

## **Summary of AAA Meeting Minutes in Minnesota**

On January 28, 2012 I had the honor to visit Minnesota's twin cities for an AAA branch meeting. I was able to meet with AAA members and supporters of Minneapolis and St. Paul. The experience was one to remember. The purpose of this meet in Minnesota was to convert our dedicated supporters from Minnesota to be official members of AAA. This mission was met and we were able to accomplish newly converted members to AAA.

We were in a 5 hour meeting that covered areas of AAA mission and the foundation and the preparation of the laboratory in Axum. We discussed the accomplishments thus far of the organization. We also elaborated most on the project in Axum, we have completed 2 floors and we are awaiting the completion of the other 2 floors along with the resources needed to complete the total project. Fundraising and collective monetary funds is very important at this time. During our meeting we were able to have \$6,000 pledged to the continuity of the project in Axum! These pledges will be paid within six months. We are more than grateful for the pledges given by our Minnesota branch members. This truly shows their dedication and strong belief in our biggest project yet. Along with the laboratory constructions, they have dedicated to continue assistance in future AAA projects.

Within Minnesota they have agreed upon fundraising gatherings four times a year. These fundraising events are additional to the annual AAA event held every year. The annual fundraiser event in 2014 will be held in Minnesota, this decision has been made by the branch members.

One of the highlights of this meeting was a question that the branch members had about the funding transactions from the US association to the board members in Axum, to directly fund the project in Axum. During the meeting this was elaborated very clearly to the branch members. They were pleased to hear the organization of the funding transactions between AAA and the board members of Axum.

At the end of the meeting, we were able to elect one board member, a chair person, a secretary and a treasurer; also, three members to coordinate public relations.

We hope to see everyone at our 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Atlanta, GA!

Best Regards,

Abebe Teklemariam