

Hope Enterprises

Quarterly Report

April, May and June, 2008

Part I: Headquarters

The quarter featured many noteworthy developments. For the first time, the organization managed to get 100% of its graduates placed in jobs and/or in businesses. In 2008 alone we have been serving 21,900 beneficiaries. Two of the beneficiaries that stood out during the quarter and came to thank us were a young man who became a medical doctor and another one who became a civil engineer. The General Assembly approved the biggest budget ever of Birr 54.7 million (USD 5.66 million) for the year 2009. We had a very successful consultation at the Hilton Hotel on May 1 on the theme of Inflation and Livelihood Affordability in the presence of various stakeholders drawn from different sectors of the community to discuss the new challenge and make suggestions. Dr. Minas Hiruy presented a paper on good practices of other countries. The discussions were given TV coverage and Dr. Minas had extensive interviews twice on a national newspaper.

On account of the little rains not coming and the high price of food, certain areas faced food deficit affecting some 4.6 million people. A number of our beneficiaries and their households appealed to us for help seeing their sponsorship allowances not stretching far enough. A number of areas close to our projects in the Rift Valley also began to experience food shortages. We approached our donors for help and getting favorable response from Ethiopiaid, Woord & Daad and Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, we began to respond under a project named, relief project 2008, within the Ladders of Hope. We hosted the African partners of Woord & Daad, from April 15 to 22. The partners visited our activities as an example of a well run operation and were quite impressed with what they saw and experienced at Hope. The construction of the university college proceeded despite cost overruns caused by inflation. The draft charter of the university college was being completed and the first meeting of the advisory board of the university college occurred on June 26 giving advice on issues like the recruitment of two vice presidents, plan of action and the foundation year.

It was also during this quarter that the draft legislation on charities and societies was brought up for discussion with the NGO sector by the Ministry of Justice. The draft was subsequently discussed with the Prime Minister, His Excellency, Ato Meles Zenawi, twice. Dr. Minas was selected by the NGO community to be a member of the task force that was mandated to offer feedback on the draft. As the day got closer for Dr. Minas to move over to the presidency of the university college, the staff members of Hope wrote a letter to the Board commending Dr. Minas for the much that he had done in expanding the organization and in building a secure man power and asking Dr. Minas to stay on as president. But Dr. Minas stuck to his decision stating that the time had come for others to follow suit and indicating his new passion to get the university college on its feet. The Board and the General Assembly approved his resignation and appointed him as President of Hope University College effective from July 1, 2008.

Part II: Ladders of Hope

1. Relief Project 2008

Continuing increase in food prices has particularly been hard on those with low or no income. Then with the little rains that enabled the second harvest in high agro ecological zones in the county not coming, the government declared 4.6 million people in need of food assistance. Certain locations were affected by the food deficit. Furthermore, we received appeals from the minders/parents of the children that we have been sponsoring indicating that the allowance given to them was not enough to maintain basic essentials and care. Close examination of the appeals were found valid. In the light of the above needs, Hope devised a relief response for a period of three months providing dry rations to those affected by drought on one hand and cash assistance to those affected by inflation on the other.

i. Dry Rations

Dry rations were designated for people affected by food deficit in the Roggie Village area, where we have been operational. Arsi Negelle and Shashemene were the other locations affected some 15 and 35 kilometers respectively from Roggie Village. A field visit of the affected people in these locations showed the gravity fo the problem and following consultations with various stakeholders including local governments, a proposal for dry ration involving 8,000 people was framed. Of the total number, 4,200 were children. Hope thought the best way to help was to have the affected people pick up their rations from distribution centers and return home right after instead of creating a relief camp. This approach was to keep the affected people in their homes so that they could carry on with their farm duties and to prevent family and community disintegration. The ration regimen, which was according to government requirements, was used to determine the cost of the various components of the relief project. The ration package for each person per month during the three months project period included 15.00 kilograms of wheat grain, 1.50 kilogram of beans and 0.50 liters of cooking oil plus 4.50 kilos of famix or protein fortified children's food for each child.

