

# **HOPE Enterprises**

## **Quarterly Report**

### **October, November, and December 2005**

## **I. Headquarters**

The last quarter of the year allowed us to look back and reflect on all that has been achieved in 2005. MDF, a Dutch Development Consultancy, assisted by providing observations and advice on job and income components of HOPE's work. Our General Assembly met at the end of December and modified our constitution providing for the structure of the HOPE University College as an entity separate from existing activities and being overseen by its own board and executive staff. The new operations in Roggie and Hirara, Oromia, progressed well. Targeting agro-pastoralists, these projects mark HOPE's first development initiatives in rural Ethiopia. The village of Roggie will eventually solve its problem of fresh water with Menlo Park Presbyterian Church of California pledging to finance a water-well near the village and HOPE continues to search for donors to fund a similar investment in Hirara. At the same time, the improvements in our academic sector began to pay off. By October, we learned that of the 112 high school completers, 106 scored high enough a grade to qualify for either college preparatory high schools or junior colleges. While the job mediation efforts continued, we began evaluating the activities of those youngsters we supported with their small and medium sized enterprises as we saw the youngsters having difficulty in taking initiatives and risk. With the rains being generally good, the harvest during fall all throughout the country was good with 30 to 35% increase in yield being noted compared to the previous year. We had submitted our project activities to the authorities to start a food security development project in vulnerable districts in South Wollo zone focusing on a shift from rain fed agriculture to that dependent on irrigation within an intensive setting in a variety of interdependent food sources.

The progress on the HOPE University College was also engaging as we discussed the curriculum of the college involving various stakeholders in a public forum. The meeting was reported on national television and in a number of newspapers. Voice of Germany also featured the college with a half hour interview of Dr. Minas. It was also during this time that the local architect for the college, Abba Architects Plc., was chosen with the help of a team from the Netherlands. The firm was engaged in a number projects like the new addition of the Fistula Hospital. In December, Mr. Alec Reed, Chairman of the Trustees of Ethiopiaid, a major donor, and Mr. James White, Manager of the foundation, visited us and offered valuable comments as regards the HOPE University College.

It was during this quarter that formal fundraising for the college started with the President writing a detailed project proposal. The President had a fund raising tour to the US visiting existing partners and potential friends in October and November. Along the way, he gathered much information on e-learning and how this innovation could be applied within our context. A number of colleges were also visited to help us in the design of the organization and curriculum of our college. Most prominent in this was Stanford University. The headquarters was also involved in the set up of an umbrella organization for NGOs that signed to the Code of Conduct for NGOs in Ethiopia. The quarter was indeed busy and we thank you for your continued support and prayers.

## **II. Ladders of HOPE**

The final quarter of 2005 has seen the continued effective implementation of HOPE's programs across the five states of Ethiopia. The Executive Director vigilantly monitored the progress of all the projects executed and ensured that upgrades were carried out wherever necessary. Preparations were underway to start the construction of a high school and a vocational center in Gambella.

### **The Addis Ababa Branch**

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

A total of 302 beneficiaries continued to benefit under this program. 51.3% of them are females. The Childcare Officer made regular home visits to ensure that proper care was paid to the children and no neglect was in evidence. In the majority of homes, it was impossible to ignore the lack of hygiene and the terrible living conditions. Hence, 66 children were suffering with earache and tonsillitis. These children all received good medical care thanks to HOPE. Replacement of any who dropped out of the program was also carried out during this quarter. Christmas was warmly observed and celebrated among our children. Sponsors of the children were delighted to receive hand made cards from their individual child. In return, the sponsors wrote letters and sent Christmas gifts. With the financial support gained from Woorden Daad under the 'bundles of love' theme, each child got a complete jeans outfit.

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

With the recruitment of two new beneficiaries, the program supported 164 children and youngsters - 46% of them female. 143 of them attended HOPE school while those remaining went to the local government schools. Provision of allowance, Birr 33 per month continued in the quarter as usual. Guidance and counseling services were rendered to the beneficiaries individually and in groups. From the close follow-up of Ato Tesfaye T/berhan, Child Care Officer, it was noted that most of the children showed encouraging attitudinal change.

#### **Feeding Center**

With the continued service of hot lunches from Monday to Saturday the center hosted 51,316 people during the reporting quarter. Of these 2,183 were children and 25,561 were females. The number of guests served at our soup kitchen slightly decreased during the month of December. Many of our regulars were looked after by churches and other organizations in this period of giving and sharing.

