

**HOPE Enterprises**  
**Quarterly Report**  
**January, February, and March 2006**

**I. Headquarters**

As the New Year dawned, we wanted to have a comprehensive web page. An expert in web design, Mr. Nathan Chan, from The Bay Area, California, volunteered to do the work being here for a month with his wife, Anne. Anne also used her expertise to assist the President in the rewriting of the manual of operations. Our friend, John Van Deman of Menlo Park, California, loaded up all the changes and the page was up with our address being: [www.hopeenterprises.org](http://www.hopeenterprises.org). Please look at it. We thank Nathan and John for this great contribution along with the President and Ms. Saron Temesgen, our PR officer, who had many inputs by way of written material and pictures. In February, we hired Cassie Williams, A British having a BA from Oxford University and a masters from the University of London to serve as an institutional development officer. Cassie began to help us writing the curriculum of the Hope University College as well as assisting in resource raising.

The construction plans for the existing activities picked up momentum. In this it was great to see the foundation work for the Roggie School completed. The bid formalities for the construction in Assosa and Gambella also entered their final stage. In the light of the plight of domestic servants in Ethiopia, Hope had thought hard what to do. One way it thought to stand for their best interest was to provide free education in the evening. This initiative started with one hundred of the girls in Addis Ababa under a project named, home worker's alternative basic education. Being so successful in this initiative, our plan is to start the same in Dessie, Gambella and Assosa.

The President was busy with the preparation to launch the construction and equipping of the Hope University College. Keeping in mind, Woord & Daad's commitment to fund a third of the construction and equipping cost, the president approached Ethiopiaid/UK, our long time donor to help finance the bulk of the cost. Mr. Alec Reed, Chairman of the Trustees of Ethiopiaid, invited the President for further discussions on the proposal. Dr. Minas, joined by the master planner of the university college, Mr. Hans Treurniet and another contributor, Mr. Klaas de Wit, visited Mr. Reed on January 26 and 27, 2006. The visit was very enlightening in terms of particularly establishing a college with a premium on quality. Mr. Reed had the delegation visit the West London Academy, a 21st century school for needy youngsters and a number of his training programs in London and outside of London. He also arranged for the delegation to visit the London Metropolitan University where grounds for partnership and cooperation were discussed. The delegation left London gaining so many inputs to make the college a transformational experience and Ethiopiaid's interest in the college. Spending sometime in Holland on the way back, the president was honored to be a part of the 100 anniversary celebration of the Kanters construction company, which donated to Hope 100,000 Euros towards the construction of the university college.

## **II. Ladders of HOPE**

Ladders of HOPE programs continued to be effectively implemented in all locations under the strong leadership of the Executive Director, Mr. Zenebe Ayele. Our work in Addis Ababa was extended for five years following the signing of a project agreement with City Government of Addis Ababa. The branch hosted a number of visitors.

### **Addis Ababa Branch**

#### **Full Family Based Child Care**

Under this program 302 (147 male and 155 female) children were assisted during the reporting period. Monthly home visits continued during this quarter in order to check upon the living conditions of the children. Parents and guardians were given guidance and counseling sessions in how to use their monthly stipend properly, how to ensure their children remain healthy and to ensure follow up on home studies. Sponsored children wrote thank you and greeting letters to their sponsors and many received responses. Some also received small gifts such as stickers and exercises books and were thrilled with their presents. During the reporting period, 52 (25 male and 27 female) children were treated for different health problems such as minor infections, simple fractures and stomach aches. All medical expenses were covered by the office, and all recovered quickly.

#### **Partial Family Based Child Care**

All 164 (89 male and 75 female) students under the partial family based child care program continued to be assisted. A monthly food allowance of Birr 33 continues to be given to all the beneficiaries. This helps the children concentrate on their schooling rather than being forced to worry about from where the next meal is coming. The social worker made constant follow-up on the children's performance and was pleased that all achieved satisfactory grades on their first semester exams.

