

The Highlights of the Year

The year 2001 marked HOPE's 30th anniversary. Sustaining three decades of humanitarian work has not been easy. But with the power of goodwill residing in many hearts, the poor with whom we worked were not forgotten. It was a year when we looked back on the journey that we had made so far and were thankful that we could touch so many lives in a meaningful way. This journey we like to call journey into justice. The issue for us has been to address the marginalization of people from two ends. At one end has been dealing with the fangs of suffering.

Whether caring for a crying child that was abandoned, fearful, hungry and exposed or attending to a family that had suddenly become a huddled mass, for us doing the best we could to care, protect and bring hope to those in need has been a major engagement. In this initiative, the ladders of hope that we developed and put to effect had done literally wonders as we saw so many that knocked at our door and got assisted tell many stories of rags to riches. Much of the writing in this report will highlight this aspect of our work. We know to some this attention might sound like licking wounds especially when one saw the enormity of the poverty that kept engulfing a rising number of people. But to us binding a life was just as important. Then there was the harder work of addressing marginalization at the causal level.

Here, we have tried to speak for justice in the best way we knew how. Whether speaking at a rally or in a forum, we have not refrained from this important duty. We spoke against the abuse of children and women. We were privileged to use the media to address issues of poverty reduction. We also used professional platforms to say our piece on this issue and to publish the promptings of our conscience and experience. In 2001, we addressed issues on topics like 'Sustainable Development through Strategic Partnership', "Civil Society and Development", "Poverty and Human Rights" and the "Social Dimensions of Poverty" in international and national fora. Believing that the poor needed a policy climate that enhanced their self help initiatives, HOPE also took an active part in the set up of Project Self Help to serve as an agent of advocacy and assistance to the informal sector.

HOPE has had a high regard for the role of the voluntary sector in the light of this sector's critical role in the advancement of particularly the interests of the poor. HOPE did much to popularize the role of the NGO sector using its own research. From this ground breaking work in the country, HOPE was a leader in the writing of a legal framework for the NGO sector in Ethiopia and in the formation of the Code of Conduct for NGOs in Ethiopia. In 2001, it translated the Code into Amharic from English. Partly owing to this important role, our Executive Director, Dr. Minas Hiruy, was elected to chair the Code Observance Committee by the NGO community of no less than 185 signatories. During the same year, HOPE provided office space for the Code Observance Committee, enabling the Committee to operate smoothly in the work of self-regulation ever since.

HOPE was also engaged in something that was exemplary. It was called the Clean and Green Addis Ababa Initiative. The initiative positioned itself as a joint partnership among government, the private sector and the NGO sector to address the problem of sanitation and environmental degradation in Addis Ababa. Being selected as a member of the steering committee, a lot was done to show what could be gained from a partnership of the type. In this engagement, the NGOs involved appreciated their status as partners and together not only much work was done in the cleaning and beautification of the city but also an example of a genuine partnership was set for other development initiatives.

Inside of HOPE, the Manual of Procedures for Policy, Management, Projects and Finance was revised with the new edition becoming effective as of the 1st of January. In the manual was the first position classification and pay plans for the organization, a long awaited achievement in the organization's history. A daylong workshop was held to familiarize senior and junior managers with the new and revised rules and regulations. Once this was accomplished internally, the manual was printed and distributed to the staff and to HOPE's partners.

Visitors came from many parts of the world this past year. Delegates from, for instance, Woord & Daad, Dorcas Aid and Interkerkelijke Stichting of Ethiopia of Holland, Ethiopiaid of England, World Concern of the USA, TEAR of Australia and churches like Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, South Valley Christian Church, Evergreen Valley Church of California came and saw as many of our activities as possible. Many of the delegations had more members than usual and we learned something new about them. There was an increasing interest in our beneficiaries with many being willing to get to know them, to sing and learn with them. Interaction was what one might call it and it certainly helped in strengthening partnerships. During the same year, we had a number of youngsters coming from many parts of the world to help in the best way that they could, dispelling some thoughts that the youth never cared. Some cried and others committed themselves to do the best that they could to redress destitution. For us, this was all fine as we saw what our work had meant in adding more ripples of concern and stand in the many gaps of the poor.

2001 was certainly different from the previous years. It was a time of many new beginnings. Our work seemed to run in cycles. Every five or so years, there seemed to be a spurt of creativity and 2001 was one these markers. During the year, we built and inaugurated the HOPE Vocational Training Center and the High School in Dessie on January 22. Funded by Woord & Daad and Oikonomos, HOPE was certainly happy to make such major investments that would last at least for a generation. Close to the end of the year, we reached another milestone in the life of the organization raising up a number of buildings to house the HOPE School and office in Gambella City, some 780kms south west of the capital city. At the same

time, seeing our success of the ladders concept in Dessie and in Gambella, we introduced the same concept in Addis Ababa. We instituted the Office of Career Planning and Placement as part and parcel of the headquarters to counsel our trainees about their career plans and interests and to help locate places of apprenticeships and jobs for our graduates. As new as this office was even in the country, many like organizations checked it out to learn from it.

It was also during this year, the Executive Director made his vision of establishing a college for poor youngsters in Addis Ababa known to the Board, our partners and to the public. To the Executive Director, the brain drain was critical enough for the country to suffer from an endemic gap in this regard unless serious efforts of replenishing what was and would be lost was undertaken. The vision was to build the physical, academic and cultural infrastructure first before inviting students. In this addition, existing activities will continue being interwoven into the life of the college.

There were of course the ongoing programs that were anchored on our motto, “providing hope for the needy.” The child care programs went very well. Our various schools in the three states where we operated were rated excellent by the respective bureaus of education. The Hope Vocational Training, Dessie started classes on a good footing while the long established vocational training in Addis Ababa got accredited by the Ministry of Education setting high hopes for all in our vocational training programs. Our efforts of relief and rehabilitation went very well. As our feeding center hosted the highest number ever averaging about 525 guests, our children’s breakfast for street children became an instant favorite of 343 children. Our first rural program rehabilitating male and female farmers in the north following the 2000 drought came to a happy end with so many oxen and she-sheep or goats being distributed to farmers in various rural districts. Similarly our work with displaced children continued with steady educational support while partial assistance to hundreds of children in the community where they lived was extended.

From among those developed, we were quite happy to see 107 of our youngsters graduate from our vocational programs in July. The employment record was not as disappointing as we expected in the light of the cooling of the economy. Still we realized that no less than 82% of our graduates secured jobs. A new development that surprised us in Dessie was that with almost all of the youngsters that took the 10th grade national examination doing so well, a number of them had two new opportunities of success. These were specialized training in government institutions to eventually be government employees and admission to the second cycle high school to prepare for the national college entrance examination. Furthermore, quite a few of those whom we helped to attend schools in their communities, made it to college. All in all, in 2001, we were happy to touch the lives of no less than 8100 children, youngsters, women and families that were in extreme difficult circumstances. Of these, 55 % were female.

Of course, all of this required relentless fund raising at a time when charities were increasingly getting fewer funds. The Executive Director was hard at work in leading the work of HOPE while at the same time raising the funds, resources and skills to make our ministry a viable and a growing outreach. In this effort he had to travel within and outside of the country. In 2001, on his way back from the Leicester Conference in April, he visited our partners, Ethiopiaid in Great Britain and Woord & Daad in Holland. Then he went to the US at the end of August to look for support. It was while he was there that the terrible tragedy of September 11 happened.

As a matter of its strategy, HOPE examines itself from time to time and makes necessary changes. In 2001, there were a number of changes especially in the higher echelons of management. We modified our structure making it flatter and less expensive. In this step, we phased out department heads and used just the project officers below them. There were also times to recognize the best efforts of deserving staff members. In this regard, Mr. Zenebe Ayele, the Manager of the Addis Ababa Branch was promoted to the post of Director of Projects at the headquarters in place of Dr. Alemayehu Haile, who resigned. Ato Abraham Sahilu, then the Manager of the Dessie Branch, was laterally transferred to head the Office of Career Planning and Placement and child care in Addis Ababa and Ato Habtamu Gemechu was promoted to take his place.

