



YABSIRA'S EMERGENCY SURGERY



Yabsira Hagos

Nine-year-old Yabsira Hagos lives with her mother and siblings. She was abandoned by her father long ago, leaving her mother to support the children alone. Her mother struggles to support the family by washing clothes and baking injera (Ethiopian bread). Although life is quite difficult, it is made better by support from the BCI ministry.

One afternoon when Yabsira returned home from school, she began experiencing intense abdominal pain and vomiting. Her mother took her straight away to a local government hospital, where the medical staff determined that she was suffering from acute appendicitis. She was admitted to the hospital immediately for surgery to remove her appendix, and she stayed for a week to heal before returning home.

We are so thankful that God watched over Yabsira and provided her with a timely medical intervention. She is now fully healed and has started grade 3 at the BCI Academy.

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FUTURE DOCTOR TARIKU

We have spent much of the fall season feeling humbled by bearing witness to God's hand in the life of 18-year-old Estifanos Tariku (nicknamed "Steve" by his American missionary friends). His story has the feel of being too good to be true, but it is true, because God is good.

Steve was raised by his mother, Messay, who grew up with an alcoholic father and a brother full of rage. One day, her brother beat their mother so severely that she spent a year in a coma, and beat Messay to the point of breaking her neck. She fled to Debre Zeyit to escape the violence and danger.

Messay's life took another tragic turn when she lost the ability to walk right at the time Steve turned two years old. She had to rely on neighbors to help care for her young son and she continued to live in fear that her brother would find her.

When Steve was 10, his life was changed when his mother received a wheelchair from the BCI ministry. Although he was initially timid to push his mother in her wheelchair through the busy streets of Debre Zeyit, this blessing opened up a new world of possibilities for Steve and Messay. It was at this time that a BCI missionary noticed Steve and took a shine to him. Steve displayed great maturity and



Steve in his early days at the BCI Academy



A young Steve with his mother, Messay

intellect and the missionary took him under his wing and not only provided for his basic needs through monthly sponsorship, he went above and beyond in visiting Steve, writing to him, and guiding him as he grew into his teen years.

Steve excels in academics and is a driven student with lofty goals. In fact, he has long stated his intention to become a doctor. Of course, this is a common childhood career aspiration that is difficult to achieve in any case, let alone when you're growing up in a rural neighborhood in Ethiopia with no financial resources.

Steve took his grade 12 national exam in June, and when the results came in during the summer, we received our first indication that his dream may have legs. His scores were exceptional and he easily secured university placement.

Shortly after this, Steve indicated that he intended to enroll at a private medical school in the capital city of Addis Ababa. The school is part of a Christian teaching hospital and comes with a price tag of more than \$5,000 USD in annual tuition. In a country where the GDP is \$570 USD, this surely seemed to be a whimsical dream.

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FUTURE DOCTOR TARIKU CONTINUED...

It wasn't long before we received word that Steve was not only accepted to his dream school, he was offered discounted tuition due to his excellent scores and financial need. Although this was wonderful news, Steve was forced to decline and notify the university that he would be unable to pay anything to attend the school.

Leave it to God to clear the way and move the university to extend Steve a full-ride scholarship, which he immediately accepted. It was a whirlwind of events that started with receipt of his national exam score, and by the end of August, he had moved to Addis Ababa and started classes as a first-year medical student.

Everything felt like it happened so quickly, but in reality, it did not happen overnight. It happened when God drew Messay to the town of Debre Zeyit. It happened when He led a missionary to discover a gifted 10-year-old boy who needed a little support and encouragement to rise above his circumstances. It happened day-in and day-out as Steve grew, applied himself to his studies at the BCI Academy, and continued to hope and dream. And it happened when God fueled this hope by regularly bringing compassionate missionaries into contact with Steve.

As Corrie ten Boom famously said, "never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God." There were so many things that could have derailed Steve's journey to becoming BCI's first-ever medical student, but God knew all along the plans He had for Steve, and Lord willing, we will one day introduce him as Dr. Steve Tariku.



Grade 10 School Photo



In the University Cafeteria

INCOMING FRESHMAN

In addition to Steve Tariku, all of our 2019 high school graduates will attend higher education. Praise God! This is truly remarkable. We sent them to school with essentials that included a suitcase, clothing, blanket, sheets, paper supplies and transportation funds. Please join us in praying for their education and continued spiritual development.

Admas University: Beruk Gemechu

Debre Berhan University: Sisay Bekele

Dire Dawa University: Adana Kasu & Bemnet Manaye

Jigjiga University: Fekadu Alemu & Tewodros Tilahun

Rift Valley University: Besha Asefa



L to R: Sisay Bekele, Bemnet Manaye, and Tewodros Tilahun



Adana Kasu



Fekadu Alemu

BEREKET'S HEALTH BATTLE

Bereket Abush is a teen who fights daily for his health. His life has been full of challenges. He was abandoned by his father and his mother died from a sinus infection. He lives with his grandmother, whose only source of income is begging on the streets of Debre Zeyit. Bereket has also battled a lifelong illness. In recent months, he has undergone seven blood transfusions. The most recent transfusion was on September 19th and required a 5-day hospitalization. Although he is 17 years old, Bereket is in 7th grade. It is a struggle for him to attend school regularly due to his poor health.



Young Bereket



Bereket with his Grandmother

Last summer, we were blessed to receive a gift that allowed us to provide Bereket with improved nutrition all year, including meat, milk and eggs. He has now run out of additional support, and with the increasing tempo of his health concerns, he is in urgent need of funding to allow him to continue receiving meat and dairy in his diet. His doctor has urged us to continue providing this added nutrition.

If you are able to partner with us in meeting this need for Bereket, you may donate by phone with a debit or credit card, mail a check, or note "Bereket Abush Food Support" in a donation through PayPal.



Grateful for Food Support

URGENT NEED

Urgent Medical Needs

Provide 6 months of food support for 17-year-old Bereket Abush

Need: \$260

Raised: \$0

Remaining Need: \$260



IMMEDIATE NEEDS

Academic Incentive Program

Incentivize students and staff for academic achievements in 2019/20

Need: \$2,000

Raised: \$125

Remaining Need: \$1,875



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 or by mail to: Blessing the Children, 2265 Fraser Road, Kawkawlin, MI 48631