#### **Feeding Center**

The feeding center continued providing hot meals and clean drinking water six days a week. The increasing rate of migration and unemployment has increased the number of visitors showing up at the gate. The daily intake averaged 660 people. Excluding infants, 50,407 were hosted during this period. Of the total 2,901 were children, 22,840 were females and 24,666 were males.

#### **Street Children Breakfast**

A total of 630 children were catered for by this project. All looked forward to coming back the next day. 345 children went to school after having breakfast while the rest remained behind in the center to attend HOPE's non-formal education program.

## **HOPE School, Addis Ababa**

With the withdrawal of five students a total of 824 (411 male and 413 female) students continued to attend HOPE School. All students took continuous assessment tests. Of the 824 students that sat for the final exam, 2% scored below 50%, 72% scored between 50%-75% and the remaining 26% scored above 76%. With regards to the extracurricular activities, various clubs functioned actively. "Agerehen Ewoke" club (Know Your Country Club) made a one day visit to the historical Entoto Mountain and visited the old and famous museum and the palace of Emperor Menelik II. In a contact made by the sport clubs with the Ethiopian Handball Association, 30 club members were trained in handball for five months. On March 1, 2006 our school organized a one day experience sharing with the schools working under the Kolfe Keranio Education Bureau. Parents' Day took place in early March. It began with a short report from the Principal of the school on the overall achievement during the first semester. Parents and guardians then discussed the teaching and learning activities.

In February, Dr. Jeff Zwiers from Stanford University organized a half day workshop on the topic of useful techniques in developing academic English and using visual aids in teaching. All HOPE School teachers attended the workshop and all learned a great deal. On March 24, 2006, the teaching staff members held a half day meeting. The main agenda of the meeting was evaluating the first semester's teaching and learning performances. Results of the students were found to be encouraging though improvements needed to be made in both English and mathematics and the ongoing shortage of school books needed to be addressed.

## **Community Based Educational Support for Street Children**

A total of 345 (196 male and 149 female) attended various government schools with support from HOPE. Their results were good: 261 (148 male and 113 female) scored 'excellent' or 'pass' marks. 84 (48 male, 36 female) received unsatisfactory results. Remedial classes are therefore planned to take place for the low achievers.

## **The School of Home Workers**

We began the first free home workers school in the country in our Addis Ababa school using the evening hours with 100 home workers. The home workers, commonly known as domestic servants, are underage girls and women, who often had to put up with work ranging from 12 to 16 hours a day. Many do not get a day off and very sadly most are not given support for an education. Hope thought that by approaching their problem via education, empowerment may come as choices for better living develop. Two teachers have been appointed to teach these classes, five days a week.

## **HOPE Vocational Training Center**

The vocational department was busy finding volunteer companies for apprenticeship programs in which to place the 80 trainees. 78 companies were contacted and all

responded positively. The school had its own evaluation meeting of the training program in February. At this meeting feedback from trainees was also discussed. Ms. Willemien Hoogerwaard from the Netherlands also evaluated the vocational training program. Her final feedback is to come next quarter.

### **10+2 Technical and Vocational Education**

The school of **Electrical Technology** has 40 trainees (18 females), 20 students in their final year and 20 in their first year. All received assessment exams on a monthly basis and took their first semester exam in February. The trainees all received 'on the job' experience helping out with maintenance and repair work in the compound. The stream of **General Mechanics** continued training 18 students in the first year and 19 in the second year with 14 students being girls. With the withdrawal of one trainee from the stream of **Woodworks** the remaining 18 students (9 female) successfully attended their training. Woodwork production picked up momentum during the quarter. The **School of International Hotel Services and Catering** continued to train the 32 girls enrolled. To help the girls gain practice in this area of study, the girls took turns working in the school cafeteria. The girls also cooked different international meals for the branch's restaurant. Fresh vegetables were bought from our vegetable garden and green house to ensure the highest quality possible.

### **Career Planning and Job Placement**

By this quarter, in addition to the 99 youngsters hired last, 14 youngsters joined the labor market. This left only 41 youngsters waiting for a job with a placement record of 73%.

