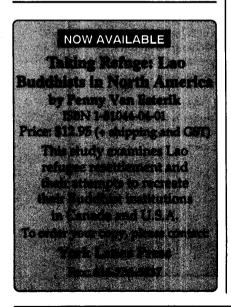
driveway. "They've found Biniam," I thought.

A Pass Lake resident had responded to Biniam's request for water. An ambulance driver had spotted him sitting by the side of the road then departing into the bush near Pearl. Later in the evening, an off-duty R.C.M.P. officer found Biniam's body hanging from a hydro pylon. Biniam had climbed the twelve feet and hanged himself by a rope he had fashioned from joining three strands he had found along the highway. He had bound his hands with his belt in such a fashion that would not interfere with his proposed plan of action.

A memorial service was held the following Sunday—our moments with Biniam were recounted, along with expressions of our own guilt, "What if we...?" Questions we could not answer. Biniam was gone. We talked about his honesty, his friendship and our concerns about lost dreams and hopes.

The obituary in the Chronicle Journal concluded: the work of the Lord never ends,

to find the lost
to heal the broken
to feed the hungry
to release the prisoner
to rebuild the nations
to bring peace among people
to make music in the heart.
We will miss him.



#### **Book Review**

# Storm and Sanctuary: The Journey of Ethiopian and Eritrean Women Refugees

## By Helene Moussa

Dundas, ON: Artemis Enterprises, 1993. ISBN 1-895247-08-x. \$18.95. 288p.

### Reviewed by Yohannes Gebresellasie

There are more than seventeen million refugees worldwide today. The majority of these refugees are women and children and many of them are from the Third World countries, particularly, Africa.

A few scholars have contributed extensively to the study of African refugees (Rogge, 1989), (Gaim, 1990), (Rogge and Akol, 1989). However, their studies have not been based exclusively on a gender perspective. Thus, research on women in general and on African women in particular has been neglected despite the particular difficulties these refugee women face.

By presenting the personal experiences of Ethiopian and Eritrean refugees who fled their country of origin during the years 1974-1991 (the time when Ethiopia was under the military regime lead by former Ethiopian dictator Mengestu Haile Mariam), Helene Moussa explains the unique situation that refugee women encounter not only as refugees, but most importantly as refugee women. Also, to explore the refugee issue from a gender perspective, Moussa reaches out directly to these refugee women from Ethiopia and Eritrea who now reside in Canada. She encourages them to share their experiences and, in her book, skilfully presents their personal interpretations in a very direct and frank way. This book, which consists of ten chapters (284 pages), focuses mainly on gender and refugee law, and refugee and other labels or identities. It also deals with the politics involved in doing research exclusively on refugee women as opposed to refugees in general. In the book, one can clearly understand that "refugee" is not a "homogeneous entity" because each refugee experience varies even among refugee women themselves.

The book thus brings out all the differences that are not assumed in settlement policies. It also provides an overview of the Ethiopian revolution of 1974, the complexities of the nationality question within the context of Ethiopia and the conflicts and wars that followed. Here, the reconstruction of the experiences of the refugee women in question, in particular, their decisions to leave and the processes they recall, become the focal point of Helene's analysis.

The book covers a much broader argument than the current immigration policy which has historically defined the term "refugee" as gender neutral; thus, the term has been confused. Moussa's work is therefore a valuable contribution in highlighting the needs of refugee women with regard to refugee assistance or with regard to resettlement or repatriation. This study contributes highly to a gender analysis of women's experiences which are widely misunderstood or perhaps intentionally neglected in a traditionally patriarchal society. The book also provides statistical data, figures and an extensive bibliography covering a number of areas on women refugees useful for academics as well as for policy makers. The methodology is very different because a constant interchange was maintained between the author and the people in question.

The reader will find the book very passionate and clear. Its content is essential for anyone who would like to understand the problems women refugees experience before, during and after they are traditionally labelled as "refugees" as well as the courageous struggle they have to endure to maintain their identity as women wherever they are.

Yohannes Gebresellasie, Laval University, is a research exchange scholar at CRS

# REFUGES PERIODICAL ON REFUGEES

Refuge
York Lanes Press
Centre for Refugee Studies
Suite 351, York Lanes, York University
4700 Keele Street, North York
Ontario, Canada M3J 1P3
Phone: (416) 736-5843 \* Fax: (416) 736-5837
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