



IGA SUCCESS STORY: MESERET

Meseret is the older sister of sponsored child Dinagde Tolosa. Last year, Meseret joined our Income Generating Activity (IGA) program of making and selling injera, in order to support her family. Upon starting her business, Meseret encountered a problem with lack of electricity. This problem was solved when a donor gifted her solar panels.

We caught up with Meseret in mid-March. We found her making injera at the gate outside her home. Meseret told us that she is selling 30-40 injera every day. In addition, she has contracts with two meat shops that take 50 injera each. Her net income is 700 birr every 15 days (approximately \$14 USD). Meseret's record keeping is excellent and she credits this to the training provided by our Ethiopian Director, Dawit.

During the current 40 days of fasting for lent that many Ethiopians observe, Meseret is managing due to the fact that she opened a bank savings account and tucked away money during her peak selling. Meseret is just one of the many success stories coming to light as the IGA program takes off and bears fruit.



Meseret with Solar Panels

Post Newsletter

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MEDICAL CLINIC IN PROGRESS

In Ethiopia, there is a pervasive lack of knowledge regarding simple to treat medical conditions, which results in a great deal of unnecessary suffering. In November, a local pastor was in a bajaj (vehicular) accident. He underwent successful surgery to place pins in his leg, but later suffered severe infection due to lack of proper wound care. A visiting missionary put him on the path to recovery by simply cleaning and dressing the wound daily for 10 days.

In recent years, we have felt increasingly called to improve the healthcare opportunities for our children, their families, and the local community. God has answered our prayers in a big way and we're so excited to share news with you that we are building a medical clinic on the grounds of the Bethlehem Campus of the BCI Academy.



Wall Construction in Progress

The clinic will allow low and middle income families will have access to education, diagnosis and treatment of a variety of health conditions, with referral to advanced facilities when needed. Our students will be



Medical Center Ground Breaking

able to shadow and learn from medical professionals, and apply to work at the center upon graduation from medical school. Medical missionaries will have resources at their disposal to serve the ministry. The clinic will be financially self-sustaining once in use.

There are many opportunities to become involved in this historic ministry project. Current needs include:

\$2,000 USD to finish water and electrical installation

\$20,000 to finish the floors, walls and ceilings with easy to clean surfaces

\$5,000 each for dialysis and x-ray machines (high quality, used condition)

Any amount to help with the purchase of lab tools, centrifuge microscope, and specialized equipment.

Please reach out if you'd like to get involved.

UPDATE: VISION PRESERVATION

In November, we introduced our Vision Preservation Project, with a time-limited gift-matching opportunity. Our BCI family rallied to support the project, and we're excited to say that the project has been a success.

We started by registering and pre-screening the children with help from our school nurse and a visiting medical missionary. Our recent university graduate, Esrael Yirga, helped administrate. We flagged those showing any signs of vision deficit or medical concerns to be seen at the clinic by the advanced eye care professional. Of the children seen by the doctor, seven were determined to be in need of vision preserving treatments. Because of the funds raised through this project, we are able to provide all necessary treatments. Praise God! What a big difference this will make in their schoolwork, health and daily life.

Receiving treatment are: Dibora Ababayehu, Meseret Girma, Fraol Geremew, Elshadye Belete, Meheret Eresa, Abreham Shimeles, and Haymanot Abenet. Thanks to all who helped make these life-changing treatments possible.



Dibora

Meseret

Fraol

Elshadye

Meheret

Abreham

Haymanot



Student Reading Eye Chart



Esrael Yirga Checking In Students



Vision Check Up

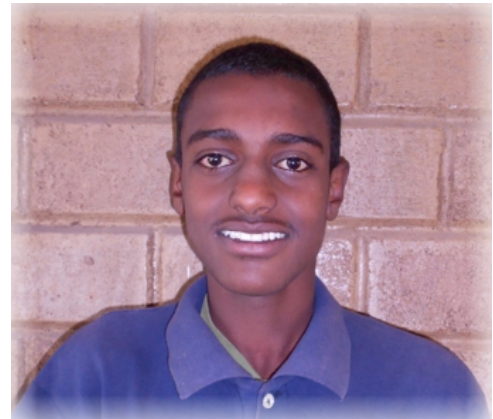


Vision Check Up

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: MENASE ALEBACHEW

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Menase Alebachew to the BCI Academy Bethlehem campus staff. Menase was in our sponsorship program for a number of years along with his brother, Efrem. He recently graduated from Rift Valley University with a degree in accounting.

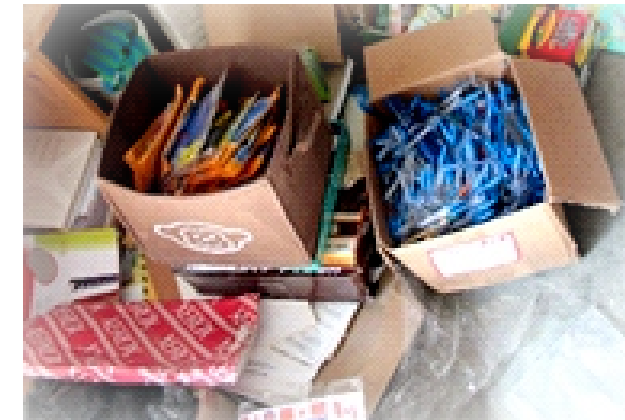
A few years ago, Menase and Efrem's father started a taxi business and after some time was able to support his family, so asked to step away from the program so that a family with greater need could take their place. Menase and Efrem are grateful to their sponsors for the help received along the way. Menase is the campus store manager and is responsible for inventory, donations, distribution, and accountability. Welcome back, Menase!



Menase Alebachew



Menase at Work



Inventory at the Campus Store



Efrem Alebachew

IMMEDIATE NEEDS

Sponsorship of Kalkidan

Provide monthly sponsorship for 8-year-old Kalkidan Kasahun to meet her needs and help her thrive.

Need: \$90/month
Raised: \$30/month
Remaining Need: \$60/month



Medical Center Build

Provide materials and supplies to help complete the ministry's new medical center.

Need: \$27,000+
Raised: \$0
Remaining Need: \$27,000+



Sponsorship of Sifen Abreham

Complete the monthly sponsorship support of 7-year-old Sifen Abreham to help meet all of her needs.

Need: \$90/month
Raised: \$45/month
Remaining Need: \$45/month



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