#### **Street Children Breakfast**

As the number of street children on the street of Addis Ababa continues to rise, the need to incorporate more children in the program becomes evident. To this end, the Project Office engaged in the recruitment of 100 (77 boys, 23 girls) additional children from the streets in 21 localities of the city. All 630 (280 girls) children are served with hot milk, two bread rolls and a banana every morning. The HOPE social worker continues to check that the service is

prompt and healthy. Fifty children on this program received metal shoe shine boxes (made by Salu Self Help, a local NGO for the blind) as part of an income generation program.

### **HOPE School, Addis Ababa Branch**

A total of 829 students (416 of them girls) attended academic lessons at the HOPE school. 389 of them are HOPE sponsored while the remaining are sponsored by different organizations. A staff meeting was held on October 15 to discuss the strength and weakness of strategies and methods of teaching used in the previous academic year and for possible improvements to be made for the coming year. At the meeting, responsibilities were assigned to staff members and requests for action plans made. School clubs were established with the appointment of a chairman and a secretary for music and literature, sports and arts, anti HIV/AIDS, Red Cross, family planning, library, "Agerhen Ewoke (Explore Ethiopia) and human and child rights clubs. Assessment reports revealed impressive achievement by the students. The school also registered 65 grade ten students to sit for the tenth grade national examination later on the academic year.

On November 10, 2005 a meeting was called to discuss the findings and recommendations of research conducted by Ms. Marike de Kloe on HOPE School. After a long discussion, the staff came to a consensus that the findings reflected the real situation of the school to a large extent and the recommendations are valuable towards the improvement of the overall schooling technique and tackling some of the setbacks pointed out in the report. The staff compiled a reaction report and submitted to the headquarters.

The Kolfe-Keranio sub-city Educational Bureau organized a visit on December 14, 2005 for the directors of nine other schools. During the visit, the directors took part in discussions on how to maintain a quality and stimulating school for students. The Kebele delegate praised HOPE for its contribution to the teaching and learning process, calling the HOPE school a model school. On December 20, 2005, grade four students from Bingham Academy School visited HOPE preschool and donated 144 different kindergarten books, 148 items of used clothes, 408 candy bars, 40 dolls, two bags and two musical instruments. These gifts were much appreciated.

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

Two children replaced the two beneficiaries who withdrew from the program keeping the total number of street children receiving educational support at 350. Although every single child comes from very harsh conditions, most showed encouraging results. All 350 children were enrolled in 39 different government schools with HOPE providing full educational support.

### **HOPE Vocational Training Center**

With the additional enrollment of 82 new trainees registering for 2006/2007 academic year, a total of 130 (65 female) students attended their training in four different departments- Electrical Technology, General Mechanics, Wood Works and International Hotel and Home Services. According to the VTC guideline, an orientation session was held prior the start of the training. The new trainees were issued with the rules and regulations of the center and of HOPE Enterprises. A Dutch expert, Mr. Wiebe Salverda, visited our training center in

October 2005. He conducted a thorough assessment of the training center in relation to the curriculum, methodology, relevance and market of the training programs, equipment, instructors and trainees through actual visits and interviews. In the final day of his stay he briefed the management committee of his impressions and recommendations. His report was communicated to the concerned training staff who appreciated the comments made.

Another team of visitors from Woord en Daad's partner organization, AMG, consisting of three delegates from the Philippines- Mr. Francisco B. Pascual, Mrs. Raquel Doctora and Mr. Richard Padilla visited HOPE with a particular interest in the Career Planning and Placement office. The center has registered a high rate of job placement for its youths graduating from it. The visit was made with the intention of sharing experiences in job mediation.

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

The 40 trainees (24 male and 16 female) enrolled in the **Electrical Technology** stream enthusiastically followed their lessons. The already experienced second year trainees maintained the electrical systems of the compound fixing wires and malfunctioning sockets and bulbs. An electric *mitad*, used for baking *injera* was also produced by the trainees. The **General Mechanics** stream had a total of 39 (28 male and 11 female) trainees during the quarter: 20 students in their first year and 19 students in their second year. All the youngsters capably produced steel wires for fencing the HOPE University College site, providing the students with learning opportunity and helping HOPE to save money on construction of the University College. The stream of **Wood Works** had a total of 19 (13 male and 6 female) trainees, nine of whom are in their second year and ten newly recruited trainees in their first year. With the assistance of the instructor, the first year trainees maintained minor classroom chairs while the final year trainees produced different furniture.