We had a number of staff that advanced their education through our support. From among them, we promoted one to head the elementary school in Dessie and another one to do the same in Addis Ababa. Ato Teferra Tadesse, a senior instructor, whom we recommended from a baccalaureate study in Germany and managed to get his training there for two years with the support of the German Development Service, came back to take the post of project officer of the vocational training in Addis Ababa. Peter Agua, was promoted as a senior social worker heading up the child care in Gambella and one of the dedicated part-timers since the start of the Dessie Branch, Mr. Tadesse Aragaw was made a full time employee as a senior social worker heading up the child care in Dessie. The staff was quite happy about these internal promotions.

Owing to the weight of the public relations work on the Executive Director, a new post, manager of public relations was designated at the headquarters and Ms. Jordana Abebe was hired to fill it. Our dedicated secretary and office manager of many years, Etaferahu Mekonnen, left HOPE to be with her husband in Canada in December. Her position was filled by Ms. Elleni Getachew.

The management committee was at the center of these changes making all of the managerial decisions as presented to it by the management. The collective decision was certainly helpful giving the advantage of pooled wisdom and involvement. The committee met every month during the year. Its July meeting was one of its kind meeting in the newly built office of Gambella. The Committee was also a

committee of shared labors as it evaluated the performance of the organization, planned work plans, prepared budgets and engaged in a host of assignments. In this the representative of the employees contributed a lot and with his involvement our work looked like and effort of codetermination.

Behind all the stirrings at HOPE was of course the supreme body, the general assembly and its important liaison, the Board. In its October meeting, the General Assembly recognized the services of two of our longest serving members, Mr. Aymro Wondimagegneu for 16 years and Mr. Akalu T. Micahel for eleven years. Both members were the supporters of all of the initiatives of HOPE to reach out to more of the poor far and near and it was during their time of service that HOPE saw much change. HOPE certainly appreciates their invaluable contribution.

In their places two board members were selected, Ato Woubishet Desalegne, a former board member of HOPE and Pastor Francis Stephanos. Furthermore, the Chairman, Mr. Million Belete was re-elected to serve the assembly and the Board as the Chair, Mr. Negash Kebede was selected as the vice chair and Ms Yvonne Mildred was selected as the Secretary. The Board operated with an intact membership meeting once every month. Its committed leadership certainly made a difference.

The Year 2001 was also a tough year. September 11 has had its impact as giving declined with the decline in the economic performance of many donor countries. On balance though for HOPE the ride was not as rough, thanks to our friends and partners, who continued to make hope a priority despite their circumstances. And with this gesture as the following reports about our in the Addis Ababa Branch, Dessie Branch and Gambella Area Project show, none of our plans fell short of hitting their targets during the year. To profile our performance, we have used the ladders of basic care, education, competence, sufficiency and spiritual maturity.

The Addis Ababa Branch

Basic Care

Our inputs of basic care were of a variety in our Addis Ababa branch. The following write-ups clearly show where our investments went in this regard.

Family Based Child Care

In 2001, the family based child care program started off with 201 children (93 girls and 108 boys). This figure rose to 251 in September, pursuant to the beginning of the new academic year. At this point, the program was divided into two categories; namely the Full Family Based Child Care and the Partial Family Based Child Care. The former category had a total of 100 children (49 boys and 51 girls) all of whom were sponsored by Woord en Daad in an identical arrangement to that of our branches in Dessie and Gambella. These children were between the ages of five and seven, and were enrolled in the nursery and kindergarten classes of HOPE School Addis Ababa. The latter numbered 151 (83 male and 68 female)

At the branch, we gave the children much more than just free education. We fed and clothed them, paid for their medical expenses and took them to community health facilities when they were ill. Additionally, we gave their families 40 birr per month to buy food and to fulfill other needs for the children. By sending these children to school, HOPE ensured that they stayed off the streets and that they were morally nurtured individuals.

The remaining 151 children were enrolled in the partial family based child care program. All of these children received identical benefits to those in the full family based child care program with the exception of the stipend of 40 birr per month that is given to the families. They undertook their educational studies either at Hope School or Hope Vocational Training Center and were given counseling on every aspect of their lives.

Community Integration

By January, the program had 26 youngsters; 25 male and one female. 12 of them undertook vocational training at Hope, with nine graduating in July 2001. After graduation, the nine youngsters were off to a good start as members of the community with the initial establishment provision of Birr 1,200.00 for each graduate. Simultaneously, the job search for each began. Knowing that they have to

have an earning of their own before the fund given to them got used. Out of the 17 youngsters that remained in the program, four of them were enrolled in our various vocational streams in September while the remaining ones were on track with their preliminary academic studies..

Girls of HOPE

A total of 996 girls were ministered to throughout the year by means of night visits made to the streets by our guidance and counseling team. Two girls were assisted with their return to their rural homes while four others were reunited with their families here in the capital city. Still some others showed a willingness to abandon the job provided we enrolled them in some kind of skill training and supported their basic needs while in training. The basic needs figured indispensably as virtually all children found themselves in prostitution for lack of support. Within the context of the project, we had a night shelter for those stranded for a safe place to pass the night. The streets were wild and even dangerous for a life and a limb and the night shelter was God sent for a number of children who had no where to go in the darkness of the terrible night life they lived. Then we had to provide meals during the day to the stream of guests that visited the center from the streets. The meals included morning and afternoon snacks, refreshments and lunch.

To those whom we thought were mentally and emotionally ready to take on anyone of the training programs that suited them and were willing to abandon the trade, we put them on a stipend until them finished their training. The stipend did wonders though it was a modest sum. Two or three of the children pulled what is given to them together, rented two or three rooms, paid for their utilities and groceries and spared some for their clothing, personal care and transportation.

As hard as this work was, there was much networking in this regard and we did our best to have the social workers attend as many workshops as possible on topics related to their line of work. Forum on Street Children, a local NGO had been helpful in this regard.

Feeding Center

The Feeding Center is a reflection of our society's identification with the poor. Many rich and poor had one thing in common as far as the feeding center was concerned. They all thought it was a bright idea to have one place where the hungry go to eat. Contending that no one should go hungry, they are seen buying tickets to distribute to the poor in lieu of cash. And the poor come to the feeding center, present their tickets to the ticket attendant and enter to the cafeteria to have a full lunch with cold water. And churches, agencies and charities from far away countries do not forget the feeding center, sending donations for its continuous running.

In 2001, we hit the highest number ever in one day's feeding 551 guests. 27 years ago when the feeding center was started it had no more than 50 people visiting it on average. Now that number has gone over ten fold reflecting the rapid population growth and the depth and scope of increasing poverty in the country.

During the year, a total of 155, 084 people were fed lunch. The number of people coming increased with every coming quarter and we constantly tried to feed as many people as our limited resources would allow. Over 30% of the people who came to the feeding center were women and children.

This year, we had something unique. We allowed good hearted youngsters from Youth with a Mission to prepare and serve the meals and then wash the dishes and cleaned up the cafeteria afterwards for few days. These groups, which came at different times, also had something else that caused a flicker of light in the hearts of the poor. They sang uplifting songs much to the joy of the audience.

The center is located right in the bottom floor of the headquarters. Being a part of our work, we saw and heard the poor everyday. We could not believe the dignity in the people and the patience to get fed. If one was to ask what the people that came desired most, one could be sure to get the reply: JOBS. Like all dignified people, it was obvious that the people wanted to earn their living. But as sluggish as the economy was, the jobs were not there to be had. Over the years the people that came showed trends that could be reflective of the hard circumstances in the country. A decade and a half ago, when the civil war was raging, the majority of the fed were women and children. Then as the war ended, men became the majority. And now one could say the youth was quite dominant. But as much as they came in the variety that was evident, they were all thankful that they could have the meal that was obviously the foundation of everything else in their daily lives. The center has been an important gap filler in a society where there is no general relief that one could count on when the going gets rough. Sustained by such goodwill, virtually all kept on searching for a way to earn a living. And many did manage to get jobs and for this reason, most of our guests have not as such been habitual.

