

INTERNET IN ETHIOPIA

Over the past ten years, the internet penetration rate in Ethiopia has grown massively. In 2008, only 0.4% of the population had internet access. As of 2019, 15.4% of the population has access. Although this lags behind the 95% penetration rate seen in North America, we are encouraged by the growth.

Since many homes in Ethiopia are too rural for wi-fi installation and it is often not affordable, the internet is most commonly accessed via internet cafes, like the one shown in the adjacent photo. Internet access can also be found in some hotels, guest houses, universities, and businesses.

A few things that make internet access in Ethiopia unique are the fact that there is only one provider, Ethio Telecom, the company is government owned, and internet usage is both monitored and censored.

We are blessed to have wi-fi at the BCI office in Ethiopia. We pray that someday we will be able to upgrade to high speed internet to allow our staff access to video streaming and other standard internet features.



Work Station at an Internet Café in Debre Zeyit

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Post Newsletter

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

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WWW.BLESSINGTHECHILDREN.ORG

INFO@BLESSINGTHECHILDREN.ORG

BCI LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

We are pleased to announce the launch of a brand new website. The site has a modern look and is easy to navigate on smart phones, tablets, and personal computers. New features include:

- Browse and support urgent needs
- Learn about ongoing projects
- Send a birthday party to your child

BCI Website Main Page

To navigate the site on a personal computer, click on a link in the top menu bar or on the bottom lefthand side of the page. When viewing on a smart device, these options will be collapsed into three lines called a hamburger icon. Clicking on the icon will bring up a list of links to choose from. Return to the home page at any time by clicking our

Learn about Traveling to Ethiopia

logo in the top lefthand corner.



Hamburger Icon

Our new look will help you to learn about our ministry and ways to support the children. The information is up to date and plentiful. There are pictures galore on the site - you may even spot your sponsored child. We invite

you to share our new site with your friends, co-workers and family!



<http://www.blessingthechildren.org>



Links

View and Support Urgent Needs

EDIBLE ARTWORK

Our children were invited by a missions team to participate in an after school project that was a little bit science and a little bit art. Each child received a paper plate, a handful of Skittles, and a cup of water. The children were instructed to arrange their Skittles in a circle around the outer edge of the plate. They could arrange them in any pattern of their choosing. After pouring water on the Skittles, they watched with fascination as the colors bled into the water and formed a beautiful



Children Arranging their Skittles



Waiting for Water

BUILDING TEAMWORK WITH BALLOONS



Approximately forty sponsored children were invited to participate in a team building activity after school at the BCI Academy. Students in grades 4 through 6 were invited to participate. They worked together in small teams to see who could build the highest tower of balloons, with only tape to hold them together.

The project ended up being easier said than done, but there were lots of giggles to be had as the balloons popped unexpectedly and the missions team stayed red in the face trying to blow up new balloons quickly. The activity fostered communication and problem solving skills and was a fun addition to the children's usual after school routine.

Teamwork in Action



Students Working Together

HOPE BASKETS

There are many ways that missionaries and interns are able to give of themselves on trips to the ministry. One of the most impactful ways is to simply spend time with the people. This can be accomplished by going on home visits, attending local church services, and socializing with teens and widows as well as building up the local staff. Ethiopian culture is very people oriented and there is a high value placed on relationships. Spending time building relationships with people in the community costs nothing but makes a difference.



Alemayehu, Sitota and Tekalign

It's also possible for missionaries and interns to prepare large scale events, such as leadership conferences, medical clinics, and house builds. There is no shortage of need, so there are always ways to channel your passions and skills in creative ways to lend a hand.

One of the projects that missionaries and interns consistently

find to be meaningful and enjoyable is visiting homes and delivering Hope Baskets. These are baskets full of essentials like cooking oil, pasta, rice and peanut butter.

Knocking on the door of a struggling family with your hands full of essential items like this is a sure way to bring a smile to the face of a widow or child. The cost for a basket is \$40 USD, but it's hard to put a price on the joyful faces.

We were blessed recently to have the opportunity to provide five families with baskets, sponsored by a faithful ministry partner who donated the baskets for a missions team to deliver. If you are unable to go to Ethiopia yourself at this time, would you consider blessing a family with a Hope Basket? One of our missionaries will deliver on your behalf and provide you with a photo of the happy family. Let us know if you feel called to give in this way.



Widow Receiving a Hope Basket

IMMEDIATE NEEDS

Praise God!

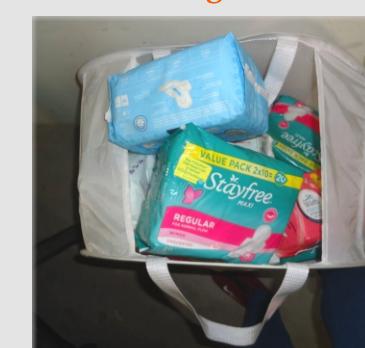
Sanitary Products for Teens

Provide a 1-year supply of sanitary products for every teen girl

Need: \$2,100

Raised: \$2,100

Remaining Need: \$0



Undergarments for Teens

Provide every teen girl with two sets of undergarments

Need: \$1,050

Raised: \$1,050

Remaining Need: \$0



Team Besha

Provide extra nutrition, transport and fees for wheelchair sports and weightlifting

Need: \$360

Raised: \$360

Remaining Need: \$0