The relief project was to be headed by the director of projects from the office of the Ladders of Hope and supervised by the Executive Director of the Ladders of Hope. It was to have a field officer supported by a chief store clerk, assistant store clerks, a social worker and two guards. The director of finance was to ensure that all transactions were done according to our procedures. The food items were to be bought from cooperatives, factories or government stores to benefit from low prices or from other vendors if any of the above sources were not available. The items purchased were to be transported to our main store in Arsi Negelle, along the Addis Ababa-Awassa Road. From there, the food packages were to be distributed to our four sub stores in the villages of Chebi, Toga, Kuyera and Roggie for the selected people to pick up their allotments every month.

Two proposals were made and submitted to separate donors. The one proposal dealt with dry ration provisions for 7,500 people in Arsi Negelle and Shashemene districts. Out of

the total targeted beneficiaries 4,000 were children and 3,500 were adults. This proposal was submitted to Ethiopiaaid of the United Kingdom. As regards dry ration provisions in Roggie Village, there were 500 beneficiaries. Of the total, 200 of them were the households of the 200 children being sponsored at our Roggie Child Care and Training Center and the remaining 300 beneficiaries were households in the village deemed most needy. A typical household had on average four children. This proposal was submitted to Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, the sponsor of the cited center. To our relief and appreciation, each proposal was accepted and having the means to implement the relief project, we went ahead and established a project agreement with the Food Security Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency in Shashemene of the Oromia government to begin operations starting from the first of July.

ii. Cash Assistance

In order to respond to the needs of the minders/parents of children whom we have been sponsoring, what we opted for was the provision of Birr 100 for each household every month for the project period of three months. We divided this aspect of relief project into two segments and approached two separate donors for each. Thus we submitted a proposal to Woord & Daad to assist 1,163 minders/parents of our sponsored children in the Addis Ababa Branch, Gambella Area Project and Assosa Area Project. Menlo Park Presbyterian Church was approached to assist 912 minders/parents of our sponsored children in our Dessie Branch. The proposals were accepted and the distribution of funds will start in July.

2. Other Foci

During this reporting quarter, the office of the ladders was busy arranging and facilitating programs for the Young Ambassadors that came to visit us from Holland. The team, consisted of seven youngsters stayed in Addis Ababa from April 26 to May 4 and in Dessie from May 5 to 8. The team visited our operations in Dessie and in Addis Ababa the National Museum, the Palace of Emperor Menelik II, the Millennium Orthodox Exhibition and interviewed many people about topics such as education, microfinance, social work, etc. The team also visited the homes and villages of some of our beneficiaries and formed friendships with youngsters of the same age group. The office also hosted a delegation from Woord & Daad, who visited the operations sponsored from April 8 to 14. Then, from April 15 to 22, the same delegation attended a meeting of African partners of Woord & Daad in Addis Ababa. The meeting, hosted by Hope under Woord & Daad's sponsorship, was a success. Our Addis Ababa activities were visited by the 31 participants much to their amazement and appreciation.

The Addis Ababa Branch

Family Based Child Care

We continued providing the usual support to the 402 children of which 216 were girls. Preparation for the recruitment of 50 new students for the child care project was

completed. Children under this program had breakfast and lunch six days a week. We continued providing monthly allowances to each child to cover the expenses of shelter, sanitary materials and meals not provided in our school. Three meetings were held with the minders/parents during the quarter and topics revolving around divisions of labor in caring for the children were discussed. Correspondence between the children and their sponsors went well with the children writing 127 letters and getting 50 replies. Some sponsors visited the children in person and presented them with different gifts. 23 children were medically assisted during the quarter.

Partial Family Based Child Care

164 children continued to benefit from this program. The highlight of this program was Dr. Yilikal Geremew, who, after being assisted for a number of years, became a medical doctor. Raised by a single mother who later became a nun, Yilikal found himself on the streets looking for help. Then hearing what Hope was doing, he came and told us that he was about to quit school and go into doing odd jobs to make ends meet with his mother. After some examination of his background, he was accepted into the project and supported during his school years. Upon being a doctor, he wrote a thank you letter to us telling us had it not been for our intervention he would have been lost on the streets of Addis Ababa as a failure. Dr. Yilikal has been practicing in public hospitals in Addis Ababa since June 2008. The project to assist the mothers of the children being assisted in this program with income generating activities got the support it needed to enable the inclusion of eleven additional mothers. The mothers really liked making and selling the local bread, Injera and the income gained was good.