Children's Breakfast

Since four years ago, it became increasingly evident that the streets were showing an increasing number of street children. Our observations of this growing problem had us think about what to do. At the heart of it we realized that there were forces contributing to this development. Rising population unabsorbed by either rural or urban employment and the perception that the city could offer better opportunities were important factors. Then there was the real monster tearing up families and leaving children unattended. HIV/AIDS was killing family breadwinners leaving children and the aged who depended on the economically active sector of the population empty handed and unprotected. In this situation, we decided to at least provide the children from the streets breakfast to get their day started with a full

stomach. The menu for the breakfast was recommended by a nutritionist and it consisted of two buns of bread, a banana and hot tea with milk. And the children started to come in growing numbers during the year with us feeding no less than 166 children (95 boys and 71 girls) each day. Those that came were carded so that they could use that card to have breakfast any day except Sunday. They clung to the card obviously not being able to do without the breakfast?

Education

HOPE School, Addis Ababa

In 2001, HOPE school, Addis Ababa enrolled a total of 883 students with 443 of them being girls. All of the 60 students of grade eight passed their national examination with 63% of them scoring above 80%. In keeping with HOPE's plan to gradually phase-out fee payers in the school, those admitted to HOPE School free of charge increased from 187 to 259 students during the year. This was made possible by the full sponsorship of 100 children in the preschool by woord & Daad and pledge to support additional fifty children at the entry grade of the nursery by the same.

The school did its best to provide full education tot eh children in an effort to sharpen minds, shape up spirits and strengthen bodies. In this regard, the there were a mix of creative, technical and social courses. There was physical education and value education. The school continued to be strong in its extra curricular activities. The literature club prepared drama and literature productions for Christmas. The school's Red Cross and Anti-AIDS clubs held a gathering of students to discuss the causes, effects and consequences of HIV/AIDS. A question and answer competition was held and various prizes awarded to high scoring students. The School's Scouts Club made day long trips to a number of places. Debre Libanos Monastery, the Blue Nile Gorge and the Portuguese Bridge of 400 years as well as the Addis Ababa zoo were some of the sites explored. The troop had 35 members and it seemed to have made a positive impact on the character of the youngsters who were involved.

Eight of the teachers took part in a workshop organized by the Education Bureau. A number of governmental and non-governmental schools visited the school during the year. One visit that was strategic was that of education supervisors, school principals and teachers numbering sixty who spent one whole day in an experience sharing session on the grounds of the school.

During the year, the school's library was active running its competition for best readers. It had 1347 patrons during the year and certainly did its part to promote the culture of engaging the mind with various ideas from books rather than idling it to no avail.

Community Based Educational Support

This form of support targeted children of two types of difficult circumstances: These were children who had been displaced by the Ethio-Eritrean border dispute on one hand and street children recruited in Addis Ababa out of the grim estimate of 60,000 street children in the city. 167 displaced children (88 girls and 79 boys) were assisted with their educational expenses. The children were assisted in 24 public schools located in four woredas (districts).

The street children assisted in a similar way numbered 177 (94 boys and 83 girls). Having age ranges from five to eleven, it took quite an effort to get them prepared enough to qualify for the public school. We found out that the children attended 22 schools and were drawn from 12 woredas.

From this experience, it was clear that the children had not lost their motivation for school. What deterred them from school was lack of financing. This need we met covering the costs of school supplies, uniforms, etc.

Non-Formal Education

The street children who came for breakfast were not let go after that important meal. They had to stay for a couple hours to learn basic literacy, numeracy and songs. Having to stay behind for a couple hours did not bother the children as they could not gain much on the streets so early in the morning. In some sense, the post breakfast activities were like mixed KG classes reaching out to varying age groups. In this outreach stories were read as well and the children were challenged to answer questions about the stories. It was interesting to note that despite the terrible circumstances of the children they caught on fast being like regular preschool kids. In September, 166 children were engaged in the development of their minds under the guidance of a professional teacher, coordinator of our guidance programs and a number of assistants that we hired for them. This approach to education certainly worked harmonizing student needs with delivery. The motivation of the children was great and what it necessitated by way of inputs was not that taxing.

Competence

Rehabilitative Street Children's Project

Our rehabilitative street children's project had a lot to offer in addition to the usual guidance that often dominates the lot of the work with street children. We realized that more than us the street children knew what was best for them. We had to get out of the way and hear what they had to say. In this some did not want to say much thinking what difference would it make. Some thought that all charities simply exploited their destitution and thinking so they could not go beyond being just critical and suspicious. But most had the trust to say what mattered. From this

dialogue we realized that all wanted the basics, the very elements that made children tick in life. This fell right in with our ladders perspective and we started to make the needed investments for the ends of rescue, rehabilitation and development.

And the street children took us seriously lining up in front of our doors just as fast as we started to do something. Some of the Street girls with whom we worked with were of a mental and psychological state to change their ways and face the challenges of training with little counseling. In 2001, 47 rehabilitated girls attended HOPE's vocational training center. In July, 15 of these girls graduated from the fields of cosmetology, metal works, electrical technology and office management and secretarial sciences much to the delight of the staff, their family members and friends.

School of Cosmetology

All of the girls enrolled in this school were from our Girls of HOPE project. The girls were given both theoretical and practical training in hairstyling, massages, facials, manicures, pedicures etc. Upon completion of the training year, apprenticeship positions were secured for all the 12 prospective graduates in order for them to get some on-the-job experience. Evaluations were received on how they did during their apprenticeships and we were very pleased to see that most companies appreciated not only the professional excellence of our students but also their mature and responsible attitudes at the workplace. All 12 girls graduated in July and were replaced by 12 new trainees in September. From the new recruits we had five girls that were referred to us from the Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs (BoLSA) and two more from our partner organization, Radda Barnen. By year's end, we realized that all of the July graduates save two got employed.

The school, being the first one in the country had a reputation. Owing to this record, we were requested to train teachers in the same field for the Southern State by the Ministry of Education. This we did during the summer months.

Ceramics

The nine trainees in this program carried on well. During the year, one major problem was solved. We were able to upgrade the transformer in tandem with the energy requisites of the kilns. Chemicals and machines were also imported to increase the standard of training given. The girls took pride in what they did and their workmanship stood to be the best in the country. The production during the training was steady and it peaked during the Christmas season as the Manger scene was ordered by many. The only problem related to the training was kiln. Not having a local factory that could supply related equipment, the importation had been difficult.

10 + 3 Vocational Training

This training program is the most challenging one that we featured for our youngsters who successfully completed grade ten. Having specializations in the fields of auto mechanics, electrical technology and general mechanics, the graduates from the training tended to be best paid. The training took three years. In 2001, the training program achieved a stature that we had been working on for years. It gained the accreditation of the ministry of education. This had a number of implications. For instance, the graduates will have certificates that would allow them to compete for government jobs and salaries stratified from such level of training. The graduates could also qualify for further education. The other implication is our part is to constantly upgrade the training to the level required in order to maintain our accreditation.

There were a total of 80 trainees in the various fields of vocational training. A number of alterations were made to our curriculum in order to optimize the efficiency of the training scheme with regards to the time spent on training and the level of proficiency attained. Consequently, the General Technical year, which normally lasted a year, was shortened to six months. This enabled the trainees to enter their fields of specialization after the end of the first semester allowing them to spend a greater portion of their time on their specific fields. Another significant change in the curriculum was that the department previously known as Metal Works was changed to General Mechanics wherein additional courses ()relating to basic auto and electrical engineering were given, in addition to the existing metal works and plumbing offerings.

As is customary for all graduating students, apprenticeship positions were found at various companies during the last three months of their training. Upon their completion of this trial period, reports were collected from the organizations about their performance. All was expressed to be well. By year's end, we realized that 85% of the graduates from this program were able to secure employment while the rest were freelancing using their skills.

One to Two years Vocational Training

School of Secretarial Science and Office Management

The training program was two year track. It had 16 girls in the first year and 15 girls in the second year. As the school got increasingly demanded, we updated the computers being used and added eight new ones so that each student would have a computer to work on. We then moved the whole school to remodeled facilities within the same Jack Smith Campus.

