



IDW Mission Grant Evaluation Report Form

Grant recipients are to complete and submit the report form within one month of the completion of the effort. If this is a continuing ministry, please submit a report by January 31st of the following year, in which the grant is received. Include pictures/videos that help share the story with other congregations to encourage them in their own ministry. Final grant funds will be sent upon receipt of this evaluation.

Contact Person, Congregation, and email address:

Rev. Mark Heilman, Memorial, Ames mlcomesia@aol.com

1. Please provide a brief overview of the effort: Pastor Gerken and his wife Ruth did go to Ethiopia September, 2017. This was a delay from what they had intended to in November, 2017, because of unrest in that country. They completed their trip and are reporting to congregations, including our own, about what we can learn from our brethren in Ethiopia about sharing the Gospel.
2. What goals were established for this effort and what did you hope to accomplish? We hoped to have Pastor Gerken and his wife visit our missionary, Kebede, in Ethiopia and learn about church planting. We hope to accomplish that what they learned can be shared with churches here. This also gave us a chance have someone from here in Iowa West with Kebede.
3. Did you achieve your goals? If not, what do you think were some of the contributing factors? We did succeed in getting the Gerkens here and back and having them visit with us about it. Now we have to see how what they learned can impact churches here.
4. Is there anything you would do differently if you were to undertake this effort again? It would be great if a group could go there to experience what the church is doing there. But the complications of travel to there could make that very hard.
5. What lessons were learned through this effort? The difficulties today in getting to places like Ethiopia because of travel restrictions.
6. Will this outreach effort continue and be sustaining? Did a new outreach opportunity present itself?
7. What suggestions would you give to a congregation considering a similar effort?