Feeding Center

During the quarter, a total of 56,700 people were served. This marked an increase by 4,200 people or 8% from the previous quarter. The second soup kitchen helped in meeting the food needs of a variety of hurting people ranging from the little ones to the aged. As the rainy season started by the middle of June, we noted a number of country folks that were mostly headed by women. A number of people that were once self supporting were also visible. Feeding a thousand people a day was quite a challenge for us. We had to hire extra people to do the cooking and additional food supplies had to be stocked up despite continuing cost increases. We continue to enjoy the assistance of a number of volunteers in serving the meals in the two places. It was encouraging to see youngsters volunteer their services.

Street children's Breakfast Program

The program continued to support the 700 street children using the two soup kitchens. The excitement in the morning is unbelievable as hungry children stream to the cafeteria line to pick up their servings with a cup of hot milk mixed with tea. After the meal, those that have schooling in the morning rush to school during the first shift while those that do not go to school until the afternoon shift or have not yet qualified for formal schooling stay for an hour or two for basic education and tutorials. To all the children, education

has a special meaning realizing that it was their only way to success. Their motivation to learn is unbelievable as our teachers and many qualified volunteers assisted them with their literacy and arithmetic. Their motivation for fun is also likewise with their enthusiastic songs and story telling making them smile and helping them to forget their hardships. We also noted that their fellowship had allowed them to make lots of friends who are not as mean as those found on the streets.

Hope School, Addis Ababa

Grade 8 and 10 students took national examinations while the remaining students took final examinations. Results were notified for the later. During the quarter, a general meeting of the teachers was conducted three times. Issues like student discipline, exam preparation, formulation of action plan, performance of different clubs and preparation for school closing were discussed. The Language and Literature Club staged different poems and dramas during the morning flag ceremony. The Civic Club and Know Your Country Club were also operational during the reporting quarter. The Anti HIV/AIDS and the Red Cross Club was working on peer education about the spread and prevention of the pandemic.

Community Based Education Support

A total number of 750 students of which 415 were girls were supported under the two types of Community Based Educational Support for street children and other children. In order to prepare school uniforms for the next academic year for the students, bids were advertised and a vendor was selected.

School of Home Workers, Addis Ababa

Stationary materials were distributed to the 250 students of this project. The Director of Projects visited the two schools located in our main campus and the smaller campus housing the rehabilitative street children's project in down town and took various steps to further improve the program.

Scholarship for University Students

Under this project, there were a total of 15 university students of which five were girls. Nine of them were in Addis Ababa University while the remaining six were in Debu University, Jimma University and Haramaya University. During this reporting quarter, all of them collected their transport fee, pocket money and school supplies from the branch office, after they submitted a copy of their report card of the previous quarter. All did well. A member of our General Assembly, Mrs. Ruth Abraham continued to work with nine of the students from the Addis Ababa University assisting them with their English in one of our campuses each Saturday morning and encouraging them to do their best. This input was appreciated by the students drawing much for their classes and future careers.

Vocational Training Center, Addis Ababa

Our Vocational Training Center participated in an exhibition called by the Ministry of Youth and Culture, which was held from May 25 to 28. Our Training Centre displayed different projects of the trainees and got high regard from the different visitors. There was another exhibition to which we were invited to from June 13 to 15 by the city's Education Bureau. We assigned the 64 graduating trainees to different companies and organizations for apprenticeship in April. The trainees were monitored in their places of work twice a month by the manager of job and business mediation and the head of vocational training center and every attempt was made to counsel the trainees on areas that they needed to improve as potential employees or business owners. During the quarter, the electrical technology stream made traffic lighting system, refrigerators, energy conserving electric appliances, solar heaters, auto electric system, and welding machine and was engaged in various maintenance works. The wood work stream produced various products such as full size beds, chairs, cabinets, sofas, study tables, chest of drawers, dining set, etc. Trainees under general mechanics made various tools and equipment, construction frames and partitions, doors and windows and were engaged in various maintenance works. The School of International Hotel Service & Catering prepared lunch and dinner for banquets and guests and processed certain foods like peanut butter and different types of cookies. As the center was planning to hold its graduation ceremony on July 12, 2008, its graduating class was involved in completing their graduation projects, which were to be on display for the guests that would be invited. The center also focused on bulk purchasing for the ensuing year.