### **Business Development**

The various businesses established under our support continued to operate with relative success as the business climate in Addis Ababa increasingly demanded their services.

## **The Dessie Branch**

### **Family Based Child Care**

750 beneficiaries (357 girls) were assisted with full support during the quarter. Meeting basic inter-related needs being the core activity, this program continued providing meals, clothing, medical care, a monthly stipend and shower services as usual. Smaller children in preschool also received morning and afternoon snacks. Another 67 students (36 male and 31 female) attending their college preparatory education were assisted with a monthly allowance of birr 40 and stationery materials. 34 youngsters (26 male and 8 female) attending different universities continue to be supported. Monthly meetings with parents and guardians were held to discuss proper utilization of stipends, child performance and how to take proper care of children.

Christmas was celebrated in the presence of Dr. Minas and his family. Following a very good drama, Dr. Minas had words of advice using his own experience in life. He then gave gifts to each student sponsored by the Bundles of Love of Woord & Daad. Parents and Minders present in the celebration spoke underscoring their joy in seeing that others express the kind of love that they want to show to their children. They also appreciated Hope's seriousness in preparing the children to eventually stand on their own.

### **HOPE Junior Clinic**

Periodical follow-up on the beneficiaries' hygiene and sanitation was conducted by the clinic's nurse with progress of weight and height recorded. It was noted that the nutritional status of the children was much improved especially since the consistent provision of breakfast. The provision for all to have opportunities to have shower at least once a week was said to have added to the children's wellness. During the quarter fewer children were referred to hospitals than the previous quarter.

### **Food Security Development Project**

Following previous experience, the branch's office signed an agreement with the regional Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission to operate in three Woredas: Tehuledere, Ambassel, and Worebabo in South Wollo Zone. 9,000 people are projected to benefit. The program is fully supported by Woord en Daad and its duration is six months. The project is an integrated water based livelihood development project. In this regard, vegetable garden, animal husbandry and some crops will be advanced in an intensive manner. There will be seed distribution and livestock enhancement as well.

### **HOPE School, Dessie**

The first semester examination was conducted at the beginning of February. 634 students (327 boys and 307 girls) sat for the exam. Analysis of the results reflected 94% students scoring above the passing mark. 36 students who showed outstanding performance were rewarded in a special event in the presence of parents/guardians and teachers. In a meeting held amongst teachers to assess the overall performance of the semester, reviews were reported on laudable achievements and noted weakness. Commending the successes and identifying the weaknesses, a working resolution was reached to focus on assisting weak students through remedial classes and put extra effort to the betterment of the overall teaching and learning engagement. Similarly, parents/guardians were gathered to discuss the overall achievements and conduct of students. It was communicated by the branch manager that parents/minders need to exercise strict guidance, home study follow up and frequent communications with their child's teacher.

Teachers' appraisal was carried out by department heads. A number of workshops were also organized to give teachers and office staff additional know how. Dr. Jeff Zwiers's training on academic English was very helpful. Another workshop was organized by the Woreda Educational Bureau for all the schools in Dessie. The workshop focused on ways of producing better and improved learning aid materials. After the training the teachers

were highly engaged in producing the teaching aids taught during the workshop. With the participation of the students more than 50 teaching materials were produced.

### **HOPE Vocational Training Center**

With a higher emphasis put on practical learning, a total of 111 students continued their training in the four fields of training; construction technology, general mechanics, electrical technology and secretarial science & office management. Five trainees withdrew from the training as they got opportunities of employment in government and private companies. Trainees in all the fields took their first semester examination in January and February in common and supportive courses. Project works, lesson plans and assessment records were effectively laid out by trainees in all departments. Vocational staff workers had a meeting to discuss trainees' performance, schemes of work, and lesson plan preparation. Contacts were made with private and governmental organizations for the coming apprenticeship program in June and July.

