



New Year's Greetings for 2010 to the Ethiopian Community

*From His Imperial Highness Prince Ermias Sahle-Selassie Haile-Selassie,
President of The Crown Council of Ethiopia*

On behalf of the Crown Council of Ethiopia, my wife, Le'ult Saba Kebede, and our families, I wish to extend warmest greetings to all in the extended Ethiopian community this Enkutatash (እንቁጣጣሽ), today, Meskerem 1, 2010 (1 መስከረም 2010). It is a time when we can express our profound gratitude to God and our fellow Ethiopians for have survived a difficult year of drought and other challenges; a year which has made us stronger and wiser. A year in which we learned that our common Ethiopian identity, our shared 3,000 years of Solomonic tradition, and our love for our great and varied, beautiful homeland is more important than anything which has temporarily divided us over recent years.

Most of this past year I have spent in the diaspora, meeting with many Ethiopians from so many of our great cultures and regions, and it has been significant that there is such a great bond of culture, language, beliefs, and a shared love of our traditions every time we meet. No matter where in the world I have met with our People, we cannot escape our common caring for those who fight to make Ethiopia a better place. When drought or violence or anger are evident anywhere in Ethiopia, it hurts us all, no matter where we are in the world.

And yet Ethiopians at home and around the world have, in fact, made wonderful strides in the past year, and hope that the coming year of 2010 will be even more successful for you all, as well as healthy and happy. We extend our prayers, too, for our Ethiopian brothers and sisters in our homeland as they struggle to overcome the devastation and consequences of the drought. We can never forget our debt to our homeland and people.

This past year I was fortunate to represent all Ethiopians when I undertook a Commemorative Visit to Australia to remember the great State Visit which my Grandfather, our beloved Emperor Haile Selassie I, made to Australia in Miaziah 1960. The visit drew wonderful support from not only the Australian Government, including Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, but also from the Ethiopian Embassy in Canberra. In a couple of months, Le'ult Saba and I will make a similar Commemorative Visit to Canada, where we will see the great contributions Canadian Ethiopians have made to their new homeland, and how they also raise the prestige of our incredible Ethiopian identity in the world.

We all understand the wonderful legacy we have with our three millennia of Solomonic History, and that our distinct Ethiopian character transcends any smaller communal differences we may have. Yes, we take pride in our individual communities, but we are exceptional because of our shared history and common over-arching identity. God Bless you all.