Job and Business Mediation

Of the 73 graduates, the remaining two graduates that did not get employed secured employment during the quarter. The credit goes to Mr. Abraham Sahilu, the Manager of Job and Business Mediation and the vocational training center for this accomplishment, which encouraged the trainees in the pipeline. The branch analyzed how to capitalize on this success and register the same 100% placement for the graduates that are to graduate next July. A big point that was registered was how important it was to strengthen the ongoing contact and coordination among all actors involved at Hope. Secondly, the need to maintain ongoing link with industry and adjust our training according to extant and changing needs was underscored.

The Dessie Branch

Family Based Child Care

During the quarter, home to home visits were carried out. Students that attended college preparatory high schools were gathered for discussion on their performance. Minder/parent meetings were held and different issues regarding their children were discussed. Recent photographs of the children along with letters were sent to sponsors. The files of the children were updated including information on recent heights and weights, academic status, etc. **This program, embracing 912 children and youngsters from**

extremely difficult circumstances, has had quite an impact in shouldering the social problems of the youth in Dessie. Dessie, having a population of over 200,000 has been a commercial hub connecting various regions through its four passes. The recent upgrading of the in-city roads, the modernization of the interstate highway passing through the city and the construction of the new road connecting the city with Gojjam, a zone 325 kilometers away have further underlined its economic importance. With this development, the rural urban migration has intensified bringing with it various social problems. The branch has been a source of hope for many unattended and impoverished children and youngsters.

Food Security Development Project

About half of the Jebdes River Irrigation Project in Werebabo Woreda was finalized. In Tehuledere district, a contractor was finally appointed to do the same work on Yitecha River. By the end of the quarter, the contractor had completed site clearing works and transported construction materials like sand and stone. However, it was reported that due to shortage of cement in the country, the construction was delayed for some days. The selection of farmers that would benefit from the irrigation scheme was also completed. By the end of June, as the rains were coming, the rivers began to fill giving credence to the viability of the project during the long stretch of dry period. This initiative held much good for farmers with limited holdings as the package focused on intensive agriculture on limited space involving cash crops like fruits and vegetables.

Hope School, Dessie

A total of 36 and 58 students took the grade 8 and 10 national examinations respectively. Meetings with teachers were held fortnightly. We also conducted different meetings with students and teachers. Based on the feedback gathered from these meetings, corrective measures were taken to improve the teaching-learning processes. The different performance measurement tests were reviewed and recommendations were given to help low performing students improve their academic performance. In order to improve English language proficiency, computer based additional classes were conducted using software donated by Menlo Park Presbyterian Church. With the aim of creating awareness on legal matters, we invited a legal person from the concerned government office to teach students on legal issues affecting them. The teaching helped students understand their rights and obligations as citizens. Reports to the district's Education Office, were submitted every two weeks. We also participated in a Children's Festival that took place in Hote Stadium. Extra curricular activities were carried out by the Language and Literature Club, Sports Club, Health and Anti-AIDS Club, Ranked Students Communion Club, Class Monitors Club, Civic Club, Mini-Media Club and Girls Club. Broken desks, windows and doors were maintained.

Community Based Education Support

The 400 students supported in this program continued to do well in the various public schools in the city. Similarly the tutorial services arranged for students in their respective

schools ran well. These inputs began to show noticeable improvements in educational attainment. At the same time some students that were sick were medically assisted. One orphan, who had a serious health problem and was cured through our medical outreach, was expressing his thanks to anyone that he came across seeing what was done for him as a work of rescue.

School of Home Workers

The 99 home workers that continued on with their education were zealous about their opportunity. The grade levels within the evident capacity of the youngsters ranged from grades 1 to 3. From time to time, advice was given to the girls not to give up with their education. Obviously this was an unrealistic proposition to some, who had to leave work and change their location. But our advice was to do what they can to at least finish the semester that they were on so that they could continue when opportunities avail themselves wherever they are with out a loss of time. The survival skill that we provided tapping the expertise in town was also appreciated.

Scholarship for University Students

Some of the 84 university students that we had been assisting complained about cost increases in the things that they needed. We considered their challenge in this regard and submitted a proposal to Menlo Park Presbyterian Church for help for three months. The proposal was accepted and the students will be assisted with an increase of their allowance starting from July.