During the quarter trainees in the stream of **Construction Technology** were engaged in maintaining pipelines, plastering tiles for the children's shower room and building trench foundations. Moreover, 200 bricks were produced by the trainees for the building of a small office. Shelves were also made by the youngsters for the kitchen and vocational staff room. Trainees in the stream of **General Mechanics** made a table for the guest house, 26 dust bins from sheet metal and windows and doors for the newly built small office. Maintenance of door and windows of the cafeteria and classrooms was also completed. A tour at a local factory in Kombolcha was organized for the trainees so as to have a first hand experience of real work situation. Trainees in the stream of **Electrical Technology** were responsible for the installation of new switches and socket outlets in the auditorium and workshops. The injera baking oven in the kitchen was repaired by the same trainees as part of their practical work. In a review seminar organized by electrical technology department the trainees had the opportunity to participate and learn about electrical power systems, satellite communication systems and sources of electric energy.

### **Career Planning and Job Placement**

To date 22 youngsters were placed in jobs out of the 55 graduates. Economic downturn in the area has had a dampening effect on the fast employability of the youngsters. The Manager of Career Planning and Placement had a meeting with the unemployed graduates to discuss job opportunity possibilities. A list of them and their specialties was prepared and sent to various organizations for consideration of future employment. Some organizations have had positive response. Furthermore, a nationwide TV is being prepared for an air cast soon.

### **Business Development**

Ebenezer Fast Foods got to a good start and when success came, the end did not go well. The youngsters were to borrow the needed money for all the purchases made in advance. But, seeing all as charity, they objected to borrowing. HOPE, making it clear from the

start that it could only help them by presenting a collateral, did not sway the girls to act like all business people. This ended up in court and HOPE prevailed. HOPE is looking for ways to engage other girls using its conditions. Hope is also pursuing the option of using micro finance institutions in view of little or no portfolio management on the part of the private bank that was approached.

## **The Gambella Area Project**

### **Family Based Child Care**

All 480 children were assisted under this program without a hitch during the reporting period. They were provided with stationery items, received free education at HOPE school and had their medical expenses covered. The social worker, Pastor Peter Agua, held counseling sessions with special emphasis going to children with personal problems and children with poor exam results. Their parents/guardians also continued to come to HOPE every month to take their sponsorship allowance of 40 Birr. Their coming was used to discuss matters related to proper child care, health related issues and school attainment.

### **HOPE School, Gambella**

The 480 children in HOPE School Gambella successfully attended their schooling. It was encouraging to see that more than half of the students were female. With the start of breakfast program every morning, absenteeism was highly reduced. The children were given tests every month in order to check on how well they were doing. Those who scored lower grades were also given supplementary classes to help them improve their grades. All were continuously encouraged to work even harder and score better results. From Monday to Friday all fifth to eighth graders attained one hour tutorial class every afternoon. As a result most showed better performance.

The extra curricular clubs formed were strengthened and taken seriously during the quarter. For example, two students from the Anti-AIDS and Red Cross Club received short term training from the regional Anti-HIV/AIDS secretariat office in Gambella. And in return the trainees educated their fellow students on the ways in which HIV/AIDS can be transmitted. The Question and Answer club took part in both in-school competitions and inter school competitions. KG1, KG2 Grades one and two participated in these competitions. Our KG students won first place. All received books as prizes. The students enjoyed the competition immensely and found it to be a source of inspiration for studying harder. The Girls' club held debates on various issues. One of the main topics for this quarter was about the advantages and disadvantages of female circumcision; a harmful tradition practice in many of the rural countries in Ethiopia. Both sides presented their cases and came to an understanding that it was definitely a dreadful practice that should be prevented. The girls also received counseling sessions and advice on how to tackle the various problems they faced in their daily lives both at home and at school. The children were very happy with the activities and deeply appreciated the attention and love they were given.