All of the second year students were apprenticed in many companies that had big names like the Ethiopian Insurance Corporation, BGI Ethiopia and PASQUA Metal

Engineering. Government agencies like the Ministry of Education and Science and Technology Commission also cooperated in this helpful gesture. In June we learned that two of the girls were employed before their graduation where they were apprenticed. Of the graduating class, one girl left for the USA having a DV lottery.

The School of National Hotel and Home Services

Based on the feedback of the students and our realization this training program was made to last for a year instead of the six months that it had been running on for years. During the year it had 17 trainees. All of the girls managed to have apprenticeships in various hotels and homes.

The School of International Hotel and Home Services

The school, which provided training for year, proceeded well with 16 trainees. Apprenticeships were found for all the trainees in the main hotels of Addis Ababa like Ras Amba Hotel, Omega Restaurant, SIM Guest House and Imperial Hotel. The expertise of our graduates was much sought after particularly in the expanding hospitality industry.

The School of Metal Works

This training lasted for a year enrolling 17 dedicated youngsters. The theoretical classes were reinforced with shop practice throughout the year. This made our trainees happy, as they were availed with the opportunity to try things first hand and to learn from their own mistakes. The by-products of the training, like various pieces of office and home furniture, were sold on campus for a marginal fee. In September, 20 new trainees were enrolled in this program. Many of the trainees were street youngsters recruited by the Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs. The rest came from a number of child/youth care NGOs. The plumbing component within this section turned out to be a very useful trade enabling many to depend on this skill for their livelihood.

The School of Wood Works

In this two years of training program, ten youngsters in the first year and 14 youngsters in the second year were enrolled. Though the training was basically carpentry, with much metal works interfaced with this craft, the trainees had to learn a lot about metal works as well. Furthermore, technical drawing was an important component of the offerings.

The training was very handy especially to those youngsters who missed out on academic training and had to be prepared fast enough to be on the job market. Here as well there were quite a few street youngsters recommended by the Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs.

Sufficiency

In the days of old, they used to say all roads lead to Rome. In our work all inputs had to lead to sufficiency told in terms of jobs held and independent lives begun. 2001 was not a bad year from what we made of this ladder, which we have seen as the governing measure of our success. Yes, the economy was slow coming at the heels of a devastating war with Eritrea. And with this slowdown, there was much unemployment. But as the following statistics shows, 82% of our graduates of 2001 secured employment. And most of the rest were not idlers either. Using whatever skill they had gained at HOPE, they freelanced. Some, a total of three to be exact went aboard due to opportunities. Some got married. Some of course could not make it often being victims of their own backgrounds.

Hope Enterprises

Employment Statistics of the Graduates of 2001

No.	Field of Training	Number of Graduates	Those Employed
1	Auto Mechanics	11	2
2	Electrical Technology	12	10
3	General Mechanics	9	9
4	Office Management and Secretarial Since	13	11
5	National Hotel and Home Services	17	17
6	International Hotel and Home Services	14	14
7	One year Metal Works	17	11
8	Cosmetology	12	12
9	Ceramics	2	2
Total		107	88

Value Maturity

The work of value maturity was rather hard in Addis Ababa as we dealt with hardened children taken from the streets. But using peer groups and a number of staff members we were able to do much in the formation or reformation process. The routine had to be kept up daily and the Coordinator of Formation, Ato Matteos Hambebo, was busy coordinating and stepping in to teach a number of classes in ethics. We were seeing changes with the many street children that came to be assisted. The little ones in our children's breakfast were the fastest to change and catch on. We used songs to this group as a way not only to help them forget their troubles but bring in positive thoughts and attitudes. As new songs were taught, it was amazing how they caught on fast. The child prostitutes that we worked

with took longer to change primarily because of the lack of an option for a better life. When this was offered from our side, they then caught on to the new opportunity abandoning their dangerous practice.

A lot of time was spent on shaping our youngsters that were soon to graduate. Conveying that they would face a lot of expectations from the community, we highlighted these expectations and how they should respond to them. In this regard, work place manners and social obligations in the community were emphasized. Given their potential to raise families, proper perspectives particularly with the opposite gender and with the whole issue of sex were addressed frankly.

The Dessie Branch

The Dessei Branch continued to grow in 2001. On January 22, 2001, the branch was able to have its HOPE Vocational Training Center and High School dedicated. The ceremony was held in the presence of the Head of the Social Sector of the Amhara State, the Administrator of the South Wollo Zone, Board Members, and a delegation from the donor agency Woord & Daad, various governmental representatives, NGOs, beneficiaries, community members, the management committee of HOPE Enterprises and many of the staff. At this event, Hope was commended for its efforts and investments with long time leads. The facilities dedicated were shown on TV in the news as well as in a special.

As part of the dedication ceremony, HOPE donated over two million Birr worth of books and medical supplies to the Education and Health departments of the Zone. The gesture was much appreciated by the governmental bodies. The items that were donated were given by World Concern, USA.

2001 marked the full cycle completion of the Dessie Child Care and Training Center with the finishing touches on the vocational training being done. It was at this time that the Manager of the Branch, Mr. Abraham Sahilu, requested for a transfer to Addis Ababa, realizing that his job as he saw it at the branch was completed given his leadership in the development of the branch from its rudiments to its last stages with the guidance of the Executive Director. As special of a person as Mr. Abraham was making breakthroughs in just about all aspects of the branch's evolvement, this request was hard to take initially. But, knowing that he was the kind of person who needed new challenges, he was transferred to the headquarters by the end of the year to take on the difficult task of managing the Office of Career Planning and Placement and being responsible for the search of apprenticeship and employment opportunities for all of our graduates. We certainly thank Abraham for all that he had contributed in making the Dessie Child Care and Training Center a model humanitarian edifice.

Basic Care

Family Based Child Care

In 2001, 650 children (344 male and 306 female) were fully supported in this program with funding from Woord & Daad of the Netherlands. The children had a good year considering the intensive and focused attention that they were enjoying in all aspects of their lives. Regular monitoring of their upbringing showed expected growth and with this development, it was interesting to note how what all was associated with well developed children was manifesting itself among the children. The children were strong enough to take on a number of games. Definitely soccer figured prominently. Gymnastics was also an important part of it as many of the children showed remarkable feats in this regard. Knowing how much recreation of the type meant to the children, Brain and Gina Stuart, a couple from the US, offered the money to surface an outdoor ground with concrete to serve as basketball and volleyball courts.

On the serious side, signs of internal maturity or what one might call integrity and hope were also visible from what we could tell of the children's poems and roles in activities like drama. Here as well, few challenges of adolescence began to show up in some of the youngsters and we had to prepare and respond in the best and most gentle way we knew how.

As part of their basic needs, there was an emphasis on health as well. In this regard, hygiene figured very prominently with a number of steps being taken to enhance this aspect of their lives. Awareness raising was very important and the weekly monitoring helped a lot. We also invested in concrete works to help the children take care of themselves by for instance building shower rooms for different age groups right on our campus. The school's Health Club did its part to enhance hygiene in the campus. Two amateur theatre clubs presented plays focusing on the spread of HIV/AIDS amongst the youth. Other awareness activities on a number of relevant topics were presented particularly to those children above the age of 15. The children were also given vaccines against meningitis and anti-tetanus shots.

A team of six people from South Valley Christian and Evergreen churches of California came to teach and encourage the children. This group was really God sent coming prepared to help the children and the youngsters with their psycho-social developments. Distributing a number of written materials that prompted the children to open up and recognize their inner strengths, many children became expressive and reassured. The group, also realizing the importance of hygiene, sponsored the building of a children's room which would provide shower, laundry, nap and clinic services.

Relief Services

Our efforts in helping the needy did not just focus on the children enrolled in our various programs. We also tried to help the local farmers who had lost their cattle due to the occurrence of drought in the State. This relief program replenished the livestock of farmers in the rural area around Dessie. The livestock were oxen that were to be used to plough farm grounds and she-sheep or goats that could be used as means of income generation from the sale of offsprings. The former were given to farmers (men and women) while the latter were strictly given to rural women that depended on the same as a source of income.

