



## BCI ACADEMY RECOGNIZED

During a recent trip to Ethiopia for the Varsity English Competition, BCI President Keith Strawn was presented with a certificate "in recognition of valuable contribution to the considerable quality and holistic development of Academic excellence in Bishoftu Town (Debre Zeyit)." The certificate was given by the head of the Education Bureau. The BCI Academy continues to be a premier school in Ethiopia that is respected by education leaders.



Certificate of Recognition

Mr. Strawn was also presented with a framed photo that was signed by all of the students who qualified for the English competition this year. The gesture reflects the gratitude of the BCI Academy staff and students for all of their supporters and sponsors who are making their education possible.



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**Blessing  
the  
Children**  
**INTERNATIONAL**

## Post Newsletter

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 3

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF BLESSING THE CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL – A MINISTRY DEDICATED TO CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD

APRIL 2019

[WWW.BLESSINGTHECHILDREN.ORG](http://WWW.BLESSINGTHECHILDREN.ORG)

[INFO@BLESSINGTHECHILDREN.ORG](mailto:INFO@BLESSINGTHECHILDREN.ORG)

## TRAINING FUTURE LEADERS

Young Life is an international Christian ministry focused on making disciples and leaders out of middle school, high school, and college-aged students. They operate in every state in the U.S. as well as 90 countries worldwide. Ethiopia has the second largest Young Life in the world, behind only the United States, and reached more than 138,000 youth last year alone. They bring together teens of all faiths, something important in a country that has so much religious diversity.



L to R: Fekadu Alemu, Bereket Fasil Tamirat, Non-BCI, Tizita Dawit Abreham, Bennet Manaye, Bizuayehu Sisay Bekele, Eayasu Wondimu, Tewodros Tilahun Mola (front)

Young Life Ethiopia has set up a chapter in Bishoftu (Debre Zeyit), led by a 20-year-old young man named Behylu. Behylu had a troubled life until he was brought into Young Life and experienced a transformation himself. He is now passionate about impacting the lives of other young people. In an effort to facilitate spiritual growth and the development of leadership skills in our teens, we have brought Young Life into our schools. Behylu comes at noon to play games, show positive movies, and form friendships with the students. BCI assists by providing Bibles, sports equipment, and facilities for activities after school.

Behylu is now training twenty Grade 12 leaders, and we feel blessed to say that ten of the students have been selected from our



Music and Worship at Young Life

sponsorship program.

Teddy (Tewodros Tilahun) is a 19-year-old full orphan who has been in the BCI program for a decade. He is the right-hand man to Behylu. Teddy has formed a soccer team of peers at his school, which he coaches together with Behylu. When asked the purpose of the team, Teddy said "their purpose is to win, but MY purpose is Jesus."

We are often asked how sponsorship helps a child. Of course there are the basic necessities that we all need for life: clothing, food and an education. Above and beyond this, we train up the children and pour into their spiritual and emotional lives in a way that equips them for life beyond our program. It is a holistic approach that is bearing fruit. The teens in our program are already fulfilling an important part of BCI's mission: they are taking everything they have gained from the ministry and using it to change their community.

Young Life Africa uses the Leadership Tree model. Each teen discipiles three more teens, and thereby grows the reach of the ministry. Might you be able to do the same for Blessing the Children and become a branch on our tree? You can do this by sharing the good news of our ministry with three people in your life.

## KG STUDENTS LEARN & PLAY

A few weeks ago, a missions team brought over a suitcase full of fun activities for the KG students. The children and even the principal were in complete awe at the water beads, which start out the size of a pencil tip and expand to the size of a marble in water. The beads are a hands-on sensory activity. A bag of 50,000 water beads costs less than \$12 USD - a perfect example of how so much can be done with so little. The children had a blast feeling their texture, running their hands through pails full of beads, and trying to squish them. We love to watch their imaginations spark and to share in their new experiences when missionaries bring treats and activities that are unfamiliar to Ethiopian culture.



The team also brought over supplies for an edible art project that included several boxes of Fruit Loops, a package of dry spaghetti, and a couple of bags of large marshmallows. The children made towers out of the Fruit Loops by sticking a dry spaghetti noodle in a marshmallow then stacking the fruit loops on the noodle. They had fun carefully arranging the colors into patterns, and of course the best part was tasting marshmallows for the very first time, and filling their bellies with Fruit Loops.



KG Students Playing with Water Beads



First Taste of Marshmallows



One of many Happy Faces



Marshmallow Smiles

## GRANDCHILD PEN PALS

A couple of months ago, a longtime sponsor approached us with a novel idea. His granddaughter, Claire, saw a copy of the BCI Post at his home and noticed a photo of one of our young girls who needed sponsorship. He decided that he would sponsor the child to facilitate a pen pal relationship between the child and his granddaughter. She eagerly penned her first letter, using every color of the rainbow to introduce herself. She also enclosed a couple of photos of herself, which her new friend in Ethiopia excitedly brought to school to show her classmates. Ten-year-old Amanuel Alemanyehu would love to be an international pen pal for a special child in your life. You can get to know Amanuel by reading his brief bio below. Be sure to reach out if you'd like to learn more about sponsorship opportunities for Amanuel:  
[Info@blessingthechildren.org](mailto:Info@blessingthechildren.org) or 1 (888) 269-2719.



Amanuel Alemanyehu

- Age 10
- Abandoned by mother
- Father passed away
- Lives on grandparent's monthly pension of \$21 USD per month
- Has one sibling - a sister
- Enjoys cats
- Wants to become a pilot
- Waiting for a sponsor for more than 4 years



Grandpa and Claire

## IMMEDIATE NEEDS

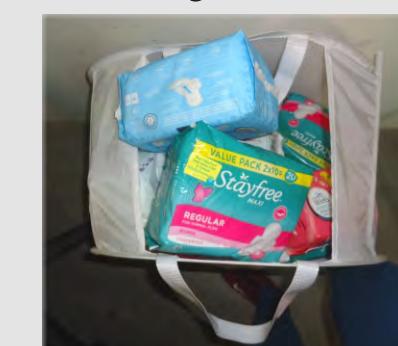
### Sanitary Products for Teens

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

Need: \$2,100

Raised: \$520

Remaining Need: \$1,580



### Undergarments for Teens

Provide every teen girl with two sets of undergarments

Need: \$1,050

Raised: \$345

Remaining Need: \$705



### Team Besha

Provide extra nutrition, transport and fees for wheelchair sports and weightlifting

Need: \$360

Raised: \$100

Remaining Need: \$260



You can make a donation by phone at (888) 269-2719, by web at [www.BlessingtheChildren.org](http://www.BlessingtheChildren.org) or by mail to:  
Blessing the Children, 2265 Fraser Road, Kawkawlin, MI 48631