



Dr. Lakew Birke

January 20, 1937 - August 4, 2022

Dr. Lakew was born on January 20, 1937 in Jijiga, Ethiopia from his father Basha Birke Woldemeskel and mother W/o Tirunesh Hasene. Dr. Lakew was blessed to grow up in a loving family of seven brothers and four sisters.

Dr. Lakew started attending elementary school at the age of 8 in 1945. In 1951 he took and passed Secondary School entrance examination and continued his education at Harar Medhane Alem Secondary School. Followed by General Wingate and Harar Teachers Training Institute. After graduating from Harar Teachers Training Institute he was assigned to teach at Ras Makonnen School in Harar.

From early childhood Dr. Lakew always enjoyed growing plants so he moved on to work for the Ministry of Agriculture. And later enrolled as a student at Agricultural Technical College in Jimma. After completing his first year in Jimma he transferred to Alemaya College of Agriculture.

Following graduation from Alemaya College of Agriculture Dr. Lakew attended University of Minnesota and The Ohio State University where he earned a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics.

Dr. Lakew spent most of his life in teaching. He considered the students he thought a great blessing to him. He took great joy at seeing his former students achieving success and high positions.

Dr. Lakew was a gifted athlete in school. He competed in track and field, running, discus, javelin and shotput, where he won several awards.

Dr. Lakew married in July 24, 1966 to Martha Workalemahu and was blessed

with three children and seven grandchildren. He was a devoted husband and a devoted father to his children. He supported his family every step of the way and prioritized them above everything else. He loved and adored his grandchildren. He let them know through words and actions how much they were loved and how much he was proud of them. He was also devoted to his faith in God throughout his life. His humility, integrity, discipline and sincerity were a great example to many.

The Lord called Dr. Lakew home on August 4, 2022. He went home peacefully surrounded by family. The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown to them during this difficult time.

Cemetery Details

Union Cemetery

3349 Olentangy River Road
Columbus, OH 43202
(614) 267-5471

Previous Events

Funeral Liturgy

AUG 6. 7:00 AM (ET)

Saint Michael Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church
3425 Refugee Road
Columbus, OH 43232
<https://www.columbusmichael.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Lakew Birke*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *My Condolences!! I am so sorry to hear the passing of Dr. Lakew Birke. He was my mentor when I was young long ago. The last time we met was in his office when he was Commissioner at Science and Technology Commission in Ethiopia. Thanks to FB, we were able to chat after 30 years. What a great man. Calm, listening, attentive and advising! RIP. Demissew*



Demissew Diro Ejara - August 17, 2022 at 12:04 PM



“ *Dr Lakew was a fatherly figure, respected and loved by all, when he led a department in the Ethiopian Science and Technology Commission. RIP Dr Lakew. My sincerest condolences for his family at this time. You have my deepest sympathy and unwavering support. Wishing you peace, comfort, courage, and lots of love at this time of sorrow.*

Alemu Tebeje - August 17, 2022 at 05:06 AM