The distributions started in July 2001 just before the planting season of Teff, the main staple crop in the country. Two rural Woredas (districts), Worebabo Woreda and Kutaber woreda, were selected based on the severity of the drought around Dessie. A committee constituted of our finance officer, a representative from the zonal office of the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission and local extension workers from each of the distribution sites moved around to the various neighborhoods and made the selection of the farmers in need of assistance. The Criteria was utter destitution and of course proven decimation of their livestock during the drought. The factor of whether or not they had an alternative source of income and family size were also examined using the testimonial of elders. Based on the above criteria, the committee selected the worst off farmers and presented this selection to the elders. After the confirmation of the elders, the selected farmers and the committee went to the nearest market of livestock to make the purchases.

We had the farmers and the local vet of the department of agriculture check out the quality of livestock. But, as the market supply was affected by the drought as well, the committee could not find all the buys for the selected folks. This meant that we had to draw lots for the available livestock and have the unlucky one's wait until the next suitable market day. At the same time, given the favorable prices at the time of most purchases, we were able to buy more livestock for higher distribution than was indicated in our project proposal. Making the number of trips as often as required to the various markets, 1191 she-sheep and 331 oxen were distributed to 1191 women and 331 farmers (20 of them being women). There was an agreement with each beneficiary that they were not to sell or exchange the livestock distributed to them unless for reasons of animal sickness as verified by the local vet of the bureau of agriculture. The local farmer's association that took part in the selection of the farmers monitored this condition.

HOPE Enterprises visited samples from the first batch to which both oxen and she sheep/goats were distributed in Worebabo Woreda. It was noted that the farmers used the oxen to plough just in time for the planting of Teff, the local staple in July. The rains also came gently and they had a good harvest in December. At the same time those women who have had she-sheep/goats have been benefiting from the offsprings with much grass abounding following the rains that finally came. The women have been thankful for this life saving and sustaining intervention. Most importantly all made a big point how the intervention had sustained them as a household enabling them to fulfill particularly their responsibilities to their children. The Ethiopian radio interviewed the farmers that had benefited in this way and broadcasted their reaction. They pictured the intervention as fully transparent and one that had made the beneficiaries center stage actors in how the whole effort was to run. The farmers on their part saw the intervention as an exemplary solution to their problem of restoration to self-help and wanted others to follow the same approach. And the various governmental agencies that pooled in to help out in their lien of duty appreciated the transparency and partnership that was part and parcel of the whole process. We thank Woord & Daad for this show of compassion as people were indeed helped to help themselves.

Education

HOPE School, Dessie

All the 650 children catered to under the family based child care program were the students of the HOPE School, Dessie. In this integrated child care, the school was a pivotal aspect of the whole ladders perspective and one could clearly see its impact. Happy about their access to school, the children made the best of their opportunities. The usual academic contest at the zonal level was held on March 31 among the primary and junior schools and HOPE school stood first in grades five, six and seven, second in grades five, six, seven and eight and third in grade six. This wave of success was not limited to our primary and junior schools. Our new

high school stood second overall in the zonal scholastic contest held among 14 high schools. The achievement of these results boosted the morale of all of the students and obviously of the faculty.

During the year, intensive tutorial classes were given to students in grade eight and ten to prepare them for the national examinations they had to sit before the end of the school year. 21 students sat for the first-ever national examinations of grade ten in May followed by 44 students who also sat for their grade eight national examinations in June.

Nine teachers participated in a workshop organized by the Zonal and Woreda Education Bureaus on the new educational policy and the new grade ten national examinations that had been introduced by the government. According to this policy, those who passed the examination had the choice of preparing for two years prior to their college entrance matriculation. If they passed this matriculation, they would be able to enroll in various colleges in Ethiopia. At the end of the academic year, the school celebrated its school day before closing for the summer vacations and a number of awards were presented to those that showed academic excellence. The students appreciated the acknowledgement of their hard work and those that weren't awarded were spurred on to work harder for the coming year.

Unfortunately, the recurrent problem of shortage of text books was faced again when school began in September. Even though HOPE had allocated the funds to procure the books, the books were not available on the market. This gap was bridged by borrowing 200 textbooks from neighboring schools that had extra stocks from previous years. A second problem realized after the staff's assessment of student performance was the sudden shift in the language of instruction from Amharic to English in grade nine. The feeling was that English, coming as a language of instruction so late, the policy did not give the children the linguistic background to get on with the offerings in English in the high school. Affecting lesson absorption in this way, it was felt that the children would be handicapped in scoring passing results in particularly the College Entrance Examination at grade 12. This led us to add text books in English as a supplementary reading from the City of Addis Ababa whose policy allowed offerings in English starting from grade seven.

Out of the 21 students that sat for grade ten national examinations, 18 of them passed with two of them scoring grades of great distinction. Of those that passed, six students joined preparatory classes for college entrance examination and four students joined the Agricultural Training Institute. The remaining students opted for our vocational training.

Community Based Educational Support

In 2001, 1968 children (923 boys and 1045 girls) were supported under this program. The children were enrolled in 17 different public schools in Dessie coming

from twenty urban and six rural kebelles. HOPE paid for the educational expenses much to the appreciation of the children. These children were very motivated realizing that just for lack of the support they were getting they would have missed on an important life block of theirs. Few of the senior students scored well on the college entrance examination and managed to join various colleges under government expense. It was a great experience to see them off to college like proud parents.

Competence

HOPE Vocational Training

The Construction of the HOPE Vocational Training Center, Dessie was mostly completed by the end of 2000 and dedicated on January 22, 2001 in the presence of two Board members of Woord & Daad and the representative of the President of the Amharic State among other guests. The Ethiopian Television reported on the dedication during prime time news to the whole country showing the buildings and samples of the ceremony. Then a special program, had a focus on the training center few weeks later much to the amazement of a lot of people. The printed media did the same.

Following this important event of dedication and handover of the keys of the buildings to HOPE by the delegation of Woord & Daad, the remaining few works related to the construction continued. These tasks involved the building of sidewalks to the classrooms and workshops, ground works, electrical lines and some rework by the contractor following the final inspection by the buildings supervisor. The only variation came from the foundation work of the workshop of the vocational training. For the stability of the workshops in the light of the pounding that would go on within each workshop and the noise that was to interfere with the office next door, the foundation had to be dug deeper than originally planned. This meant cracking through the rocky area incurring grater expense than was originally put in the agreement. But the saving from the purchase of equipment helped to balance this variation. With this completion, we had 221 sq. meters of one block of four classrooms, 600 sq. meters of three blocks of workshops, 63 sq. meters of a cafeteria building for the trainees and 95 sq. mts. of office block for training. The construction was funded by Woord & Daad and Oiknomos of the Netherlands. Furthermore, most of the equipment and tools were bought by Woord & Daad in Holland and shipped to us in two containers. The rest of the items in the shipment were donated by a Dutch company called Kanters. The items were cleared duty free thanks to the State and the federal governments and deposited in our workshops for use. The youngsters were very happy about this development realizing that their training will not stop at just theory.

We thank Woord & Daad and Oikonomos for such important investment that would last for years in developing needy youngsters and in enabling them to pull out of poverty.

The 30 general technical trainees in the vocational training scheme completed their first year successfully. They were given additional practical training over the summer break to complement the training they had been given during the regular school year. On the other hand, the commencement of training for the new class during the ensuing academic year was delayed due to the late announcement of the results of the 10th grade national examination. When the results came, ten of the youngsters that did well from among the eighteen students that passed, had a different idea. Six of them joined the second cycle high school wishing to prepare for the college entrance examinations. Four of them had grades high enough to be recruited by an agriculture school of government. To us the ladders perspective was already doing wonders by opening up options of success that we never thought of. This development left us with only eleven youngsters for the first year of vocational training.

We then had to think how to fill up the vacant seats in the vocational programs. We discussed this issue with Woord & Daad wondering what we needed to do with the vacant spaces in our vocational program. Understanding what had happened, it agreed to our proposal of admitting displaced children that met the entrance criteria during the next school year.

