

42 FAMILIES FED



CONNECTING TO EDUCATION



We have long held the core conviction that education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty for the children we serve. Although the importance of providing interventions to meet the children's immediate needs of food, clothing, and shelter can't be understated, these interventions alone will not change the course of a child's future. Education affords the children the opportunity to create sustainable futures for themselves. When the pandemic lock down hit, we knew the

heavy toll this could take on their education, both in terms of the loss of learning time as well as loss of hope and discouragement. We also knew that we had to take action.

When we shared the need for tablets to connect our children to virtual education, our donor family came forward and blessed the ministry with 40 tablets. This is outstanding progress toward our goal of ensuring that each family receives a tablet, to be used by all children in the household. The children will use a communications app along with Office 365 to complete their schoolwork. The cost for one tablet is \$180 USD. If you would like to support this cause and are able to give any amount towards the purchase of a tablet, no gift is too small to help us reach this critical goal.

FALSE IMPRISONMENT UPDATE

A few months ago, we shared Bemenet Olana's heartbreak story. Bemenet is a grade 10 student who lives with four siblings and her mother. Her father, a disabled soldier, has lived away from the family for years while attending a rehabilitation camp. The family lives off his \$11 USD per month pension along with a small income her mother earned as a saleswoman.

With no proof of wrongdoing, Bemenet's mother was accused of theft by the buyer's association chairman and was sentenced to 18 months in jail. Bemenet and her siblings were left with no caretaker and with only \$11 USD per month to live on.

Our donor family made it possible for Bemenet and her siblings to get by during this difficult time by stepping in with extra monthly income support, allowing them to meet their needs for food and shelter. This generosity instilled hope into a situation that felt very grim.

There has been a turn of events due to the pandemic. As with many jails around the world, the jail that housed her mother took the step of releasing prisoners serving terms for lesser crimes, in an effort to protect from a widespread jail outbreak of the virus. Bemenet's mother has just been released and was able to reunite with her family. The family will use the balance of their support funds to stay afloat until a time in the future when her mother can obtain work.



Bemenet Olana receiving financial support

IMMEDIATE NEEDS

Tablets for Education

Provide tablets to keep the children connected to education during the pandemic.

Need: \$35,280

Raised: \$7,200

Remaining Need: \$28,080



Touchless Thermometers

Provide touchless thermometers to be used at both campuses of the BCI Academy.

Need: \$600

Raised: \$400

Remaining Need: \$200



Face Masks

Provide supplies to create one mask for each child in our sponsorship program.

Need: \$200

Raised: \$200

Remaining Need: \$0



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



URGENT PRAYER REQUEST



Eyob Husen

When Eyob Husen was an infant, his caretaker dropped him on his head, leaving a lasting mental disability. He has now been in the BCI program for many years, and attends a school that allows him to learn at his own pace. His mother takes excellent care of him and his smile lights up the room.

Recently, Eyob began suffering from health issues. After spending two weeks at the Black Lion Hospital in the capitol city of Addis Ababa, he received a devastating diagnosis: blood cancer. There have been many firsts throughout the history of the BCI ministry, and this is a truly heartbreakingly first.

Eyob's bloodwork has been sent away for further analysis, and a treatment plan is being formulated. We will share the plan when it becomes available. For now, we ask for you to cover Eyob and his mother in prayer as they face this troubled time.

"I know the Lord is always with me. I will not be shaken, for He is right beside me." - Psalm 16:8

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THE POWER OF ONE

Imagine you've spent your last dollar. There is no savings in the bank. No assets to sell. You're now out of work and your cupboards are bare. You're hungry, and your neighbors, friends and family are unable to help you because they are facing the same dire situation. Your very survival is at stake.

At the height of your despair, someone comes along and stocks your cupboards with enough food to last you for months. There may be millions of people around the world in the same situation as you, but you're not a statistic. You are a real person with hunger and heartache and you've been handed a life preserver, maybe by someone from halfway around the world whom you'll never meet on earth. You most certainly would not be feeling like their help was insignificant.

When we look around the world, especially during the unprecedented crisis we are currently facing, we can feel so small and powerless. Our actions can seem insufficient when an entire world is hurting, but we must not lose sight of just how significant it is to make any sort of impact, no matter the size, to ease the suffering of others.



Receiving Food Support



Listening to Speeches

A short time ago, we were faced with 42 families in acute hunger crisis and 200 children out of school and highly vulnerable to the global pandemic. The needs certainly felt overwhelming, but God is good - ALL the time. When we gave the circumstances to Him, He led our donor family to unite, and the actions of many individuals joined together to cover food support for each and every one of our 42 families, protecting entire households from hunger for the duration of the summer.

City officials from Debre Zeyit were present for the distribution of the food support, which took place June 9th and included 220 pounds of food per family. The city officials gave a speech expressing

their gratitude for the impact of the ministry's food support distribution, and shared important health advice.

Discouragement has been rampant in the community, but the gift of food support has given the families a sense of security and restored a feeling of hopefulness about the future. We are grateful for each and every person who made this possible, and for those holding the ministry up in prayer.