## **Community Based Child Care**

The 125 (78 female) children in the community based educational support program were provided with all the necessary stationery equipment for studying. 30 children attended first grade, 43 attended second grade, 36 students attended third grade and nine students attended fourth grade in the local government schools with HOPE paying school fees. During the reporting period, the educational endeavors of the children were followed up by the social worker who made regular visits to their schools and maintained records of their progress. More than 100 letters and small gifts were received by the children from their sponsors. The sponsors encouraged the children to work hard and prayed for them, letting the children know that even people in far away countries care about their wellbeing. The children were deeply touched and truly appreciate this support.

## **The Assosa Area Project**

### **Family Based Child Care**

The project continued to care for 100 children (42 boys and 58 girls) during the quarter. These children had their lunch at school from Monday to Saturday. In addition, their families were given a monthly allowance of 40 birr to help them cover other needs at home. The four children who withdrew from the program were replaced by four others in March. The bio data and photographs of the new children was prepared and sent to our partners, Woord En Daad in the Netherlands. Overall, the children developed the skills to sit properly, feed themselves, practice basic manners, read and write the alphabet and the numbers from zero to ten.

### **HOPE Pre-school**

During the quarter, all children attended HOPE School with very little absenteeism. 50 of these children were attending KG 1 and the other 50, KG 2. It is encouraging that 58% of the total students are girls. The newly enrolled children quickly integrated with the other children and were happy to have been placed in this environment. Towards the end of March the first semester exam results were collected and this showed that only two students scored below 60%. All were continuously encouraged to work even harder and score better results. Interclass general knowledge competitions were also organized every Saturday. This helped to motivate the children to study at home and participate in the classrooms. As a result to encourage high achievers, the branch manger awarded exercise books and pencils to ten students from each class.

## **The Roggie Child Care and Training Center**

### **Family Based Child Care**

100 children continued to receive full support under this program. The children were provided with lunch six days a week with careful inspection undertaken by the school teachers. Basic sanitation and hygiene checkups were conducted regularly in the school.

Parents were summoned at the end of every month to receive advice on proper parental guidance and care. Delegates from the district Educational Bureau and the Labor and Social Affairs Bureau conducted a supervisory visit inspecting the planned program and the achieved goals in the past three months. They expressed appreciation in the overall performance of the project after having examined the outputs in respect to project inputs.

### **HOPE Pre-school**

Preschool instruction continued in Kindergarten 1 and 2 according to the annual lesson plan prepared at the beginning of the year. The lesson plans were completed and assessment tests given to the children in both levels. Results achieved by the KG 2 students showed that out of the 50 children enrolled in the class 25 of them scored above 80%, 15 scored above 65% while the rest ranked between 45%-50%. As to KG 1 scholastic achievement 20 children scored above 75 %, 19 above 65% and 10 in the range of 45%-48%.

Considering the age of children who are below five years old and presently attending in KG 2, seven children were exchanged with seven other students from KG 1 to match the age and the class level.

### **Primary School Construction**

Master Construction Company, the contractor that won the bid for the construction of the school and an office complex in Roggie and Hirrara, set off with the sub-structure work in the beginning of February. The construction has continued to date with the basement, concrete and block works finished and roofing and waterproofing work begun. Four blocks have been erected to house pre-school, grades 1-4, staffroom, office and toilet. A supervisor appointed in the construction site monitors and ascertains the proper utilization of raw materials and adherence to the plan and specification of the construction.

## **The Hirrara Child Care and Training Center**

### **Family Based Child Care**

100 children continued to benefit from this program. The beneficiaries were provided with lunch and medical care through the quarter. Children who suffered from various illnesses were treated in a nearby health center with full expense coverage by the office. As a result number of absentees due to sickness has decreased significantly. With a six day lunch service, the children enjoyed hot nutritious meals under the supervision of the teachers. Clean water has been transported from a distant community water well carried on two donkeys to a 1000 liter water container every day. The donkeys along with carts were bought by a team from South Valley Christian Church of California during their visit there. As the project is evolving, the interest to turn it into a community development project is picking up momentum. TEAR Australia was approached about funding water development and community health work. Considering the isolation of a

people group known as the **Lakis** across the lake on few islands some three kilometers away, there is also an interest to assist in their development. The people group has had no contact with modernity and no one has worked with them to date.

