

On Sunday, November 14, 2021, Pastors Hallack Greider and Tam Kashike shared a conversation with the MPC congregation about the Glory of Christ International Church, including its formation and history. Afterwards, Pastor Tam kindly typed up his responses and submitted them to MPC for those who missed the service that day:



November 17, 2021

I'm so glad to be happy!

Greetings in the mighty name of our Lord Jesus Christ! May His grace and peace be with you always! First of all, thanks for your invitation. How important it is for me and my church. I really appreciate your Leaders giving us an opportunity to serve your Congregations, thank you. We're so happy & interested in your Sunday service.

Following are answers to questions that were sent out by Pastor Hallack in preparation for our presentation on November 14. I wrote out these answers for those who may have missed the service.

1. What is my own personal faith story:

My own beliefs - I received Jesus Christ as my Savior and as my Lord in faith, and committed to Christ and His kingdom.

My own Doctrinal statement - I have been committed to the Biblical truth as the basis of my doctrine and practices. The Bible is the infallible word of God, it has eternal relevance; it speaks to all mankind in every age and in every culture. Because it is God's word, I must listen, obey and I myself submit its authority.

a. Were you raised as a Christian?

Yes, I was raised as a Christian. My dad, since my childhood, has been serving in the local church as an evangelist. I grew up in that family where my mom and dad have been devoted servants of God and the gospel.

b. How did you come to learn about Jesus Christ?

I learned about Christ from My dad. He used to teach us about Christ, the need for repenting and receiving Jesus Christ as personal saviour to be born again Christians.

c. When did you hear the call to ministry as a pastor?

I used to minister as a part time pastor while I was in Ethiopia. After I moved to the USA, I started my life and had a job to support myself and my family. But the burden to spread the gospel to people has always been in my heart. And I started a family bible study group with few Ethiopian friends, neighbours, and colleagues. This bible study group began to grow, and I started feeling the holy spirit's call towards pastoring the flock and taking care of them. I took time and prayed to get clear confirmation and guidance from the Holy Spirit before I quit my job and started a Glory of Christ church here in Seattle, three years back in Dec 2017.

2. Tell us about the religions and different Christian experiences in Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Ethiopia and Eritrea share lots of cultural, social lifestyle, and religious similarities. In both countries, before Eritrea became independent, during the Monarch system Orthodox Christianity was considered as a government religion and highly promoted. During the Derg Military regime, which embraced communist ideology, no religious practice was allowed in Ethiopia, which includes Eritrea. During that time there were underground churches in both parts, although there was prosecution which could even cost one's life, if found to be Christian (especially born again Christian). After the fall of Derg which of course led to secession of Eritrea as an independent country, the situation changed in a different direction. The repression of Christianity continued in Eritrea, while the freedom of religion practices got better in Ethiopia. Ethiopia's constitution acknowledges independence and freedom of religions. All major religions are recognized as legal entities in the countries including the protestant churches. There are two umbrella legal associations of protestant religions in Ethiopia; namely Ethiopian Evangelical churches fellowship and the other is Ethiopian gospel believers churches counsel, in which the Glory of Christ church is a member.

Currently, of the total population of Ethiopia, 20% are assumed to be protestant Christians, about 45% are Orthodox Christian, 31% Muslims and the rest are others (including Roman Catholic, Jewish, and indigenous religion).

- a. What is life and faith like in Ethiopia and Eritrea?

In Ethiopia, there is a relative freedom of religion practice. Churches have freedom of evangelizing, worshiping and practicing their belief and faith. However, the situation in Eritrea is different. Christianity and anything related to Christian practices is not allowed there. Muslims have more freedom to practice their religion in Eritrea than Christians. The government tends to have more affiliation towards Arabs and has interest to be a member of the Arab league. This makes things difficult to Christians in Eritrea. There is no freedom of worshiping. Christians are still going underground for prayer and bible study.

Demographically both countries have a youth bulge, nearly 60% of the population in each country are youth aged below 25. Most youth are very active in religious practices. This gives the opportunity to evangelize and save lives.

3. How did the Glory of Christ Church get started here in Seattle?

- a. What is your vision?

I visualize my ministry continuing until the day of my death. I will serve God and Ethiopians people through innovation, impact and caring.

I will innovate by staying in close relationship with the God of the ages, the Bible, the Church, the GCI- Church, contemporary living and with my own soul. From this mission I will develop able approaches for making life work better.

I will impact others through teaching, preaching, Worshiping, training, Counseling and guidance; Communication and freedom writing. Love will undergo all that I am and do as I keep up an active relationship with God, myself, my family, the community of faith with friends and with the world. I will never give up my vision for any challenges till I reach my destiny.

4. How can we pray for you and your church?

So far we have been doing a lot to spread the gospel to the two nations in every potential way that we can reach to them. As I have mentioned above, our vision is getting the gospel to people, supporting the needy in their daily life challenges, such as providing school fee, educational materials, food, cloth, and other basic needs to the poorest of poor families in the urban and rural areas. This is to provide comprehensive service (both spiritual and basic needs of the community we serve). However, we have been challenged to meet the demand of the people in need. To meet the demand, we need lots of hands to be stretched out and support this vision. So we ask you to pray for us and also join hands with us to realize this vision, pray that God raises people to support this vision and serve God with us as a partner to this good cause and the kingdom's work.

a. How can we pray for Ethiopia and Eritrea?

We ask you to pray for Ethiopia that the current political crisis that is claiming lots of lives stops, and peace prevails in the country. That God gives the leaders wisdom to lead the country and the people to peace and prosperity. And God gives opportunities and open doors to plant more churches in Ethiopia and saves lives. We already have one in Addis Ababa, others are one Shashemane, and Wolaita Sodo in the southern part of Ethiopia.

We ask you to pray to Eritrea that God intervenes and changes the current situation, to end repression and persecution of Christians in that country, that people can worship Christ, and preach the gospel in full freedom. We have a plan to plant a church in Eritrea too, so please pray for us that God opens a door to do so.

I pray God's richest and best blessing in you! I continue to trust God for supernatural breakthroughs in every aspect of success in your church, your family as well as for each of you.

With God Nothing is impossible !

In Him,

Pastor Tam