Value Maturity

This aspect of our intervention was very important as many of the children were entering adolescence and early adulthood. The transformation in this regard was clear and we had to work extra hard on many fronts of one to one counseling, group counseling, awareness raising and training in how they shall conduct and see themselves. Our Coordinator of Guidance Programs used a number of ways to keep the children on track and with a level of spiritual maturity that would make them whole and better persons. In this regard, the peer group counseling that we did was very effective. The groups met on a regular basis to share their burdens and to work out solutions.

The flag ceremony continued to be of tremendous impact allowing the branch manager and the various staff members engaged in value formation to influence the children. The children, being divided up in groups of the **preschool, primary school, high school and vocational training**, had their own ceremony with each taking no more than 30minutes in the morning. Following brief thematic lessons usually led by one of the staff members or a guest speaker, the ceremony was used by the children themselves with one or two from among them coming in front of every one to share their experiences, reflections and creativity. Recognition is also made for excellence in a number of areas. With this connection of hearts and

minds, then the rest of the day begins. The impact of this ladder had certainly changed the children much to the envy of the community. At the same time, some youngsters in particular had difficulty reckoning with expectations like responsibility and balance and we had to work hard on these growing pains with patience.

Gambella Area Project

As the Gambella Project evolved into fullness, its status was changed to an area project. The state gave us an additional tract of land seeing our seriousness in living up to our commitments and recognizing the need of our future plan. Though one could not say that none of the buildings that were put in place changed the skyline of Gambella City, they certainly changed the scenery from the sky. Flying on the Fokker across the city, one seeing the red roofs, would say, what is that? Some have given their impression as “the Sheraton of Gambella” relating similarities to the collector’s Sheraton in Addis Ababa.

With gratitude to Woord & Daad, the investment would certainly make a difference in the lives of the youth of the area for years to come and the area project has been busy hosting a number of governmental and non governmental organizations. Close to the end of the year, our office moved to the new facilities from its rented quarters and it was thrilling to see the smiles of the children coming from the many huts around to enjoy not only our usual intervention but also the fresh air. Given the humidity in Gambella, we could not certainly be wrong on the choice of the breezy site on that gentle slope.

Our Management Committee visited the project in July and had a picture of what had been done. It was an experience for the committee to have held its first meeting in Gambella in one of the newly completed classrooms and plan the way forward for the project.

Sure enough, with eighty children, the preschool was started on our campus. Holding a full day education for the first time in the life of the children, the lunch that began to be catered was also the first. While these activities were going on pretty much as planned, a delegate from the Prime Minister’s office visited the School on November 16 and held talks with the children regarding their ambitions and hopes for the future. The delegate was quite happy with the children’s care and alertness. In December, the area project began to prepare for the inauguration of the school and the rest of the facilities.

Basic Care

Family Based Child Care

Visiting Gambella, one is struck by the high number beautiful children on the streets and in the neighborhoods going on with their business often unattended. From the looks of it, the lack of systematic care was missing with each child supposedly being a child of the community. From this kind of upbringing, sameness prevailed in the quietude of conformity and repression and the terrible circumstances of the children were not certainly put at bay.

In this situation of little or no opportunity, we stepped in to be the substitute families for many children that would have otherwise been facing even death for lack of help. In the beginning, as we did not have our center built, we used community facilities to help the children. They stayed with their own or foster parents and we had them go to the public schools closest to them and we paid all the expenses. In September, we had 80 of the nursery and kindergarten age children join our preschool while the remaining children attending the higher grades continued to be assisted in the initial way. By the end of the year, we had a total of 320 children under full care. All of the children were fully supported by Woord & Daad.

Having one's center did certainly make a difference in the lives of the children who were gathered. Physically they grew and a number of the health problems that they had before drastically decreased in the light of the regular and proper nutritious lunches that we were giving on campus.

Gambella Day Care and Feeding Center for Children

Taking into consideration the abundance of malnourished children in the various neighborhoods of Gambella City and World Concern's willingness to fund an endeavor that would alleviate this problem, HOPE signed an agreement with the State on July 23, 2001 to start day care and feeding centers for little children. Four centers were planned in the worst off areas in Gambella City to serve a total of 160 destitute children from Monday to Saturday mornings. In August and September, the preparation of the sites was undertaken. The idea that we had was using community material, to raise up community type shelters and arrangements to help the children. This we did with a large shelter per site where the children could dine and get instruction under the headship of a minder.

The morning snacks and the lunches were to be catered by food vendors following a bidding process. All the necessary utensils and teaching materials were bought and transported from Addis Ababa by the end of September. The children were to come at eight and have their breakfast. Then they were to learn and recreate themselves under the guidance of their respective minders until lunch time at noon. After lunch they were to go to their neighborhoods. In the meantime, a janitor was to clean the site and put everything in order for the next day's routine. This, to us and to World Concern, was a practical response to a hurting community of children.

Education

HOPE School, Gambella

Hope school officially started on September 24, 2001 with an enrollment of 80 children in the pre-school sections. 40 of the children were newly recruited to join the nursery whilst the remaining 40 were already embraced in Hope's family based child care the previous year and attending public nurseries.

The opening of the school was a great joy for all as the children were able to spend their days in an environment where they were paid a great deal of attention. The children got a full day's education and were fed nutritious lunches on campus Monday through Saturday. They played in the clean and spacious compound and had fairly clean water to drink and wash their faces with. Their eating, learning and playing activities were constantly supervised by the teachers who ensured that they were taken care of appropriately. The children were provided with stationary items, clothing and footwear. During the holiday season, the children sent Christmas greetings to their sponsors.

Construction of the Gambella Child Care and Training Center

By the end of 2001, the buildings of the HOPE School (6 classrooms of 50 square meters each, 2 outhouses of 30 square meters each for boys and girls, one office complex of 105 square meters, four classrooms of 50 square meters each, one auditorium of 200 square meters and one store/workshop of 150 square meters) were raised up with a number of incomplete works. The water line and the electric line were hooked up. The electric line came with a three phase transformer all for us. A telephone and a fax line were also hooked up linking the area project to the rest of the world.

Following these accomplishments, the contractor, Getachew Woldeyes, asked for a release of his final installment and for payments related to variations that we authorized. One variation was related to the outhouse, which was originally planned to be one unit, and then was made two units to serve boys and girls as per the instructions of the Bureau of Education. There were gutters around buildings that had to be put up following the advice of the supervisor to protect the buildings from the flow of the big rains that were normal for the area. Furthermore, sidewalks connecting the buildings were added.

In September, the contractor informed HOPE that he was ready to handover the buildings. HOPE's headquarters set up a team constituting of the Executive staff, an outside consultant, a field supervisor from the Bureau of Education, representatives from the Region's Bureaus of Works and Urban Development and Disaster Prevention, Preparedness, Labor and Social Affairs to oversee the handover. However, a lot of unauthorized deviations from the initial plans and failures were observed. Hence, the final handover and the payments of the final installment were

put on hold and the contractor was formally asked to correct the deviations and failures .

Yet, as the buildings were fit for use despite a number of works that needed to be completed, plans started for the dedication of them next January. Given our plans to move the kindergarten in September 2001 and grades 1 to 4 in September 2002, the classrooms for these classes had to be furnished. Following our decision to have HOPE install the electrical fixtures and window grills of the office and manufacture the furniture of at least the office and the classrooms, a team selected from our schools of wood works, general mechanics and electrical technology drove to Gambella with essential supplies and tools to do their parts. They finished their assignment in ten days. Similarly in view of the arrangements for lunch for the children that had to attend classes in our buildings, dining furniture were manufactured at our shops in Addis Ababa, transported and installed. Utensils like dishes, cups, spoons were also bought. Opting to use contractors for the delivery of the meals, a bid was out and a vendor was selected.

All the play things for the children were manufactured by our metal shop in Addis Ababa, transported and installed in October, 2001. Plus, a big water tank was purchased from a factory in Addis Ababa and trucked to the site to hold water for the use of the children as shortages in water supply came from time to time due to the failures of the electric power that ran the water pump. Given the need to haul water from the river from time to time when the tap was not operational, our pick up had to be fitted with water container for the water runs.