### **HOPE Pre-school**

Pre-school instruction has been imparted to 100 children with strict adherence to the annual lesson plan. Lesson coverage has been successful in the allotted period of time. Assessment tests were given to all the children. Results of the assessment revealed that all KG 1 students scored above the passing mark, 50%, while only 27 students scored above 50 % in KG 2. Remedial classes were organized for low achievers after regular class hours.

### **Primary School Construction**

Having signed an agreement with the Master Construction Company for the construction of the primary school in Hurrara, sub-structure construction will commence at the beginning of May. A supervisor has been hired to supervise and monitor the construction process. The site of the building complexes is breath taking facing the lake and a group of mountain islands across from an elevated ground. Down below by the shore abounding Lake Zway is freshwater for irrigation and there is much irrigated vegetables. In the cool hours of the afternoon, hippos come out of the lake walking around like strange beings from outer space.

## **III. HOPE University College**

This quarter marked a focus on the fund raising aspect of the university college. The President wrote a detailed business plan for the college and sent it to various partners. The business plan addressed the two components of the college's genesis: construction and equipping on one hand and operations on the other. Mr. Alec Reed, the Chairman of Ethiopiaaid/UK, showing an interest in supporting the construction and equipping aspect, invited the President for discussion in London from January 26 to 27, 2006. He undertook the visit being joined by Mr. Hans Treurniet, the master architect of the University College and Mr. Klaas de Wit, another partner assisting with the energy and installation aspects of the college. Mr. Reed was keen on having quality as well as focus at the college. To give us an idea of both, he had us visit the London Academy, a school that he got built using 21<sup>st</sup> technology and concepts. Then we drove further north to his training program for executives in a country manor. The next day he had us visit his London training program on a host of disciplines. In the afternoon, he took us to the London Metropolitan University and had us see the various aspects of the university. After the long visit, we then had a discussion with him and the relevant executives of the university. The university was willing to cooperate with us including in the provision of recognition to the college. Mr. Reed wanted us to reflect on a number of points that not only addressed quality but also factors like autonomy and sustainability. He was also concerned about the college's management cautioning us that unless top quality leadership is in place, the college may not be of a standard desired. After a mutual understanding on very important points, the delegation thanked Mr. Reed for all the useful inputs and returned to Holland. In February, Mr. Reed informed the president about a similar institution already operating in South Africa called CIDA University and was willing to finance the President to visit the university. Upon an examination of the university from its website and a

number of articles written by the BBC on the university, it was amazing how the ideas crossed. A plan is made to visit the university in June. In March, following a series of correspondence with Ms. Joanna Roberts of Ethiopiaid, assigned to handle relations about the Hope University College, the interest of Ethiopiaid to contribute to the funding of the university college was expressed much to our joy.

While in Holland, the President visited our Dutch partners committed to the realization of the university college. He had a meeting with the curriculum consortium. Jos de Kock, who had been heading up the consortium, left Woord & Daad, but came to discuss residual issues. The feedback on his report on the curriculum was discussed and there was consensus on the three areas of specialization of business management, teacher education and environmental studies. The issue of whether to build a dormitory or not was raised by Jos' replacement, Marike de Kloe. She stated that Woord & Daad committed itself to contribute to the building of expatriate staff housing and not dormitories. To Woord & Daad, as a dormitory was very costly, it did not have the funds to sponsor the expenses of both dormitory upkeep and management on one-hand and room and board expenses of the students in such institutional fashion on the other.

Committing itself to sponsor HOPE's youngsters that qualify for the college for a maximum of Birr 300 per month per student for basic care, Woord & Daad was of the stance it would not have the extra funds to cover the additional outlay. Furthermore, in as much as a dormitory comes with all sorts of complications, it conveyed that it would not cover no more than a third of the expenses of construction if HOPE decided to go-ahead with the construction of the dormitories. Based on this discussion and subsequent consultation, the plan to build dormitories was changed to the original plan of building expatriate faculty residence. It was noted that students can commute to the university college just as all students in Hope's existing schools and vocational programs commute. It was also noted that considering the distance of the campus from the center of the city, the original plan of having a faculty housing was better reducing transportation costs and possible rental expenses.

