



## SOCcer MATCH AT THE BCI ACADEMY



A Teacher Explains the Rules



Students Celebrate

Sports are known to build positive character traits, so we have incorporated sports into our efforts at the BCI Academy. Students at the Debre Zeyit and Bethlehem campuses took part in a friendly soccer competition where the student bodies competed against one another and the Natural Science teachers competed against the Social Science teachers. It was a great time of bonding and relationship-building among all of the staff and students. It's not often that the children get to take their minds off the daily challenges of life, and it was great to see them enjoy this fun time.

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## Post Newsletter

### NATHENAE'L'S GIFT

Nathenael "Nati" Mulugeta is a 13-year-old boy who has been in the BCI program longer than he can remember. He credits BCI for introducing him to his best friend, Surafel Tefera, whom he has grown up with and enjoys playing with. He attends the BCI Academy, where he is a Grade 7 student.

Nati's mother tragically died during childbirth, and his father abandoned him at birth. Nati has been raised by his older sister who provides for Nati, his brother, and two other sisters. By all accounts, his story is that of a typical Ethiopian orphan, except that beneath his humble exterior, Nati is a young man blessed with extraordinary talent. His name means "God has given", and it's quite clear that his ability has been given by God.

Last year, Nati's talent was discovered during a church service in Debre Zeyit. Talent scouts from the capital city



Nathenael Mulugeta Dabi

of Addis Ababa were in the audience and heard Nati singing worship songs. They immediately identified his exceptional singing ability, and brought him to Addis to film a music video, which is now the 5th most watched video out of 246 videos on the talent scout's YouTube channel. The video of Nati singing an Ethiopian worship song has garnered more than half a million views, and an outpouring of support from viewers.

*"This little baby boy has a unique spirit from God."*

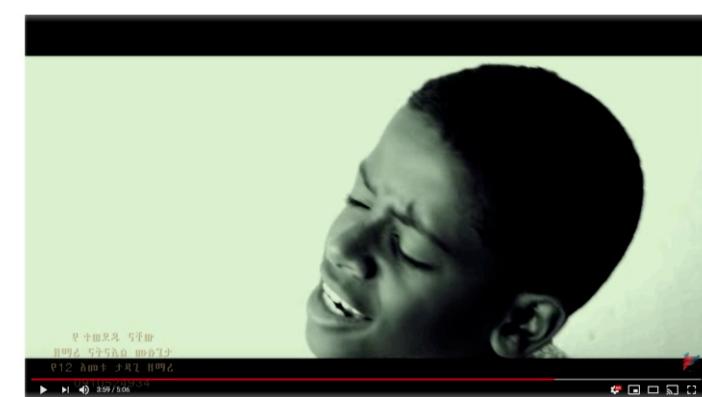
*"Nathenael has been chosen to do many great things by God."*

*"I have two kids. I want them to follow your footsteps. God bless you more and I love you from the bottom of my heart."*

*Continued...*



Nati at the BCI Academy



Nati Sings from his Heart

## NATHENAEEL'S GIFT CONTINUED...

Shortly after his video came out, we sat down for an interview with Nati and asked him why he made the video. His response? "God helped me." While his favorite subject at school is geography, Nati dreams of becoming a professional singer when he grows up and praising God through music.

Nati receives excellent marks at school, and when he is not attending school or church, he is helping his siblings by performing chores at home. His favorite food is Shiro, a stew made of chickpeas, onions and garlic. He looks forward to eating his favorite meal once a week.

When asked "how do you know you are a Christian?", Nati responded in his typical matter-of-fact style: "Because I am Jesus Christ's son."

We lost count of the number of viewers who commented on how blessed Nati is, and what a blessing it was to listen to his song. Praise God for using this young man to reach so many people. His heart burns for Jesus and this shines through his music. We could not be more proud of Nati and awed by God's hand in his life.

We invite you to check out Nati's music video and be blessed:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LZHOMjGmflg>

"Nathanel Mulugeta (12 year old) - New Amazing Amharic Protestant Mezmur (Cover) 2018"



Chaltu with her Mother

## CHALTU ABU

Chaltu Abu is a precious 4-year-old girl who experienced unthinkable abuse at the hands of an unknown man when she was just 2-years-old. As a result of this, she has health complications that landed her in the hospital last summer. Chaltu was first seen locally and then transferred to Addis Ababa for more specialized care. In an answer to a prayer, a donor stepped in and made sure she could receive the appropriate medical care to get her back home. A few weeks later, she was able to begin school with her classmates. Chaltu was visited by a team of missionaries this summer and has also received sponsorship. It never ceases to amaze us how a few compassionate hearts can make such a big impact for a child like Chaltu. God has plans for this sweet girl!



Chaltu's First Day of School



A Young Nati

*"Wow, the hope of Ethiopia.  
God blessed you."*

- YouTube comment

## EMPOWERING WIDOWS

Every missionary has a unique calling for their time with the BCI ministry in Ethiopia. In November, a missionary named Iris felt called to pour into the lives of the widows and mothers. She ministered to them in many ways, including through devotionals and teaching life skills, with a focus on sewing. The women were taught to make aprons and purses, and learned valuable skills such as measuring, cutting, and sewing. At the conclusion of the training, the women took a survey about the experience. All of the women reported being happy at the invitation to participate in the training, and all stated that they would be interested in using their new skills as a source of income.



Women Showing their Hand-Sewn Purses



Women Modeling their Hand-Made Aprons

Mission trips are a powerful experience for everyone involved. Something that seems so simple, like an afternoon sewing project, can spark the imaginations of the women and generate a new way of thinking about their situation. These women were not raised in an environment that fostered confidence in their abilities or hope for their future. They did not have influences in their lives to encourage them to try new things and consider other ways of thinking about their lives and what their futures might look like. Without skills or education, their future is a daily grind. We are grateful to Iris for giving of herself in ministry to make an imprint on the lives of these women.

## IMMEDIATE NEEDS

### Sanitary Products for Teens

Provide a 1-year supply of sanitary products for every teen girl

Need: \$2,100

Raised: \$450

Remaining Need: \$1,650