

WAITING FOR HOPE



Telaye T. - Age 13



Million D. - Age 11



Mahalet A. - Age 9



Faven N. - Age 9

Telaye lives with his mother, Emush, who has a chronic, severe illness. Her condition continues to decline, and she is in pain daily. Emush is unable to work to support herself and child. Telaye's father has abandoned the family.

Million's life was upended when his father suddenly left. His mother struggles to provide for her children, and things are so difficult that his teenage sister has attempted to take her own life. His mother is praying for God to send help.

Mahalet has never met her father. He left when he found out that her mother was pregnant with her. Her mother is unable to financially support her child, so they live with a friend on whom they are fully dependent.

Faven suffered the loss of her father in July 2020. Her father worked as an evangelist prior to his death. Faven is quiet and friendly. She lives with her mother, who earns \$42 USD per month working at her friend's shop.

HELP A WAITING CHILD TODAY!

Name: _____
Address: _____

E-mail (optional): _____
Phone: _____

I will Sponsor the following child(ren) at: \$30 / mo. \$60/mo. \$90/mo. Other \$ _____ / mo.

Meron T. Sifen A.
 Kena L. Telaye T.
 Other child*: _____

Bemenet S. Hana S. Sifen S.
 Million D. Mahalet A. Faven N.

*View list of waiting children at: <https://www.blessingthechildren.org/ChildrenList.html>

I will provide a One-Time Gift of \$ _____ for the following child(ren):

To complete your sponsorship, include a check and mail using the enclosed envelope OR call 1 (888) 269-2719
with credit/debit card OR sign up via PayPal at <https://www.blessingthechildren.org/donate.html>



Special Edition

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 2

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

MARCH 2021

WWW.BLESSINGTHECHILDREN.ORG

INFO@BLESSINGTHECHILDREN.ORG

BCI CELEBRATES 20 YEARS



How it Started



How it's Going

Have you ever embarked on a new adventure and had it turn out completely different than you expected? When BCI's founder first traveled on a mission trip to El Salvador two decades ago, setting up a thriving program for orphaned and impoverished children in Ethiopia, Africa was most certainly not on his radar. By allowing himself to be led by God, thousands of lives have been touched and forever changed. As we celebrate BCI's 20th anniversary this year, we look back with gratitude and forward with hope, and with respect for the responsibility of working on behalf of the children of God.

As with the rest of the world, the BCI ministry was tested in new ways during the past year. Our organization has had to adapt to the ever-evolving global crisis, which has challenged us on all fronts. We continue to follow God's lead and trust that His plan will be done.

With the economic pinch of the pandemic, more families are struggling than ever before. Ensuring that all children on our wait list secure sponsorships is at the

top of our priority list at this time. We have children who have been waiting for a year or more and also several with critical needs who God has led to our program in recent weeks, including refugees from the war in the Tigray region.

In honor of the ministry's 20th anniversary, we are prayerfully seeking sponsorships for 20 children. There are many ways that you can help:

- Pray for the waiting children
- Send a one-time gift to help a child
- Sponsor a child
- Share this newsletter with a friend
- Talk about BCI with those in your circle
- Share BCI's social media posts on your accounts
- Speak with your church about sponsoring a child
- Co-sponsor a child with a group of family or friends
- Co-sponsor a child with your Bible study group

We feel gratitude for your ongoing support for the precious and vulnerable children of Ethiopia, and we invite you to learn about some of our waiting children, whose stories are included in this newsletter. Please pray for each child to find a sponsorship match.

ESCAPED FROM A WAR ZONE



Meron T. - Age 4

means of locating one another across the vast country. Sifen's mother is doing the best she can to provide for Sifen and her other young daughter, but she makes just \$12 USD per month washing clothes for another family.



Sifen A. - Age 4

Three-year-old **Bemenet** is blessed to have her father with her at home, but he is now crippled after being shot in the leg during the war. It's difficult for her mother to work, as she has a chronic gastric illness. The family struggles to get by on the small income her father makes as a guard.

These little girls have seen and experienced far too much of the worst of humanity and they are only preschool aged. They need the security that school and full bellies can provide and love and prayers from sponsors with big hearts.



Bemenet S. - Age 3

If you follow Ethiopian affairs in the news, you may be familiar with the conflict that erupted last year in the northern Tigray region of the country. Many innocent civilians, including children, were caught in the crossfire, and some have since escaped and sought refuge in other parts of the country, including Debre Zeyit. We have just met a 4-year-old girl named **Meron**, who is traumatized from her time in the war zone. She has a large scar on her arm from a bomb that detonated nearby. Her mother was also injured by this bomb. Meron and her mother do not know whether her father, a soldier, is dead or alive. Meron is a solemn and shy girl. She is not attending school because her mother cannot afford to send her. She is in desperate need of sponsorship care to overcome the devastation she has experienced at a tender age.

Sifen is also 4-years-old and has been touched by the tragedy of losing contact with her father due to the war. She does not know if he is still alive and it will be very difficult to reconnect with him, as the young family was separated by the war and they have no

THE WOUND OF ABANDONMENT

Looking into the faces of children abandoned by their parents is always heartbreaking. We know that God intends for children to be treasured, nurtured and loved, and how deeply abandonment impacts their development. We also know that while no one can replace what they have lost, it is possible to shine hope into their hearts and give them a fighting chance at a future.

Within the past four months, four-year-old twins, **Hana** and **Sifen**, have lost all sense of stability. They have experienced two devastating losses back-to-back. First, the tragic death of their mother to an unknown illness. Immediately following their mother's death,

their father chose to forgo his parental responsibilities. He had no interest in caring for his young daughters, so he left them with their grandmother.



Hana and Sifen with their grandmother

Hana and Sifen now live with their grandmother and uncle, neither of whom have an income. All four are dependent on the girl's aunt, who earns \$50 USD per month working on a tomato farm and shares this with the rest of the family.

Four-year-old **Kena** also knows the pain of abandonment, although she does not remember her father, since he left when she was just six months old. She does, however, know what it feels like to grow up without a father.



Hana S. - Age 4



Kena L. - Age 4



Sifen S. - Age 4

Kena lives with her mother, who struggles to support her on an income of \$37 USD per month, which she earns by working as a daily laborer. This is an inconsistent form of work and her mother never knows from one day to another whether she can provide for Kena's basic needs. She had to begin working after Kena's father left the family. Two years ago, she brought Kena to Debre Zeyit because she felt that she would give her daughter a better chance for survival there. Although she is working some, it is not enough. Kena also had an accident five months ago and suffered a terrible burn on her leg, which added a burden for her mother.

These bright young girls are full of potential and they deserve a fair chance at a quality of life that is unavailable to them without intervention via child sponsorship.

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