The President also had a very important meeting with the construction consortium. First the status of the fundraising for the construction of the college was raised after the previous minutes of the consortium were read and endorsed. In this regard the brochure that Cor Schaap prepared to use as a fund raising tool was presented. This brochure was to be distributed at the Kanter's anniversary on February 1. A short version was also developed for the same purpose. Also ideas were brought to use newspapers, magazines and Dutch TV as fund raising forums. Mr. Wim Hasselman was to work on these possibilities. Dr. Minas also cited the interest of Ethiopiaid in taking part in the financing of the construction. Then moving on to the topic of construction, the consortium decided to advance the construction in two phases. What buildings and works fall in what phase was to be decided after consulting with the local architect. The draft contract with the local architect, Abba Architects Plc., was also discussed and modified. If Abba agreed with the minor changes, it was decided to start the work. The consortium was happy about the business plan of the university prepared by Dr. Minas.

In the afternoon of February 1, The President attended the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of Kanters, a company that has been supporting the vocational program in our Dessie Branch and serving as a member of the construction consortium of the university college. The celebration occurred in an auditorium from 2 to 5 pm. The company incorporated with this momentous event a gift giving ceremony towards the construction of the HOPE University College. Showing the master plan of the college on a power point supported by Ethiopian traditional music, the President of the company, Mr. Henk de Pater, pledged to support the construction with 100 million Euro. The company also declared that it would cooperate in ways that it is able until the construction is

completed. Then came my part. Saying few words of thanks to the company and underscoring my congratulations, I gave a brief portrayal of HOPE and the ideas behind the college. Then appreciating the company's partnership in the bald initiative, I gave the company a gift of crystal with inscriptions, "Congratulations for 100 years of service and goodwill Kanters. Hope Enterprises of Ethiopia". The master of ceremony, talked about the brochure on the construction project of the college that was included in a package for each guest opening up opportunities for the over 400 representatives of companies that attended the ceremony to help out in a like manner. The next day a Dutch newspaper featured the even highlighting the contribution and the plans of the Hope University College.

Subsequent to this encouraging visit, Abba was approached about the changes of the draft contract. With the firm being flexible to accommodate the changes, the contract was established in its latest form on March 22, 2006 and the work of the architectural firm began full steam. In this regard, site survey began. With the advice of the firm the process of short listing potential building contractors began. Both local and international contractors were considered. With the completion of the fencing of the site, a three phase electrical hook up was undertaken. A bonanza of sorts also developed by way of a road network. A Chinese company got an award to build a four lane first class highway passing our holding within about 100 meters of distance. This improved accessibility connecting us in one swoop to our Addis Ababa Campus on one hand and to the center of the city on the other. Besides us is the neighborhood's road that could bring both students and staff as well.

On the curriculum front, Cassie Williams, a British that was hired to serve as the institutional development officer, took an assignment to help in the framing of the curriculum based on a framework that evolved after months of consultation with the various stakeholders and potential students. Using a number of sources as well as own experience as a graduate of Oxford University and the University of London a rough sketch was developed. This was shared with a number of experts from the VSO, a British charity focused in assisting such kind of capacity and Dr. Jeff Weirs an educational expert from Stanford University. As the curriculum had to be in line with Ethiopia's policy and laws for higher education, the matching was done with close reading of relevant documents and visits of public and private colleges.

**Respectfully Submitted.**

Public Relations Office  
Hope Enterprises  
155 Churchill Road  
P O Box 30153  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Tel.: 251-111-560345, fax 251-11-1552638, email [hope@ethionet.et](mailto:hope@ethionet.et)  
Website: [www.hopeenterprises.org](http://www.hopeenterprises.org)