

Excerpt about Mahibere Kidusan Exhibition

By Andrea Useem, Special the Christian Science Monitor, (Addis Ababa, June 08, 2000):
A group of highly educated - and highly motivated - young Orthodox believers in a group called Mahibere Kidusan, or Association in the Name of Saints, is working to carry the Orthodox Church into the 21st century.

In Addis earlier this spring (June 08, 2000), the group organized an exhibition on the Orthodox Church, "past, present and future." The exhibition, which showcased everything from the Ethiopian nation's direct descent from Noah to a new software program in Ge'ez, squeezed in more than 50,000 visitors in a single week. Addis Ababa residents lined up as early as 6 a.m. to see the show, sometimes waiting hours in sun and rain.

"We are not selling our religion, we are simply informing people about it," said Ephrem Eshete, one of the exhibit's organizers. Mahibere Kidusan has designed a sophisticated web-site, now searching for a host that contains information on the more than 17,000 Orthodox Churches in the country. "The church needs to modernize - not our doctrines or the teachings of the saints, but our management," said Ephrem. "We need modern technology to transmit our teachings around the world."