Hope Vocational Training Center, Dessie

The supervisors of the Technical and Vocational Training Agency of the Amhara National Regional State visited our training center and gave their evaluation. They saw the center as well run and equipped and gave recommendations on how to implement the new curriculum. A half-day training was given to trainees on how to develop competency in workplaces. Furthermore training on entrepreneurship development was also given to trainees. Based on the guidelines given, both theoretical and practical courses were designed and given. On the practical side, the Electrical Technology department made refrigerators, an air conditioner and low voltage AC generator. The graduating trainees of the same department made electrical floor cleaner, welding machine and automatic water level control. The trainees in General Mechanics did project works like lab joint welding, T-joint welding, continuous welding, spot welding, etc. The trainees in the Construction Department made building blocks, foundation and roofing works and different models of houses. The trainees of Secretarial Service and Office Management did different exercises and projects on MS-excel, MS-access and MS-power point.

Job and Business Mediation

The remaining four youngsters were placed in jobs resulting in 100% placement. Again here the Branch Manager, Mr. Teferi Ayalew, the vocational training center and the

Manager of Job and Business Mediation, Mr. Abraham Sahilu are thanked for coordinating their efforts for an excellent outcome. Mr. Sahilu has been coordinating the placement from the headquarters visiting the graduates from time to time.

The Gambella Area Project

Family-Based Child Care

Food prices were higher in the area being so far away from food sources and facing increasing transport costs. In spite of the challenges of high food price that we faced, we did our best to keep up the quality and quantity of the food provided to the 560 children. 85 children received medical treatment. With the aim of improving the academic performance of children and shaping their behavior for the better, the usual weekly parental meetings were held in the school compound. Parents also participated in environmental sanitation works and agricultural activities in the compound with the labor being their contribution. Correspondence activities between children and sponsors went well during the reporting quarter. 582 letters were sent to sponsors and 27 letters were replied. In order to recruit new beneficiaries for the coming year, Hope Gambella exchanged information with the concerned government offices.

Community Based Child Care

Of the 76 children in this program, 32 of the youngest children were absorbed by the family based child care as of May. The remaining 44 children continued to enjoy the assistance under the community based child care.

Hope School, Gambella

The school ran as per the annual lesson plan. The principal of the school ensued that all went according to the plan. A key development during the quarter was students in grade eight and ten taking their national examinations. The various extra-curricular activities were quite active with enthusiastic student participation. Drama and Music Club, Anti-HIV/AIDS and Red Cross Club, Environmental Sanitation and Protection Club, Question and Answer Club, Pedagogy Club, Girls Club, Sport Clubs and Exams and Evaluation Club were busy with different activities. The school's nurse regularly monitored the personal hygiene of students. Teaching aids, which were prepared by the Pedagogical Center, were given to each teacher. In the preparation of the teaching aids, both students and teachers were actively involved.

Construction of the High School and the Vocational Training Center

By the end of June, the work of construction was virtually completed with some things remaining before a formal handover was undertaken. The furniture manufacturing for both the high school and the vocational training center, undertaken by the wood works of the vocational training center of the Addis Ababa Branch, has been going smoothly. Plans are underway for the formal inauguration of the high school and the vocational

training center during fall following the school's opening in September. The planning to put in place the other inputs like staffing, books and equipment has been going on as well. This major investment has been appreciated by the state and will certainly be an important addition to the efforts of human development in the state. We thank Woord & Daad for financing the whole construction, equipping and furnishing.

Daycare Project and Community Based Education Support

Under the four day care centers, a total number of 160 children of which 77 were girls were supported. The background of the children coming to this rescue center was sad to say the least. Many are abandoned. Most are attached to their mothers, who are themselves abandoned. As much wretchedness abounds, normal expectations of care are not there with the children being left alone to fend for themselves as the mothers look for odd jobs. Our part certainly filled a big gap and the children have clung to us like we are their parents. The half a day of attention that we gave in a day care setting and the meals that the children got helped a lot in giving them the strength to cope with their plight. All of them ate breakfast and lunch everyday and received the kind of training that set them ready for pre-school education. Follow-up of the project implementation was undertaken and some corrective measures were taken by the management. Minders/parents and the community were counseled to closely watch the health and development of the children after the day care hours. 35 children received medical treatment for various ailments and their medical expenses were covered by the project.