We visited the water authority people to get a picture on what the government planned to do to improve the water problem. They told us that Gambella City, being one of the 25 cities of the country selected for a major water development project, the laying of pipes would soon start for such purpose and that the whole project would be completed in two years. The engineering involved taking water from the all year round river, the Baro, purifying it and distributing the same from a high ground on which they had already built the huge water tanks. The investment was to supply five times the current population of ten thousand in the city.

The office, which was more or less completed, was also occupied by us moving from our rented quarters in August 2001. With this development, the Gambella Child Care and Training Center was reborn on our own campus in our own buildings like our operations in Dessie and in Addis Ababa.

As these developments showed our commitment to the children and youngsters of the area, the State was kind enough to give HOPE an additional hectare of land next to our compound to be used for the eventual construction of our vocational training center and other related buildings.

Value Maturity

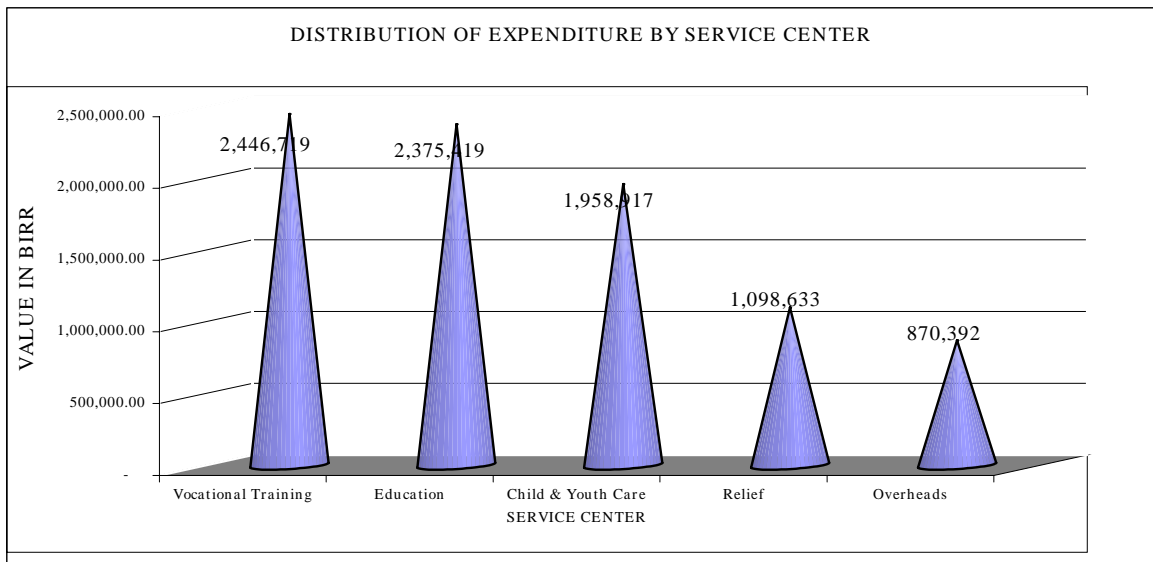
Throughout the year, the parents of the children were gathered every month as they came to pick up the stipends for their children and a number of topics were discussed. The experience was rather challenging. None of the parents had an idea about their part in developing the children being mostly illiterates and having pastoral backgrounds. The thinking, “children will just grow by their luck” was so prevailing; parents saw their responsibility towards the children as no more than providing care and shelter. Furthermore, traditional handling of girls was also a problem that we had to deal with. In this regard, the problems of early marriage and polygamy were raised so as not to disrupt the education of our children. With our awareness raising effort that children needed to be cultivated into adulthood and a period until they needed to make their own choices, changes in the handling of the children at home started to change for the better.

The work of value development involving the children also took form during the year. Children were taught to respect one another. We used a number of ways to encourage children to learn about for instance responsibilities that they were never told about before. Here the issue was not just doing one’s homework but also taking certain steps to care for oneself and for others. Peter Agua, the senior social worker took the leadership in this regard gathering the children by age groups and teaching them ways and manners. There was also a lot of counseling with the older children who in many ways had to deal with the demands for discipline in their lives.

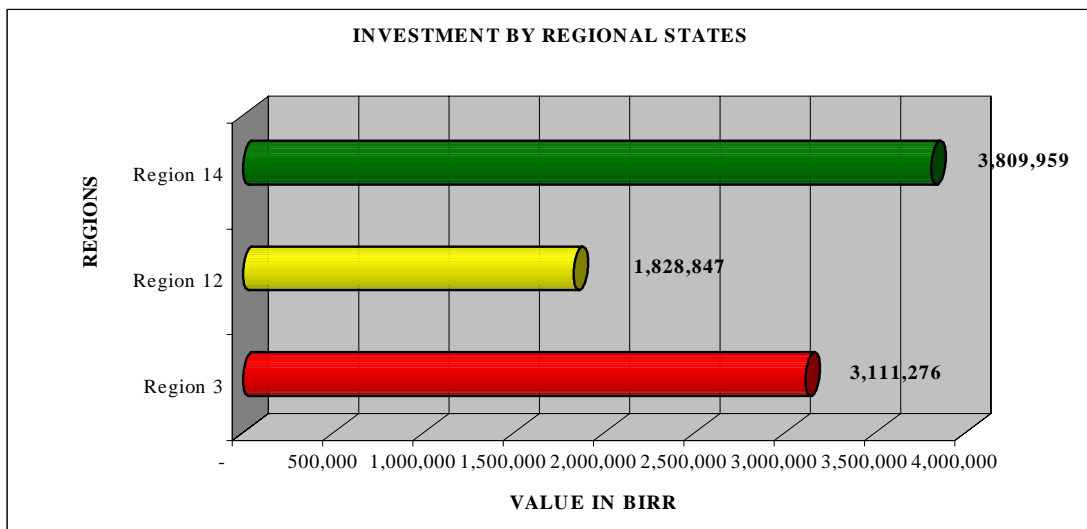
The Financial Report

Our books of accounts for the year ended on December 31, 2001 and were audited by Getachew Kassaye & Co., Chartered Certified Accountants, as appointed by our General Assembly. The auditors' opinion is shown on the next pages. The accounts were summarized in the headings of the headquarters, Addis Ababa Branch, Dessie Branch and Gambella Area Project. The financial reports included balance sheet, revenue and expenditure statement, cash flow statement and notes to the accounts. Other reports that were included were fixed assets and stock, debtors and creditors, restricted funds, donation, incomes from projects and project costs.

The year's total revenue was Birr 8,247,857.00. The year's total expenditure was Birr 8,750,081.00. The revenue was composed of donation in the amount of Birr 6,576,859.00 and of other income in the amount of Birr 1,670,998.00. Of the total expenditure, Birr 7,879,689.00 or 90% was the cost of projects while Birr 870,392.00 (10%) was the cost of overheads. The year's average exchange rate was calculated at Birr 8.50 per one USD.



The graph below shows the investment in each state i.e. Region 14 (Addis Ababa), Region 3 (Amhara State) and Region 12 (Gambella State) where we operated.



Ethics, Spirituality and Hope in Development

Minas Hiruy, Ph. D.

Values and spirituality on one hand and development on the other seem to have had a love and hate relationship particularly since the turn of the 20th century. As modernism has had its impact, appeal to values dissipated pretty much in every society. Significant in this loss of confidence has been the push for a value-free society. Logical positivists and reductionists have gone counter to ethics seeing it as having no analyzable property and denying its link to value judgments. Partly as an outgrowth of this development situation ethics has emerged. Being antithetical to moral imperatives, situation ethics has essentially been as good as no ethics to the degree it licenses just about any thought or behavior under clever rationalizations. It is in this murky climate, that James Rachels laments, "We can try to become clearer about what our values are and about the possible alternatives. But we can no longer ask questions about the truth of our convictions."¹

Development has been operating within the cited framework of value vacuity and/or ambiguity. For the disparagement of morality, breakdowns of all sorts began to surface with increasing intensity manifesting their terrible harvests so to say in terms such as of child prostitution, child trafficking for human spare parts, slavery of all forms, shooting in school yards, drugs, ethnic cleansing, urban crime and the grinding objectification and marginalization of a rising number of people. And for the shortfall in moral foresight, the world continues to get caught by a never-ending cycle of surprises and shocks, as new and unanticipated problems tested and challenged human will pretty much to no avail. The usual response of meetings after meetings has not resolved much save a lot of hand-wringing and the raising of false hopes through lofty but vacuous uttering.

