

# **Motherland International Relations**

## **Harar, Ethiopia Trod**

### **May 31, 2009 Update.**

Greetings Royal Family –

Here is a summation and update of the Harar Trod scheduled for November 2009.

- In July of 2008 Ras Sela shared his vision at the Global Nyah Binghi Consultation with the Ancient and Administrative Council of the Theocracy Reign Order Of The Nyah Binghi in Jamaica about returning to the birth place of Haile Selassie The First in order to honor his living legacy.
- October 6, 2008 Ras Flako, as the Illect of Records for the Nyah Binghi Administrative Council, documented the blessings from the ancients for Ras Sela to work towards making this vision become a reality
- Later in October, Ras Sela shared his vision with the global Rastafari Family through email and Rastafari websites. Positive responses were received and an ad hoc group began to formalize the journey
- In November 2008 the MC asked for clarity about what organization or individuals would facilitate this historic journey. Ras Sela, after no other organization surfaced, requested that Motherland International Relations(hereafter referred to as MIR) step up to facilitate this journey as an official 501(c)(3) U.S based non-profit organization in hopes of formally furthering the bridge building with Ethiopian government, church, and relevant on-the-ground organizations
- Christopher Liontree, Co-Director of Motherland International Relations, organized a meeting in DC with Prince Ermias, Ras Kwasi, Ras Sela, and Ras Tikher Tiffera to gather momentum and input towards this journey. An official endorsement from the Ethiopian Crown Council came from this meeting. Also from this meeting, Ras Sela and Christopher were able to connect with each other Iritically (their first in person meeting) which gave more strength to the process.
- Upon MIR receiving an official request from Ras Sela, the Board of Directors of MIR accepted the invitation to umbrella the trod and approved the Co-Directors in answering the call to manifest this mission.
- Official Endorsements for the mission came in from across the world energizing the momentum for this unifying step towards honoring the Father of African Unity Haile Selassie The First.
- Invitations to apply/register for this journey, along with updates from MIR were sent to the Global Family and as of the time of this report, 12 applications/ registrations have been received.
- As of the date of this report, 3 people have purchased their tickets: Ras Sela, Sister Ijahnya Christian, and Christopher Liontree.

- The focus of this Fact-Finding Trod has been narrowed down to *advocating and researching* the implementation of a Cultural Heritage Site for Haile Selassie The First at his birth site in Ejersa Goro. We give thanks for the communication from the Crown Prince that The Royal Family will be taking on the internment site of Woizero Yeshimabet as a family matter, and will handle this as they see fit.
- At present, MIR is seeking funding support for the following service projects that we hope to strengthen during this trod:
  1. Repairing a leaking roof at the St. Mary of Zion Church in Ejersa Goro where Haile Selassie The First was born and where his umbilical chord is buried
  2. Providing a water catchment system for the Shashemene school “Man Ba Madda” (Place of Learning Spring of Knowledge) formerly known as the Dr. Malaku E. Bayen grade school.
  3. Donating to the Addis Ababa DYMDC Children’s Village Center that feeds and cares for Ethiopian street children.

As others confirm their ability to trod in these economically trying times, further reports around the make up and progress of the trod will be forthcoming. We know many would like to join this journey and we are prayerful that the formalization of a Rastafari Global Secretariat will achieve the one voice needed to access consistent financial support for service programs that support works in Africa and support the foundation for ones who want to stay in the Motherland.

A cornerstone to Motherland International Relations objectives is service. When we travel with groups it is important that we serve the communities we interact with and build a reciprocal relationship that is strength to strength and is mutually beneficial. It is MIR’s intention to set consistent service trips to Harar and Shashemene in the years to come in addition to our Ghana Programs.

The cooperation between MIR and Ras Sela has been founded on the need for transparent, accountable, and inclusive works to serve Africa and humanity. At this point MIR, in the midst of a shoe string budget, has allocated a \$500 scholarship to Sister Ijahnya Christian who was the first to put in her application and has shown a deep commitment to the journey and will add a great strength as a delegate. Although MIR accepted the facilitation of this trod and handling of most of the logistical details, at no time did MIR accept economic responsibility to make this trod occur.

If ones are still interested in joining this trod, please contact MIR immediately. There is a short form to complete which assists MIR in knowing the individuals intention, skills and needs. These forms are necessary for our organizational process which includes our accountability to our Board of Directors. We are available to talk through the forms by email or by phone.

For further input or reasoning concerning these works please email Ras Sela at [Ras\\_Sela@live.com](mailto:Ras_Sela@live.com) and Christopher and Debra Liontree at [injahi@hotmail.com](mailto:injahi@hotmail.com)

Attached:

- 1) [Request for audience with Ethiopian Crown Council](#)
- 2) [Request from Ras Sela for MIR to facilitate this journey + revised mission](#)
- 3) [Ethiopia Endorsement, Itinerary & Phone Conference Link](#)
- 4) [Crown Council Endorsement](#)
- 5) [Application](#)
- 6) [Ethiopia Group Letter](#)

[Index of all related documents](#)