The **School of International Hotel and Home Services** had a total of 32 enthusiastic girls enrolled. Throughout the quarter four evaluation tests were administered and results revealed satisfactory performance. Cooking international menus was a great challenge for all but with the assistance of the instructors all were satisfied with their performance. The students hope to be employed in big hotels and international restaurants.

### **Career Planning and Placement**

The office continued its search for jobs, establishing more contacts with employing companies. To date of the 154 graduates, 99 graduates (53 female), have been either successfully placed with a number of organizations or working on their own as freelancers.

### **Business Center**

Our Business Development Center in consultation with Woord en Daad is considering some reforms in operational modalities. A new business development manager will be recruited in March in Place of Mr. Mathewos Lendido, who resigned. At the same time the established business enterprises of our youngsters, Holiyad Technical service PLC., International Computer Networking System and Abro Adeg Modern Ceramics Cooperative Society continue to function well.

## **The Dessie Branch**

### **Family Based Child Care**

During this quarter 73 beneficiaries were recruited to replace our graduates and dropouts. A total of 750 beneficiaries (393 male, 357 female) continued to benefit from this program through the provision of educational materials, uniforms, footwear, medical care and a monthly allowance of Birr 40. 67. Youngsters attending government schools at the preparatory level also received the same benefits. Additional provision was made to 34 students (26 male, 8 female) who joined various universities. They received transport allowance, educational materials, blanket, bed sheets and soap.

Although many of the children came from broken homes and destitute families, the childcare officer was content with the encouraging discipline shown by the children. Nevertheless, the Counseling and Guidance Office was very busy during this quarter advising and guiding students to adopt good study habits and to interact with others appropriately, and preaching good moral values to the children. Furthermore, regular meetings were held with parents/guardians every month to discuss students' performance and discipline. In order to ensure the well being of our children frequent home visits were made and any observed social problems were solved through effective dialogues with the family. Sponsor and child communication resumed in this quarter through letters. Children received letters and presents from their sponsors and then wrote thank you letters expressing their delight. The children also sent Christmas letters with colorful drawings.

### **HOPE Junior Clinic**

Health examination and education of sanitation were the main activities of the clinic during this quarter. 75 children received medical treatment after being diagnosed with common colds, intestinal problems and other illnesses. The majority of health problems encountered were caused by a lack of cleanliness. Hence, further health education on sanitation was given during flag ceremonies and during class hours. The school's health club also continued to undertake weekly inspections of the hygiene status of the students.

### **Food Security Development Project**

The multi faceted food security development project targeting 9000 farmers in three woredas (districts) Worebabo, Tehuledere and Ambassel in South Wollo Zone is still pending with the authorities needing to sign the project agreement submitted to them.

### **HOPE School, Dessie**

During this period, HOPE School contained 634 students (307 girls). The 13 new children admitted in place of dropouts in grades one and two quickly integrated without a hitch as the older students welcomed them. The school carried out both its academic and extra-curricular activities as per the annual plan.

Formal and informal discussions were carried out amongst teachers concerning the on-going teaching and learning activity in the school. The performance of students both in the classroom and outside was closely inspected on a daily basis. Unit leaders were assigned for

each class to supervise and observe the performance of teachers ensuring that classes were held in an acceptable manner and pupils' activities were checked accordingly. Attendance and punctuality of teachers as well as students were closely checked.

Club meetings were organized by department heads to discuss the annual action plan of each club. These clubs were Sports, Language, Health and Anti-AIDS club, Girls' club, Drama and Literature clubs. Orientation on the objective and the duties of clubs was communicated to club members assigning responsibilities on different activities.

Overall, continuous assessments were carried out in all grade levels providing helpful feedback on issues such as possible remedial techniques and measures for assisting the lower achievers. Tutorial classes were arranged for after school and Saturdays in order to help the weaker students to improve their performance. Extra drills and activities were also prepared at the end of each chapter to enhance students' achievements.

### **HOPE Vocational Training Center**

The Dessie vocational training center started the quarter with a total of 116 trainees (51 being girls) enrolled in the four streams of training- Construction Technology, Electrical Technology, General Mechanics and Secretarial Science and Office Management. 60 youngsters were enrolled in the first year and 56 youngsters in the second year. In order to strengthen the capacity of our vocational training center, extra attention was given by the branch office. Frequent meetings were held with all the instructors in order to assess the proper utilization of resources and performance of the students. The responsible department head insured that all training was conducted according to lesson plans submitted at the end of every week. This was examined in relation to the annual plans made by the department. Supportive courses and special tutorial classes were also organized to assist low achievers. At the end of the theoretical lessons, all trainees actively moved on to practical lessons.