In the wake of this hopelessness, society is beginning to recognize the implications of its indifference as Charles Colson portrays, "Over the past four decades, our public discourse was dominated by the value-free model. Yet today, its disastrous consequences are becoming abundantly clear. Even determined secularists have begun to see that society simply can't keep up with the costs of personal and moral irresponsibility."² With this second thought, many people are calling for a return to values. This reconsideration is glaringly manifested in the development landscape with a smorgasbord of normative themes such as gender balance, ecology consciousness, fairness as justice, equity, child rights, minority rights, moratorium on child soldiers, etc. Ethics is certainly out of the cage being no more relegated to only religion or moral philosophy.

By the same taken, development actors and institutions have begun to reflect this trend determined not only to profess but also to apply the evolving tenets. The public sector, as one important force in development, has been making a number of reforms with an ethical bent. From these efforts have arisen important norms such as good governance, devolution, stakeholder involvement and ethics-in-government. The Citizen's Charter of Great Britain has been a pacesetter in this regard with its six stipulations.³ Stirrings of the type made a revolution of sorts impacting not only the behavior of the public sector but also of the whole development arena.

The same awakening has also been reflected in the private sector. The misdeeds of untamed capitalism acquainted the world with dialectical materialism and the cleavages that partly contributed to the cold war and to that ominous cloud of self-destruction. Then,

very much unexpected, sensibility prevailed saving the day for another chance. Capital began to weave ethics into its motto and workings under a new conscience called corporate citizenship. With this consciousness, a new equilibrium began to evolve tempering the dangerous polarization between what appears to be self-interest on one hand and public interest on the other. Corporate citizenship manifests itself in a number of ways being supportive of policies that address, for instance, the environment, that reinforces human rights and advance fairness as justice.

Similarly, the NGO sector has been strengthening its ethical contour. Though it is no secret that the sector came into the scene basically to right the wrong of other service delivery systems and to deal with human agonies the world over in a more humanistic and responsive way, recent "mixed ratings" have prompted the sector to confront itself in the light of its first love. This soul searching has led many NGOs to subscribe to one form of code or another and to subject themselves to the scrutiny of an ethics panel or board. The sector also began to embrace a transformational approach sensing that its traditional ways might have been no more than a palliative with the effect of postponing poverty instead of redressing it. Determined to be a change agent, the sector has assumed activities like research and development, peace making, civic education, community empowerment, advocacy and policy influence besides its care and welfare focus.

Other actors of civil society are also catching the same wave. The media, various professions, community-based organizations (CBOS), faith-based organizations (FBOS), trade unions, etc. are raising up the topic of ethics higher than ever. Years back, it was not common for organizations to be bothered about their values. Today, an organization with no explicit value parameters is seen as not only nascent but also as dishonest. The assumption is that if an organization does not start with specific sets of values to define itself and its niche in society, its task environment is said to have no basis to evaluate it and to place expectations. By the same token, with no value pillars, it is contended that organizations can fall into wrong agendas.

Then, when one profiles the current development thinking in general, the three important values of sustainability, partnership and globalization stand out. Being as interrelated as they are, these values may figure in the making of a "development architecture" down the road. Sustainable development underscores the importance of being need-based, endogenous, self reliant, ecologically sound and transformational. Partnership tries to bring in the "life boat" scenario at play underscoring the interdependence of development actors and appealing to themes like inclusion and coalition building. Globalization, in its best showing, tries to underline the narrowing of differences in an eventual culmination of human civilization "from One Earth to One World".

Sustainable development has not on the whole worked well due to mainly the uncontrollability of external and internal factors like unfavorable trade and political instability. The partnership idea is not without its deterrents as well to the degree that it has not been blessed with transparent, fair and clear interests and abiding commitments. Globalization is definitely penetrating not territories but social orders. Information technology, which has been the instrument to spread and instill its milieu, has been doing a good job in winning the hearts and minds of a growing number of people. For the pressure and cultural seduction emanating from it, there has been a never ending human cargo mainly from the south to the many command stations of the "heavenly cities" elsewhere

leaving behind a vacuum of capacities and no lost love to country. With its brain drain has also gone the flight of capital restoring and reinforcing the old center-periphery imbalance and becoming a principal reason for the making of basket cases of many countries. Developing countries have obviously much to worry about globalization as they see themselves bargained out of the game and losing out not only economically but also in political significance among the "family" of nations.

In the final analysis, it appears as if development thinking is in a tailspin. Michel Faucon, while underscoring the poisoning of the world for a momentous change, could not avoid admitting, "Nobody knows where this is heading."⁴ This brings the question: what then is the quagmire? One has to admit that development formulas will continue to stumble not for their bad intentions but for the loss of the spiritual equation in their calculation. Certainly, as Colson asserts, "Moral reasoning and intellectual knowledge are not enough. A fallen human being can fulfill the moral law only if the will is transformed."⁵ The Word of God is very clear about what the righteousness derived from our carnal selves is. This underscores where the solution to the value question in development lies. The issue does not stop at the weight given to values but at the type of values that is being entertained.

On the whole, though the current thoughts in development are positive and in many aspects reflective of Christian influences, they fall short of yielding the desired impact to the degree they lack the compelling powers of love, peace, sacrifice, etc. out of which so much has been made in Christian social responsibility. Being devoid of the love of the Lord, both the rhetoric and the practice of modern development have not succeeded in instilling the trust, confidence, wholeness, supportive relationship and healing that are necessary in any work of community development. Neither could they marshal a compelling compassion to replace the injustice that is so ubiquitous at all levels in society. The partnership so advocated lacking what Ronald Sider sees as "unconditional accountability and unlimited liability", has been of little effect.⁶ And the universalism in globalization, striking many as a wolf in a sheep's clothing, is said to be an invitation for a divided world in terms of the powerful and the wretched of the earth.

The role of the spiritual piece to the puzzle in bringing about a working human community is indeed clear and timely. The challenge then is how to bring about the necessary spiritual chemistry to overcome the enormous roadblocks of development. In our sinful selves, we can show no good apart from what the Lord enables. The lesson is that without changed individuals through the saving grace of our Lord, our existence will continue to mirror the thorns of a fallen creation. This is where spirituality impacts development in a profound way. One can regrettably admit that hypocrisy and self-righteousness have scarred our witness denying the impact of spirituality. But, in the light of the high correlation between spiritual strength and what are considered to be vectors of development, one can say that an enduring development paradigm would not emerge apart from what John Perkins, reflecting on the powerful message of the Book of James, calls the marriage of faith and works as "our faith becomes active along with our works" and "our faith is completed by our works."⁷

The scale of development challenges the world over is obvious enough. But it would be an illusion to continue to assume that our human ingenuity alone would be the source of the panacea. Much as development has a spiritual dimension, we certainly need to work on the spiritual poverty that is engulfing society. And when, the spiritual aspect of development is

recognized, then the hope for a better day takes over and in this consciousness, our humanity will definitely take a different meaning reconnecting us with one another and with like never before and restoring what we were meant to be.

¹ James Rachels, "Can Ethics Provide Answers?" Hastings Center Report (June, 1980): p.34

² Charles Colson, How Now Shall We Live (Wheaton, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1999), p. 310.

³ Tony Byrne, Local Government in Britain (London, Penguin Books, 1994), pp, 274-275.

⁴ UN-Non-Government Liaison Service, The United Nations, NGOs and Global Governance (Geneva, 1996), p. 64.

⁵ Colson, op.cit., p.381.

⁶ Ronald J. Sider, Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger (Downers Grove, Inter-varsity Press, 1980), p. 193.

⁷ John Perkins, A Quiet Revolution (Waco, World Books, Publisher), p. 210.