



4th Axum Alumni Annual Fundraiser in Las Vegas

All Axumites arrived in Las Vegas Tuesday June 22, 2010. In the morning of Wednesday June 23, 2010 there was a meeting held discussing about present and future projects, plans for fundraising and membership fees and dues. Mayor Hagos presented the current stages of the laboratory being built in Axum. He also discussed the flow of drinking water in Axum and what is needed to improve the water conditions there. Members present in the meeting also made pledges and donations to AAA to help fundraise for needed projects in Axum.

The evening of Wednesday June 23, 2010 was when the main festival took place. The banquet hall was decorated very beautifully with a high attendance of Tigaru. The many dishes of traditional Ethiopian food prepared by Tigaru of Las Vegas were appetizing and delicious. The Tigaru women of Las Vegas were all dressed in sync with traditional Ethiopian gowns with the Axum obelisk on them along with traditional Ethiopian styled braiding. The male Tigaru members were dressed in all white traditional Tigray clothing as well; the Tigaru men and women lit the room with their traditional clothing and appearance. The event opened with Shambel Zechiwes from San Diego, CA. The night was one to remember with endless eating, traditional dancing and socializing.

The keynote speaker of the event was the Axum Mayor, Mr. Hagos Gebrewahid. Mayor Hagos was a valuable part of the event, speaking with the audience and updating them on the present conditions of Axum. His speech was very uplifting and informative. He presented AAA with two gifts, the gift from the people of Axum, a picture of the development of the laboratory and a gift from the Mayor's office, a certificate of appreciation for building the laboratory in Axum. Mayor Hagos has supported AAA from the beginning of its development and we would like to thank him for that.



In the middle of the event five AAA branches were recognized for hosting previous and present fundraising events: Denver, CO, Washington, D.C., Seattle, WA, Columbus, OH and Las Vegas, NV. Two individuals were also presented with awards of appreciation: Mrs. Abeba from Atlanta, GA and Mr. Abebe from Las Vegas, NV.

There was an auction for a round-trip ticket to and from Ethiopia donated by Ethiopian Airlines. The auction was a huge success which raised over \$5,600.

The event continued with more festive dancing and enjoyment. It did not end until 5:00am. It was a successful and memorable event and we want to thank all the Tigaru of Las Vegas for their time and dedication.

Mayor Hagos visited the sister city of Axum Denver, CO and met with the Mayor of Denver, CO and other officials along with the sister city board members and AAA members. He met with the officials of a local college. He represented Axum in an outstanding way, leaving a positive impression on every official he met. He traveled to Washington D.C., and seen many landscapes. He was accompanied by Dr. Tsehay Teffera and our AAA members, thank you to them all for taking the time to give Mayor Hagos a tour of the city.

We would like to give a special thanks to the Tigray community Association of Las Vegas, NV, the volunteer artists who entertained us free of charge, Mr. Berhane Haile from Seattle, WA and Mr. Mulu Hailu from Seattle, WA, the AAA members of Las Vegas and all AAA members that came from out of state to celebrate this event with us.

The next event will be in Denver, CO, see you there!

Thank You,

Abebe Teklemariam