Parallel to their theoretical classes, all trainees were engaged in practical training in our workshops. Trainees in the stream of **General Mechanics** prepared 80 chairs for the auditorium, five chairs for the elementary school, wire net windows and a number of maintenance activities were conducted on campus. **Construction Technology** students built a flight of steps and installed water lines in the shower rooms, laid sewage pipes and maintained the pipes on the site, while those in the stream of **Electrical Technology** mended various faulty circuits, installed and maintained a number of other electrical outlets. Trainees in the stream of **Office Management and Secretarial Science** also proceeded with their training effectively. Each student has her own computer on which to practice and learn.

### **Career Planning and Placement**

Of the 55 graduates last September, eight of them got opportunities for advanced vocational training and college. Of the remaining 47 youngsters, eleven of them passed employment opportunities given by Telecommunications and are waiting formal employment after undergoing two months of training given by the same authority. One youngster got a job leaving 35 youngsters in search of jobs. The Office of Career Planning and Placement is advertising for opportunities for the youngsters and engaged in its usual job search.

## **Business Center**

The Business Development efforts are facing problems as the local bank is making its loan provision prohibitive to sue. This development had stopped Ebenezer Fast Foods from engaging with the bank and the business center had opted out of borrowing stalling our input as a source of collateral. In view of these lessons, HOPE is contemplating about setting up an independent micro finance institution that can provide easy loan and proper portfolio management.

## **Gambella Branch**

The Project Office put in a great deal of extra effort to ensure the smooth running of the project. During this quarter 480 (239 male and 241 female) beneficiaries were embraced in the Gambella Area Project, of which 40 (24 male and 16 female) children are new recruits. The branch office had to replace 17 (3 male and 14 female) children for poor achievements and some due to disciplinary matters. An additional 40 destitute children were recruited from the local community. Gender was taken in to account in order to balance the slight disproportion in the ration of males to females. The families of the beneficiaries actively participated in the project work and they harvested 10 quintals of peanut and two quintals of sesame, which was planted in the compound. They were happy to have been able to contribute to the care being given to their young.

## **Family Based Child Care**

By December, the total number of children receiving care came to 480 (239 male and 241 female). The long awaited breakfast program for the children also began during this quarter. Parents and guardians are now able to send their children early in the morning for school. This has proved to be a worthwhile investment; since beginning the children have demonstrated both physical and mental change. Clothing and footwear were also distributed to all beneficiaries. Assessments collected from behavioral analysis of individuals among our students revealed positive behavioral changes. To this effect, the morning flag ceremony sessions were to the utmost benefit of the students where interesting stories with themes revolving around diligence, honesty and integrity were imparted.

In this quarter the sponsored children in our area project sent reply letters to their respective sponsors, sending their Christmas wishes and gratitude for gifts received. Presents from sponsors included postcards, stickers and photos of sponsors' families. The children were thrilled to receive these small gifts.

## **HOPE School, Gambella**

HOPE school, embracing 480 (241 girls, 239 boys), continued providing free education to students with full provision of school uniforms and the stationary materials required by each student. With the start of the breakfast program for our children we were able to solve the problem of absenteeism and tardiness among students. In order to improve the achievements of students, after school tutorial classes have been set up to assist the especially poor performing students.

The annual lesson plans of each subject were prepared and documented in the office before the closing of the last academic year. During this quarter, each subject teacher submitted the prepared weekly lesson plans and cross-checked with the annual lesson plan. The lessons were instructed according to the plan.

At the beginning of this quarter the staff held a meeting in order to discuss the findings and recommendations of Marike de Kloe's report and co-curricular activities. Participants agreed with the report's findings but suggested that attention should have also been given to the role of the family in the academic achievement of children. Regarding the co-curricular activities, the participants discussed the weak and strong co-curricular activities of last year and reached an agreement with fruitful recommendations. Lastly based on the recommendations, heads of different school clubs were elected to run the clubs and their activities.

Weekly parents' meetings held in the school compound were found to be instrumental for running the area project activities. Findings of Marike de Kloe's research report were discussed with the parents including the problem of a lack of parental insistence of homework being completed at home. A number of parents/guardians claimed they were simply too old or disabled to enforce homework times although the majority did eventually agree to do their utmost to provide a good example for their children. At the end of the meeting parents were encouraged to take more responsibility for instilling good behavior in their children.

