

RETURN OF BETHELHEM



Bethelhem Menbere was previously in the sponsorship program until her family relocated outside of the Debre Zeyit area in 2021 seeking better employment opportunities. Recently, they have returned to Debre Zeyit and Bethelhem has been accepted into the sponsorship program once again.

Bethelhem's mother, Habobo, was born a full orphan. After she completed grade 6, she moved out of her uncle's home to work as a servant. At age 17, she began working at a plastic company and married a co-worker, Menbere. During her pregnancy, she lost two of her fingers in a machine accident at work. Her husband left her because he said he did not want to live with a disabled women. After this, Habobo quit her job and started selling injera to support her child. She remarried and had a son named Eyob, but her second husband recently abandoned the family.

After paying rent, only \$21 per month remains for all other expenses. Life is extra challenging for Bethelhem as she has recently been diagnosed with diabetes. Due to her medical condition, it's even more vitally important that she becomes food secure.

Bethelhem loves her mother and dreams of building her a house one day. She hopes to become a pilot in the future.

Post Newsletter

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 8

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

OCTOBER 2022

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ETHIOPIAN DIRECTOR VISITS USA

Dawit Moges has served as the Ethiopian Director of Blessing the Children for more than a decade. Dawit himself was blessed with a longtime sponsor as a child and this fuels his passion for the ministry. Recently, a missionary made it possible for Dawit to travel to the US for the first time.

Dawit's trip was eventful. His first stop was in Florida, where he arrived just in time to experience his first hurricane. Dawit then traveled to Michigan and later to Arizona.

Dawit took in the experience with open eyes. Key activities included visiting hospitals, schools and construction sites to learn best practices to take back home to the ministry. He also visited churches, a library, farmer's market, several programs that serve homeless and underprivileged families, and participated in a number of strategic planning meetings with BCI leadership.

In his down time, Dawit was able to have a variety of new experiences. He visited the Kennedy Space Center and an aquarium in Florida, an apple orchard and a variety of coffee shops in Michigan, and experienced a barbecue in Arizona. He also discovered a favorite store in Home Depot.

Dawit learned much during his travels to the US and looks forward to implementing new things back at home. Praise God for this blessed opportunity.



Speaking at a Church in Florida



Experiencing Michigan's Fall Splendor

IGA SUCCESS

Shewaye Debele is the mother of Hymanot Abenet. Hymanot is 12 years old. After a year on the waiting list, he has recently been blessed with sponsorship.

Shewaye is one of eleven moms who was given the opportunity to develop an open market business as part of our IGA program. Her previous attempt to run a business on her own selling charcoal, sugar and beans was unsuccessful because she lacked income to add new inventory to her shop.

When our social workers visited the family at home, they learned of Shewaye's situation and interviewed her as a prospective candidate for the IGA program. Based on the business plans she presented and



Shewaye Outside her Shop



Part of Shewaye's Inventory

her desires, needs and work ethic, she was provided with a grant through the IGA program.

It has been two months since Shewaye opened her business. On a recent visit, she expressed profuse gratitude. Her shop looks nice and is filled with a number of useful items. She currently earns 1,800 birr (\$34 USD) per month in profit and has opened a savings account. She has aspirations of continuing to grow the business.

We are encouraged by Shewaye's story and the power of a small intervention to change a family's future. If you'd like to support a mother like Shewaye, the cost for one mother to open an IGA business is \$225 USD.

SUPPORTING HIGHER EDUCATION

University education is out of reach for the most impoverished children in Ethiopia. In addition to lack of access to education, they do not have support at home to pursue their studies or the nutrition required to help them feel nourished enough to learn. Sponsorship does not just help a child, it's the literal difference between having the opportunity to become educated or not. It's an enormous accomplishment when a sponsored child completes their studies, and even more so when they score high enough on their national exam to qualify for university. At that point, it's critical that we ensure their needs are met to allow them to successfully complete their higher education.

As our students prepare to return to university for the new school year, we have several who have lost their sponsors and are in need of support to receive supplies to help them at school. The cost for back to school essentials, including clothing, undergarments, shoes, academic supplies and transportation is \$250 USD per student.



Adana Kasu



Efrata Mesenbet



Bemenet Manaye

OCTOBER BLESSINGS



New Backpacks

49 sponsored children were blessed with a new backpack for school.



Food Container

960 boxes of dehydrated vegetables arrived to feed BCI families and Somali refugees.



Medical Center Progress

Construction moved forward on the medical center, with preparation for the roof.

IMMEDIATE NEEDS

Return of Bethelhem

Help us ensure that Bethelhem Menbere is food secure by providing monthly sponsorship support.

Need: \$90/mo.
Raised: \$0/mo.
Remaining Need: \$90/mo.



IGA - Phase 2

Meet the business start up needs for a mom looking to work at the Open Market to support her family.

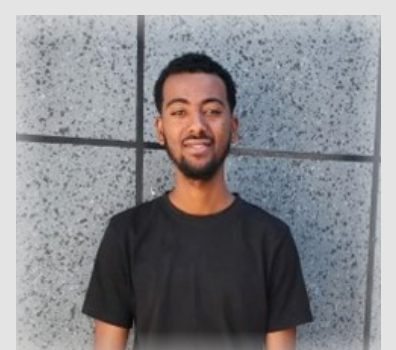
Need: \$2,025
Raised: \$1,535
Remaining Need: \$490



University Support

Meet the needs for an unsponsored university student to help them study successfully this school year.

Need: \$750
Raised: \$0
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