethiopia Compassion Office and the participating church leadership were the subject of the trainings under this **Initiative**. Pastors, elders and fulltime church workers of these churches were trained. Four books, based on the trainings are being written and will be published by June 30 2020. The books that are under construction bear the following titles:
 - i. ***The Worth of the Human Person;***
 - ii. ***The Role of the Individual;***
 - iii. ***Creativity; and,***
 - iv. ***The Church’s calling as the Steward of Nature***
 - v. ***The Place of Rest and Reflection in Ministry (a monograph)***
 - b. Another heart-warming example of the church’s engagement in social action is an initiative called ***“It Concerns Me”***. The Ztseat Apostolic Church in partnership with the Municipality of Addis Ababa and the City’s Social Fund carried out this initiative. The Initiative aims at primarily helping street children through training and job creation to be self-dependent and lead a decent life off the streets of Addis Ababa. It also aims assisting those who want to rejoin their family to be able to do so. The Ztseat Church organized music concert. Over 13,000 people attended the festival that was held at the Millennium Hall and the income generated form the concert was given to the Municipality of Addis Ababa.
 - c. **Participation in Environmental Rehabilitation** – Ethiopia has received global praise and appreciation for planting millions of trees in one day in August. The Ethiopian people, in response to the example set by our Prime Minister and his appeal to the nation to plant trees, stood as one to achieve this and more than 350 million trees were planted in one day. The evangelical churches, as one of the well organized social structures in the Ethiopian society, made significant contributions in this key national endeavor. The churches planted many trees within their respective church compounds, and the schools, hospitals and clinics they own. They also planted thousands of trees in places allocated to them by the Federal and Regional and local governments in rural areas and urban centers.
6. **Business Sphere** – The people who served in the Business Sphere Committee of Ethiopia during TW2020 Summit in Ethiopia, led by Pastor Fitsum, an associate pastor in one of the big churches in Addis Ababa, and a friend and admirer of the TW2020 Business Facilitator, brother John Warton, are actively engaged in propagating what they learned during that Summit. The Team organized a training program for many business people immediately after the Summit in Addis last year and took advantage of Brother John Warton’s presence in Addis and got in-depth training on the matter. The Committee plans to expand its ministry to the Regions of the Country.

7. **Government Sphere-** Ethiopian evangelicals have been very shy when it comes to participating in politics. The Ethiopian church is said to be a “silent” church when it comes to political and social action. The participation of some influential Christian leaders in the preparations we did for the different Challenges and Spheres and their involvement during the TW 2020 Movement Summit in Addis has encouraged evangelicals to be bolder and more aggressive in their engagement in these areas. We now see greater interest among Christians in politics and government.
8. The Ztseat Church – one church whose leader who was encouraged to participate in the TW2020 Movement Summits has been applying all that the TW2020 teaches in all its programs and activities. This Church organized a one-day conference in which 1400 young people were trained on all the 7 spheres we share in the TW2020 Movement.

The work of TW2020 Movement has fallen on fertile soil in Ethiopia and all indications are that the vision of the Movement will soon become incorporated in most, if not all, ministries and activities evangelical churches in the Country.

In conclusion, I want express my thanks and deep appreciation for the leaders of the Movement for heeding to God’s voice and boldly sharing what they received from the Lord. Thank you for the perseverance in running with the vision “in season and out of season”. May the Lord bless your lives, families and ministries even more abundantly!

Glory to God in the highest!

Humbly submitted by Shiferaw W. Michael
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TW2020 Movement