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## HOORAY FOR BESHA



Besha with his Gold Medal

A few months ago we told you about how Besha Asefa is overcoming his physical challenges through weightlifting and wheelchair racing.

Despite severe setbacks in his life, which include contracting polio at age one, abandonment by both of his parents, and becoming a victim of familial violence that resulted in a broken hand, Besha has grown into a physically and mentally strong young man.

We asked for help in meeting Besha's training needs, and our BCI family quickly stepped in to ensure that we could provide Besha with the nutrition and equipment needed for his training and competitions.

We are thrilled to report that Besha is now the proud owner of a **gold medal** from his most recent weightlifting competition.

We are so delighted for Besha, grateful for your support of his athletic endeavors, and humbled by God's hand in his life.

*"Give God your weakness and He will give you His strength."*



## Post Newsletter

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 5

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

JULY 2019

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

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

## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE INCENTIVE PROGRAM

For every 1,000 children who begin school in Ethiopia, only one half will complete 5th grade, and one fifth will complete 8th grade. Of those students who make it to 10th grade, 3% will score above a 75% across their core subjects and less than 25% will receive an average score of 50%. This means that for every 1,000 children who begin school in Ethiopia, only 6 will one day be enrolled in 10th grade, receiving a "C" average or higher. We think this is a staggering statistic.

A solid education is one of the cornerstones of our philosophy regarding breaking the cycle of poverty for the children we serve, and we're tackling this by providing a quality education at the BCI Academy. Because the odds are stacked against the children, we have decided to step up our efforts to ensure that the children stay enrolled in school and engaged in their studies.

For the 2019-20 academic year, we will be launching an Academic Excellence Incentive Program. This program will incentivize students for their academic achievements over the course of the school year. Additionally, teachers will be incentivized to produce high scores.

### 3 Tiers of Recognition

1. **Honor Roll:** All students receiving at least a B average for the year will receive Honor Roll recognition and a \$25 USD cash reward
2. **Grade Level:** The top student in every grade level will receive an additional \$25 USD cash reward
3. **Teachers:** The top 3 teachers with the highest average scores will receive a \$100 USD cash reward



It's unheard of for student academic achievements to be acknowledged in this way in the Ethiopian school system. Honors assemblies, class valedictorians, and the like are not standard practice. It is our hope that recognizing the academic achievements of our teachers and students will put a focus on academic success in a positive way. We plan to pilot the program for the upcoming school year and evaluate any change in academic outcomes and student retention.

### How You Can Help:

Sponsor an Honor Roll student for 1 year:	\$25
Sponsor a Teacher:	\$100
Sponsor the top student in every Grade Level:	\$300
Underwrite the program for 2019/20:	\$2,000

*"Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor." - Nelson Mandela*

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT: MULUGETA

The very first thing I noticed when meeting Mulugeta was his resemblance to Nelson Mandela. The second thing was his friendly demeanor. There is an open-door policy in his office, and I often see children traipsing in and out to ask questions. His love and care for the students is undeniable, and I have heard him refer to "his children" countless times.

Mulugeta grew up in a rural area close to Debre Zeyit. He worked in administration for 15 years before joining BCI, which has been his home ever since. He is a passionate teacher and didn't think twice about taking time out of his busy schedule to guide me in my first weeks of teaching English at the BCI Academy.

What keeps Mulugeta going through hard times is the knowledge that working at BCI is Kingdom work. His role models are Nelson Mandela and local mathematician, Haileluliu'l. I take this opportunity to tell him of his uncanny resemblance to a young Madiba. He says this warms his heart. He admires Mandela because he was a man of integrity with a forgiving heart. Haileluliu'l saw the potential in life and worked to improve things in order to reach that potential. These are the characteristics Mulugeta admires and strives for in his own life. He is "Abba" - or dad, to five children who range in age from 12th grade to college graduate.

If you can't find Mulugeta at the school, you will most likely find him with his family, reading mathematics books, watching soccer, or tending to his two cows. When I asked him about his future plans, it didn't take him long to respond. His hope and prayer for his future is to serve God fully with all that he has. Mulugeta is a generous and warm-hearted leader. He is quick to offer advice or words of wisdom to any staff member, child or missionary and I have been blessed by knowing him in the short time I have been here. (Story by Bianca, BCI missionary)



Mulugeta with a Student



Mulugeta in his Office



Mulugeta with his Sons

## GOING THE EXTRA MILE

If you have ever felt like you wanted to do more for your sponsored child above and beyond your monthly support or have a desire to further develop your relationship with your child, there are a few key ways to do this:

**1. Pray for your child.** This is the absolute most important action you can take to help your child.

**2. Write to your child.** You may include photographs and small items, such as stickers, bookmarks, bracelets, and pens. The best way to keep your child encouraged and to let them know you care is through communicating on a regular basis. Please direct your letters to:



Betelhem with her New Bed

Blessing the Children  
2265 Fraser Road  
Kawkawlin, MI 48631

**3. Send packages** directly to your child in Ethiopia. You may

send shoes, toys, clothing, books, school supplies, and anything else you think would help your child. Please write your child's name on the INSIDE of the package, and mail to:

Blessing the Children  
PO Box 1410  
Debre Zeyit, East Shoa  
Ethiopia



Yabsira Receives a Package

**4. Purchase an urgently needed item** for your child, such as a new bed or clothing. If you're unsure what your sponsored child needs, we are happy to connect with their social worker and determine their current needs. You can make a purchase at any time by donating on our website via PayPal, mailing in a check, or giving us a call to use your credit or debit card.

**5. Visit your child in person.** We would be thrilled to connect you with your sponsored child on a trip to the ministry.

You can also provide a **birthday party** or **class field trip**.

## IMMEDIATE NEEDS

### Sponsorship of Merone

Provide sponsorship of 11-year-old Merone Yakob Dhabi

**Need: \$90/mo.**

**Raised: \$0**

**Remaining Need: \$90/mo.**



### Academic Incentive Program

Incentivize students and staff for academic achievements in 2019/20

**Need: \$2,000**

**Raised: \$0**

**Remaining Need: \$2,000**



### Sponsorship of Yohannes

Provide sponsorship for 13-year-old Yohannes Gezahegne

**Need: \$90/mo.**

**Raised: \$0**

**Remaining Need: \$90/mo.**



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