



WOMEN IN
CHURCH AND
SOCIETY
THE LUTHERAN
WORLD FEDERATION

From the LWF Institutional Memory

Women on the Move - Her Story:



Council meeting in 2002, Ms Aberash Dinsa in red in the middle. Photo LWF Archives

Name: Aberash Dinsa
Country of origin: Ethiopia
Date of Birth: 11 April 1958
Church: Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus
Period of Mandate: LWF Council member 1997 - 2003

Short biography: Last of the three siblings, Aberash Dinsa Guramel was born to a rural family from western part of Ethiopia, Illubabore. She was very fortunate to have gone to school without being stopped for an early marriage, which was the norm of the time and against which her two elder sisters had fought and won, paving the way and better future for her.

Upon earning her first degree in Biology from the Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia, she started as a teacher at the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus' (EECMY) senior secondary school, in Lalo Aira, Wollega; one of the few outstanding schools in the region at the time. During the same period, she also taught at Health Assistant School at the EECMY's hospital, which was in the vicinity of the school.

In the later part of 1986, Ms. Guramel moved to the EECMY Head Office in Addis Ababa, where she served as a chaplain/counselor for university students (mainly EECMY members) and also coordinated the "Urban Mission" program of the church. She cherishes her many years of experience and considers it a privilege and challenge to

have been working with such dynamic and diverse groups, reaching out to urban destitute with the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in their multifaceted life problems.

Having earned her master's degree in communication from Wheaton College, in Illinois, USA in 1993, she resumed her service in the EECMY with more emphasis on women's ministry. She played an important role in organizing and starting the Church's "Women's Institute and Center" (WIAC) in view of equipping women with varieties of skills and prepare them for more active participation in life and work of EECMY. As a leader of WIAC, she facilitated various training programs which led great number of women to achieve certificates and proceed to other areas of studies whereby they earned diplomas, first degrees and few of them master's degrees in various areas of disciplines, like leadership skills and theology. Many of those women would never have had chances to further studies, otherwise. Testimonies of some had been published in one of the EECMY's Women's Ministry Coordination Office (WMCO) magazines.

Ms Guramel's first encounter with the LWF international meetings was at the 9th Assembly, which was held in Curitiba, Brazil in 1990. She served as a member of the LWF Council from 1997- 2003, representing the EECMY. During those years, she also served as the vice chairperson for the program committee for communication services, and concluded her term of service at Winnipeg, Canada. In a different capacity, she served as a member of the "Board of Trustees of the Canadian Lutherans World Relief" (CLWR) from 2003 -2007.

Ms. Aberash Dinsa Guramel was in charge of the EECMY Women's Ministry Coordination Office (MMCO), until she moved to Geneva Switzerland in October 2007, together with her family. Her husband, Mr. Abebe Yohannes Saketa is currently serving as Program Coordinator in the LWF Department for Mission and Development (DMD).