



Ato Assefa Deresso Tessema  
September 5, 1948 -  
September 3, 2022



**ኢቶ ኢሰፋ ደርሶ ተሰማ**

**መስከረም 1940 - መስከረም 2015**



## የአቶ አሰፋ ደረሰ ተሰማ የሰርዓተ ቀብር መርሀ ግብር

መስከረም 5, 2014 (September 15, 2022) ዓ.ም ፍትህተ ጸሎት 4907 S. Main street ላይ በሚገኘው ቤተክርስቲያን ግሪም  
የኢትዮጵያ ለርቶዶክስ ተዋሃዶ ቤተክርስቲያን ኮቪቲ 10 ሰዓት ከተረጋጋው ጋላ: 6000 Santa Monica Blvd, ላይ በሚገኘው መካነ  
መቃብር ሰርዓተ ቀብር ከቀኑ 1 PM ይረጋግዳል። ከቀብር መልስ በደንገል ግሪም ኢትዮጵያን ለርቶዶክስ ተዋሃዶ ቤተክርስቲያን  
የተዘጋጀው የኮቪቲ ይግር ጸበል ጸዲቅ ተበልቶ ለገዳቢታ የቤተሰብ ስጉብት ይሆናል

## Ato Assefa Deresso Tessema's Funeral Service

Ato Assefa Deresso's Funeral mass will be held on September 15, 2022, at Virgin Mary Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church located at: 4907 S. Main Street, Los Angeles, California 90037 at 10:00am. The burial will take place at the Hollywood Forever Cemetery located at 6000 Santa Monica Blvd, Los Angeles, California 90038 at 1:00pm.

Immediately following the burial, refreshments will be served at Virgin Mary Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church located at: 4907 S. Main Street, Los Angeles, California 90037. Guests and friends will bid farewell to the family at the of the refreshment service.



Ato Assefa Deresso's short Biography  
September 3, 1949 - September 3, 2022

Ato Assefa Deresso was born on September 3, 1949, in Anjibarra Woreda, Damot region of Gojjam province in Ethiopia to Fitawrari Deresso Tesfama and Woizero Yeshume Getachew. Ato Assefa attended elementary school at Anjibarra and his high school education through the 11<sup>th</sup> grade in Debre Markos Gojjam. Ato Assefa completed his last year of high school at Prince Beale-Mariam college preparatory school located inside the Haile Selassie University campus in Addis Ababa. Upon graduation from Beide-Mariam, Ato Assefa was admitted to Haile Selassie University in Addis Abeba where he majored in Geography and graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1972.

Once Ato Assefa graduated from the university, he spent the first few years of his career teaching at various high schools in different parts of Ethiopia. Ato Assefa soon became an active member and later took leadership roles in the Ethiopian Teachers Association, a veteran civic organization in Ethiopia advocating the rights of teachers, students and the general population. It was at this juncture that Ato Assefa became a member of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP), a clandestine political party engaged in a life and death struggle against the military regime of the 1970's and 1980's Ethiopia. Ato Assefa's organizational activities within the EPRP led to him becoming a target of the security forces of military government's intelligence apparatus. Rather than risk capture Ato Assefa escaped and joined the armed wing of the EPRP, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Army (EPRA), at Assimba. After a few years with the EPRA, Ato Assefa returned to the party organization structure and served the party, once again, diligently as zonal committee leadership member as well as the Gojjam and Gondar inter-zone committee leadership.

In 1980 Ato Assefa resigned from his duties as a member of the EPRP and entered Sudan. After a brief stay in the Sudan Ato Assefa immigrated to the United States via a United Nations resettlement program and came to Los Angeles, California in 1980. Once in Los Angeles Ato Assefa held various jobs to help support himself while also pursuing a degree in Business Administration at California State University, Los Angeles. Ato Assefa earned both a bachelor's and a master's degree in Business Administration from California State University in Los Angeles. Ato Assefa remained employed and played a decisive role in helping his nephews Ato Ashenafi Abebe and Ato Asnake Abebe immigrate and settle here in the Los Angeles area. Ato Assefa had been in failing health for several years and retired several years ago to concentrate in taking better care of himself. He passed away on September 3, 2022. Ato Assefa spent his youth educating Ethiopian youth and fighting for democratic and equal rights for all Ethiopians and a united Ethiopia. He's survived by many of his comrades, near and far, who would attest to this. Ato Assefa was a kind person who easily got along with everyone, sympathetic to his fellow human beings, always ready to help others, all with smile on his face. He is loved and will be greatly missed by his friends, comrades and especially by his grandnieces who brought him joy and laughter in his last few years.

Ato Assefa is preceded in death by his parents and is survived by his nephews Ato Ashenafi Abebe and Ato Asnake Abebe. He's also survived by Ato Ashenafi's spouse Woizero Bezawit Samuel and his beloved grandnieces Eldana Ashenafi, and Joanna Ashenafi. Ato Assefa is also survived by extended relatives in Ethiopia. May almighty God rest his soul in peace.

Ato Assefa's family, friends and comrades would like to express their immense gratitude to those who visited him during his illness and often called him on the phone with words of encouragement to Assefa and his family. And for all of you gathered here today, from near and far, to pay your respects, we thank you and pray that may Almighty God bless and spare you from such sorrow and loss.