## **The Assosa Area Project**

### **Family Based Child Care**

The continuation of assistance for 100 children (42 boys, 58 girls) providing lunch, stationary materials, footwear, uniforms, medical care and an allowance of Birr 40 was undertaken during the quarter. Bio-data of the newly admitted children in the previous quarter was sent to Woord en Daad. In return, we received identity numbers for the children.

### **HOPE Pre-school**

An additional classroom was rented in order to accommodate the 50 new children accepted by the school for this academic year. A pre-school teacher was also hired for the kindergarten pupils. Educational materials were distributed and teaching aids were prepared. The teaching and learning process went very smoothly with the little ones. Both the pre-school and kindergarten teacher implemented the weekly lesson plans as submitted weekly to the branch manager. Student assessments were conducted frequently and recorded properly. Moreover, the monthly meetings with parents and guardians helped to discuss students' performance and basic hygiene follow-up.

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

### **Family Based Child Care**

The provision of assistance to 100 children in the centre continued to operate smoothly with the employment of a contracted professional food caterer from the locality to cater lunch for

the children six days a week. A varied and nutritional diet was provided to the children. A water tanker with a capacity of holding 2,000 liters was placed in the center to regulate the availability of water for washing, drinking and preparation of food. The tanker is replenished daily with water transported from distant water community water well.

The children's bio-data and photographs with distinct identification number was recorded and documented by our Project Manager. Our sponsors, Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, suggested using a computerized system since they had found it to be a very practical and simple way of recording the children's data. Uniforms and footwear were distributed to the children in this same quarter. This provision has been a fundamental part of the program since the majority of the children were barefooted and barely clothed prior to HOPE's intervention. The children also received exercise books and pencils at the beginning of the quarter.

### **Pre-school**

With commencement of kindergarten 2 class, nursery and kindergarten schooling was carried out with strict adherence to the lesson plans by two pre-school teachers. Students' activity sheets were checked daily and documented for final evaluation at the end of the year. The lessons instructed in this quarter focused on letter and number identification in kindergarten 1 and word writing and elementary addition in kindergarten 2. The monthly parents' meeting helps teachers to discuss the children's performance at school and to observe any lack of basic hygiene in the families. The parents promised to take proper care in this aspect and in instilling good behavior for their children

A group of visitors from Menlo Park Presbyterian Church spent one day in the center. They played games with the children and organized fun activities for them. Upon the instruction of the visitors the children were able to design a poster containing a Polaroid photo of themselves decorated with beautiful drawings. They hung the posters on their classroom doors. It was an overwhelming experience for the children since this was the first time they were able to see their own photos. The children were even more thrilled when they received beautifully designed exercise/note books and a pencil from the visitors, which they had brought with them.

### **Construction of Primary School**

The five construction companies short listed in the preliminary evaluation submitted their quotes for the construction of elementary school on October 7. After careful study of the price offers, the management committee awarded the construction of the elementary school to the Master Construction Company at a price of birr 490,165.00 on December 27. As per the architectural design, five blocks will be built to contain two kindergarten classes, four classrooms for grade 1-4, an office and a toilet. The construction will begin in February 2006.

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

### **Family Based Child Care**

With full financial support from The South Valley Christian Church, this program continued to assist 100 needy children in the area. The daily nutritious lunch at school did wonders for the children; all of whom showed a dramatic change in their weight and height after commencing the program. A contracted professional caterer from the locality was hired to provide lunch for the children six days a week. A water tank with a capacity of 2,000 liters was also placed in the center to provide clean water for washing, drinking and preparation of the food. The tank is replenished daily with water bought and transported from distant water community water well. At the start of the quarter all 100 children also received school uniform, footwear and educational materials. Families of the beneficiaries were overwhelmed with the assistance that HOPE provided, and thanked the organization for the care given to the community. On December 25, 2005, Christmas was celebrated merrily with the children and parents in the school compound. After lunch, each child received a new outfit. The guests handed out smart trousers for the boys and pretty dresses for the girls and t-shirts for all.

Geoff Quinn, from Tear Australia visited the center's activities accompanied by the Executive Director. Impressed with what he saw, Mr. Quinn expressed interest in developing water well for the school and the community with financial support from Tear Australia. Considering this initiative HOPE prepared a proposal for water development in HIRRARA and sent it to Tear Australia.

### **Pre-school**

Pre-school and kindergarten lessons continued to be taught to the 100 children in nursery and kindergarten classes. Lesson plans were prepared on time and implemented in classroom instruction. The teachers regularly checked the class activities of the students and discussed the performance of the children with their parents at the end of each month. Issues such as basic hygiene and discipline were also raised and discussed with the parents.

