



Dr. Tesfa G. Gebremedhin conducted a successful seminar in Boston on April 21, 2007. The seminar, divided into two sessions, touched on issues that are very central to the well being of every Eritrean in the Diaspora, and the course they should embark on in order to create vibrant, supportive and nurturing communities.

The first session, delivered in English, addressed the relationship young Eritrean teenagers should have with their parents. Upon request from Dr. Tesfa, parents left the seminar room so that they could freely express their thoughts and deliberate without any inhibition. During the session, Dr. Tesfa had an interactive and frank discussion with the teenagers addressing the challenges they face in the society they live in and what their ties to the mother country should be like. Dr. Tesfa encouraged the youth to challenge their parents by asking probing questions such as their genealogy and even the village the parents were born in. This way they could find answers to the question “Who are you and where do you come from?” and also open the door to learn more about their heritage and culture. He also provided advice and ways to overcome communication barriers between themselves and parents. Furthermore, the teens were encouraged to discuss with their parents any problems they might face in school or outside the home. Among other things, Dr. Tesfa highlighted the dangers of experimenting with drugs and other habit-forming substances that are harmful to their health. He stressed the importance, necessity and benefit of not only education, but higher education. He likened finishing high school to a stage where one learns how to read and write. In order to grow as a person and also make a meaningful contribution to their respective communities, the youth must strive to attain higher level of education and marketable skills.



The second session addressed the various challenges parents face raising Eritrean children in the Diaspora. Expressions of love and common courtesy towards your fellow human being is very powerful Dr. Tesfa suggested. To demonstrate the magic of love, Dr. Tesfa asked everyone in the audience to greet the person next to them with “Selam”. One can only harvest benefit and no harm with SELAM. With those words, Dr. Tesfa took his place at the podium and took the participants by storm. The most important gift parents could give their children, Dr. Tesfa reminded the audience, is TIME. If parents could spend more time with their spouses and their children, most of the problems our children encounter when they grow up could be eliminated. The show of dedication, concern and love exhibited by parents will pay huge dividends in years ahead. Dr. Tesfa highlighted the parental and societal responsibilities in providing guidance, and more importantly a positive environment, so that a positive legacy is passed to our children. He noted that communicating with our children is a key issue; we spend way too little time communicating with our children as compared to other irrelevant and inconsequential issues. Again and again, Dr. Tesfa went on enlightening the audience that TIME is the best gift they could give their children. He spent a great deal of time explaining the importance of a strong and united community to provide guidance, and more importantly positive environment, so that our children grow up proud of their heritage and excel in whatever endeavor their heart desires. A community with a broken compass and misplaced priorities will bear the responsibility when and if our children dive head-first into the menacing sea of trouble surrounding them.

More than 140 were present at the seminar. A majority of the participants took their time to fill out an evaluation sheet and give their feedback. Summing up, the topic of the seminar, combined with Dr. Tesfa’s delivery skill, spiced with humor, made the presentation one of the BEST ever in Boston.



On behalf of all Eritreans in the Boston area, the organizers would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Dr. Tesfa for a magnificent seminar. You are a true Eritrean success story. We hope we can follow your standards and vision of leaving a positive legacy to the next generation! We pledge to spread your message and be positive role models to those who will follow our footsteps.

Young Eritrean students and professionals in Boston.

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