The Assosa Area Project

Family Based Child Care

The 200 children continued to get proper care. Besides the provisions of meals, clothing and footwear, medical care and counseling, the monthly allowance of 40 birr helped a lot. The parents/minders were advised to spend the money for keeping their children's wellbeing. The area suffering from one of the highest rates of inflation in the country, cost increases were a problem. We thank Woord & Daad for providing the added money to help both the children and their households cope with the inflationary spiral during the three months starting from July. During the quarter, 56 children received medical treatment and all expenses were covered by the organization. In addition, polio vaccination was given to children below the age of five. Correspondence between the children and their sponsors was carried out. The sponsors sent puppets, post cards and clothes along with letters. 90 photographs of those children, who were in the program for the last two years, were sent to Woord en Daad with reports of changes in their development and school achievement.

It was during this quarter that Ms. Marike de Cloe of Woord en Daad visited the project. She saw the progress of the school's construction. One additional computer was sent to the project area to facilitate the office work. By the end of June, the project had completed the selection of 50 additional children who shall join the nursery in September. We did our best to select the native children by workign with the local government.

Hope School, Assosa

According to the result of the different performance assessment tests given to the students, all of them were expected to pass to the next grade level. During this quarter, two students dropped out of school due to family relocation and were replaced by others. In-class competition was conducted for 19 weeks and winners were awarded during parent's day. Teachers discussed the strengths and weaknesses of the completed academic year and decided to formulate next year's program based on the findings of the discussion. All parents expressed their satisfaction with the school.

The Construction Project

The contractor made slow progress during the quarter. As the construction had to end before September, he was asked to be on track with the schedule. The investment covering complete elementary school complexes with offices and stores and a guest house, began to create excitement among our students who would move to occupy it from the rented quarters. Assosa, a likable regional capital had gone through its own transformation with various infrastructure being put in place since we established our operations in the city in 2004. In town roads, electrical hook up to the main grid, water supply from a major source and an air port being asphalted were some of the changes happening. We are fortunate to have our elementary school in this enabling setting.

The Rift Valley Area Project

The Roggie Child Care and Training Center

Family Based Child Care

We continued providing support for the 200 children (103 male and 97 female) under the program. From the monthly parental meetings, we understood that each student has an average of three goats which were multiplied from the one she goat given to augment family income a year ago. We continued to engage in community health matters bringing awareness about relevant issues such as HIV/AIDS, personal hygiene, environmental sanitation etc., during the meetings with parents. The community requested Hope Enterprises to avail credit for income generating activities. However as Hope did not have a license to operate as such it could not help as requested. Experts from the concerned government agency of Oromia visited the center and were quite happy with the work. There was no health problem among the children during the reporting quarter.

Hope School, Roggie

All children enrolled finished the year without anyone dropping out. The tutorial class, which was started during the previous quarter, helped a lot. Teachers provided their daily

and weekly lessons according to their lesson plans. The school director also supervised the strict implementation of the lesson plan. The monthly parental meetings were conducted and issues like student absenteeism due to the nature of work of their parents, personal hygiene, punctuality etc., were discussed and some corrective measures were taken. The result of the final examinations of the second semester showed that all but 12 students scored higher grades than their first semester results.

The Water Project

The community in general and students in particular were benefiting from the constructed potable water. Health education in relation to water utilization was given to community members. Community Health Committee was also established and the members were given training in the school. This committee has been teaching the folks in the village about the use of personal pit latrine.

The Hirara Child care and Training Center

Family Based child Care

The 200 children continued to fare well during the quarter. A total number of 31 children were medically assisted. The monthly parental meeting was conducted. The school was visited by guests and discussions about the school and the overall problems of the community were held. The Executive Director of the Ladders of Hope, Mr. Zenebe Ayele, and the Director of Finance, Ato Temesgen Tamene, visited the school and had discussions with the staff. The lack of rain had been a problem. But owing to expectations of the resumption of the big rains, people ploughed their fields.

Food Security Development Project

A terminal report was submitted as regards this project. The Food Security and Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency of the Oromia State subsequently came to evaluate what had actually been done based on our terminal report.

