



A DANGEROUS DIAGNOSIS



The mother of Abenezer Yohannes received difficult news in late fall. After visiting the doctor due to some health symptoms, she discovered that she is suffering from uterine cancer. Within a few weeks, she began traveling to Addis Ababa for treatments. Her most recent treatment included surgery that she is now recovering from.

Cancer is always a challenging and uncertain diagnosis, and even more so when you have no health insurance or finances to support your treatment, and no funds to pay for your living expenses while you go through treatment. She tried to keep life normal by caring for Abenezer, but now his uncle has stepped in to help with his care while his mother continues with her treatment. Many times, she leaves in the morning and does not return home until late at night.

Life was already difficult for Abenezer's mother, who battles chronic illness and struggles to provide an income for her family. Abenezer is continuing to stay focused at school during this difficult time, but worries about his mother. His family needs prayer for healing for his mother's cancer and for strength so she can continue to raise Abenezer.

Abenezer Yohannes with his Mother

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BCI ACADEMY KEEPS GROWING

KG students at the BCI Academy are now learning in brand new classrooms. We recently finished construction of a new KG building, which has meant that our 160 KG students have more space to learn. Our previous building served us well but we have outgrown it. The new building has five classrooms and is well-lit and painted with vibrant colors. It is a welcoming learning environment that will allow us to further improve the educational experience of our KG students.

KG is a combination of preschool and kindergarten age groups and serves children from approximately the ages of 3 to 6. The former two-classroom building is being used as a daycare, which is especially helpful for teachers and staff who have young children. The BCI Academy continues to improve and grow!



We strive for "Excellence in Everything"



KG Students in Class

ELSA OF ETHIOPIA



The story of Elsa Alemeshet has so many layers of tragedy, it's nearly unbelievable. Sadly, the story is true. Like many children in Ethiopia, her upbringing has been challenging from the start. Both of her parents had a chronic illness and struggled financially, but life was otherwise unremarkable until she was in kindergarten. One day, on her way home from school, Elsa was kidnapped and forced to beg for money on the streets of the nearby town of Dukem. Two days after her disappearance, her father collapsed and died.

After two long months of searching, Elsa's mother encountered her on the street and took her back home. Although they were reunited, life did not return to normal because the trauma of the kidnapping changed Elsa. She lost the spark from her eyes. She became unable to focus and would not communicate. Even now, at age 9, she struggles with trusting others.

In addition to her chronic illness and the struggle of raising a traumatized child with no access to trauma care while also grieving the loss of her husband, Elsa's mother endured another hardship when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She is unable to work and relies on begging her neighbors to feed Elsa.

She has remarried but her new husband is also chronically ill and is able to contribute very little financially to the family. To make things worse, Elsa's mother was recently told that she isn't likely to live much longer. In the event of her death, Elsa will be further traumatized, and it's hard to say what will happen to her.

Elsa has had so much tragedy in her young life. She needs a sponsor who will pray for her, write to her and encourage her, and she needs the benefits that come from the BCI sponsorship program. Please prayerfully consider helping us take Elsa off the sponsorship waiting list and onto a better path.

Elsa Alemeshet, Age 9

NO EXCUSE FOR DISHONESTY

If you can imagine being a young child in Ethiopia and watching mom or dad or grandma struggle to put food on the table, you can imagine the temptation to pocket the money you found on the school playground one morning. That is the temptation faced by four young students at the BCI Academy recently, and all four passed the test of honesty with flying colors. When the girls encountered some lost money on the school grounds, they immediately reported it to a staff member. The staff member was so pleased with their honesty that he brought them up in front of the entire school body for public recognition. The BCI Academy doesn't just educate, it instills values and character. It is a good lesson for everyone - there is no excuse for dishonesty!



Four Students Recognized for Honesty at the BCI Academy

FACING CHALLENGES: UNIVERSITY ESCAPE

Last September, we were thrilled to report that all eight of our high school seniors had progressed to university. Two of them - Adana Kasu and Bemnet Manaye - were accepted to the same university, and were pleased to end up as roommates. We sent them on their way with a suitcase full of supplies that included clothing, shoes, blankets, notebooks, money to spend on essentials, and a lot of hope and excitement for their future.

Adana and Bemnet were not at school for long before ethnic violence erupted on campus. A clash between Oromia and Amhara groups created a dangerous situation, and their dorm room was robbed in the midst of the clash, causing them to lose their possessions.

Adana and Bemnet had to escape through a window and travel to the home of a relative who lives nearby. They stayed with the relative for several days before they could be transported back to Debre Zeyit. They have been in Debre Zeyit for three months now awaiting the all clear to return to school. We are concerned about this disruption in their education and ask for prayer for peace on their campus and that they will be able to resume their education soon.



Adana Kasu and Bemnet Manaye on Move in Day

IMMEDIATE NEEDS

Taxi for Hewan

One year of transport for a 6-year-old child who walks 2 hours to school

Need: \$400

Raised: \$0

Remaining Need: \$400

Support for Abenezer

Extra help for Abenezer while his mother goes through cancer treatment

Need: \$150

Raised: \$0

Remaining Need: \$150



Sponsorship of Elsa

Provide sponsorship for 9-year-old Elsa Alemeshet

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