### **Construction of Primary School**

Following the close inspection of the bill of quantities submitted by the five different companies, the management committee awarded Master Construction, the same company selected to construct Roggie elementary school. The construction was awarded for birr 490,165.00 with six months completion period. Five buildings will be put up to house two Kindergarten classrooms, classrooms for grades 1-4, an office and a toilet. Construction will begin in February 2006.

## **III. HOPE University College**

During the quarter, the three themes that dominated the HOPE University College were architectural production, curriculum development and fundraising. Deciding to have a local architectural firm for the production of the detailed building plans, the competitive process for such phase was put in place. Four local companies were short-listed and asked to present their

programs and quotations based on starting points, AutoCAD drawings, analysis of the space program, artist impression of the master plan, and press releases about the university college.

In order to help in the selection, the construction consortium sent two experts, Mr. Hans Treurniet, the designer and contributor of the master plan and Mr. Klaas de Wit, the President of DWA Installation and Energy Consultants from the Netherlands. The experts developed benchmarks for the interviews, field visits and offers. The interviews, which took one day, were administered in the presence of the experts, the purchasing committee of HOPE Enterprises and Dr. Minas. The next day the team and Dr. Minas had field visits to each company assessing their capacity to carry out the work. On the third day the team scored all the benchmarks and announced the top scorer, Abba Architects Plc., to the pricing committee on October 4. The committee, after verifying all the steps, endorsed the top scorer and recommended to the same to the Board. The Board in turn discussed the selection process and outcome and approved Abba to be awarded the contract. Abba had quite an experience not only in the architectural aspects but also in weaving aspects related to ambience and the environment to design. The construction of the new Fistula Hospital and the Dutch Embassy, which were overseen by the company, gave the team of experts enough confidence to recommend it.

As regards the curriculum, Dr. Minas wrote the draft of the curriculum based on a survey of needs and demands that he undertook in 2003 and updated in 2005. This draft was approved by our Board for further discussion involving various stakeholders. The draft was e-mailed to Dr. Jos de Kock, our consultant on the curriculum. Dr. de Kock came on November 28 and him and Dr. Minas had discussions with relevant actors regarding the draft curriculum. These actors included key people from the Ministry of Education, the Addis Ababa Education Bureau, Presidents of two private universities, one public high school and two major employers: the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia and the Chamber of Commerce. Based on the feedback of the consultations, the draft was modified to some degree and reprinted for use by the discussants. With Dr. de Kock facilitating the discussion, a public consultation was held on December 1, 2005 involving some 60 guests. HOPE was fortunate in having the relevant actors drawing the leading experts on higher education in the country from the Ministry of Education and the private sector, representatives from the nation's largest public university, Addis Ababa University, three private universities, Bureau of Education, chamber of commerce, youth groups, non governmental organizations, donors, over ten representatives of the media, the governing board, staff and student representatives of Hope.

The discussions started with a reflection on HOPE's need assessment. There was consensus that access to higher education was an acute problem with many youngsters qualified to go to college but not being able to. The problem of quality was also seen as a major problem exasperated with the reality of having to teach unacceptable high number of students in a setting of threadbare resources and facilities. In this situation, HOPE venturing into higher education was unanimously appreciated and seen as something that others may learn from. HOPE's focus on leadership development was also seen as a plus and the core areas proposed in this were accepted. There were points about why the university college did not incorporate the sciences. HOPE's plans to attract quality staff was seen as very relevant considering the hard situation under which faculty members have been operating in public and private institutions. The discussion was aired on prime time TV and a number of articles were written on it including one by the nation's big paper. the Ethiopian Herald. The Voice of

Germany also had a half an hour interview on the college seeing it as a bald and useful initiative.

At the end of what appeared to be a very useful and meaningful consultation, HOPE's framework was accepted and approved. With the above issues addressed, Dr. Minas geared his attention to the area of fundraising. Since some 58% of the fund has been donated and/or pledged, Birr 20,940,000 was left to be raised. Dr. Minas turned to Ethiopiaid for assistance, submitting a formal proposal in October. Mr. Alec Reed, Chairman of the Trustees of Ethiopiaid, discussed the proposal with Dr. Minas when he came to visit the activities of HOPE in Addis Ababa on December 16, 2005 along with the managerial staff of his foundation. Mr. Reed, being keen on quality and focus, invited Dr. Minas to London in January 2006 for further discussions and visit of high quality institutions.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

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