Hope School, Hirara

All of the 200 students pursued their education with interest. Parents/minders were very happy to see the seriousness of their children about school. Teachers conducted the teaching-learning process based on the daily and weekly lesson plans. Final examinations were given to all students. Rosters were prepared by teachers for all four classes. Teachers completed preparing final report cards of the students. The school being located in a beautiful setting overlooking Lake Zway, one of the lakes of the Great Rift Valley, offers a lot. One can marvel at the hippos that roam around the shores of the lake in late afternoons and the crocodiles that relax along the shores some distances away. The four islands close to the shore and the people groups that reside on them, one of the smallest and least known people in the country, are also quite a point of interest.

Adult Education

At the start of the quarter, additional 40 adults were registered in the school for farmers bringing the total to 100 adults. After a successful year, the school was closed at the end of June owing to much work that the farmers had on account of the rains that finally came. The school will start in September.

Water Development Project

The acceptance of our proposal by TEAR Australia to develop well water in the village was one of the greatest news that the village ever had. The well would serve both our school and the community through community committee management. Community folks were elated when they heard the great news. The women, who traveled few kilometers to fetch water on their back were the happiest. The lakes water, having bilharzia was avoided for drinking and cooking.

Construction of the Elementary School

Our school, which had been housed in a temporary shelter, will soon have well built structures following the appointment of a different contractor. The new contractor built the Gambella High School and Vocational Training Center with acceptable workmanship and according to the schedule. The elementary school will involve six rooms from nursery to grade four and an office complex. The construction is funded by Venture Church of San Jose, California.

Part III: Hope University College

The construction progressed though due to the skyrocketing prices of cement and rebars, Hope faced the problem of variation bills. Important components such as elevators, improved digital lines and diesel generator had to be incorporated and additional funding was needed for these. The rains finally came in late June and the construction crew was engaged in the much superstructure work without disruption. The application for VAT free status was submitted given that the proposal for the construction and equipping was made without assuming the payment of this tax. The specialization of business, planned to be the first professional stream of the university college, was being studied by Dr. Corne Kocks and Dr. Jan Lok, with both professionals engaging the expertise of their respective universities to develop a curriculum that meets the needs in Ethiopia and maintains an international standard.

On June 26, the advisory board of the university college held its first meeting in the project office of the university college. Before the start of the meeting, the advisory board was given a tour of the construction and an update on the developments to date. Then the advisory board considered the issues of recruitment of the vice president for academic affairs and the vice president for administrative, financial and student affairs, the draft charter, the curriculum and schedule of operations. It approved the criteria and

mode of recruiting the two vice President with both Hope and an employment agency doing the recruiting. As to the curriculum, the advisory board felt that the charter needs to emphasize preparing students by having them go through a foundation year. The advisory board, in examining the staff pool, stated that the president and the two vice-presidents are a must and the other officers should be employed as needed in tandem with the development of the university college. In applying the foundation year, a point was made about fitting the year with the Ministry Education's package of a diploma program. It was also told that after the diploma program those students that make it through may continue on as "advanced" placement for their degree in business. As to the content of the foundation year, the mastery of language and mathematics was seen as a must considering the difficulties of students to manage lectures, required readings and calculation. The advisory board accepted the diploma program for those needing it.

On the draft charter, Dr. Minas indicated to the advisory board that he was writing the first draft using models of the Ministry of Education, referring to charters of colleges of a similar mission and strategy from abroad and the local cultural and legal context. He asked the advisory board for some guidelines on certain facets so that he could complete the draft in tandem with the guidelines. Dr. Minas suggested the idea of making the senate like a management team advising the president and working with the president in areas where team work is needed. This proposal was accepted sensing the need for executive leadership and the charter was to be rewritten accordingly. As to who was to be a member of the senate, the advisory board feeling that the smaller the size of the senate the better the performance, wanted the members to include only the president, the two vice presidents on a voting basis and one elected member from the faculty and one elected student from the student body on a non-voting basis.

The advisory board discussed the time table and noted some adjustments. On employment, it underscored that expatriate faculty needs to be recruited way before December 2008 for the September 2009 employment. On book orders and collection, a number of names were mentioned and Dr. Minas was to follow up on them. Dr. Minas also stated that he had made contacts with some radio stations in the US for a book drive in general knowledge and business and will get a closure on this project when he goes to the states during fall. The meeting was adjourned with a decision to have the next meeting on either September 23 or 25, 2008 in the main office of the university college.

Respectfully Submitted,

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