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## Update on the Dekia Boarding House:

In the June Newsletter assist WFA toward fund-house for the students for Grade 5 and above about 2 days walk until WFA funded the vision of clean water and was illiterate and suffer still many problems, progress. The school we now have 24 stu-



Dekia Boarding House

grade 5, 6 and 7 in Dekia, the closest village which has upper primary and secondary school education and about half a days walk away. I am very happy to announce that this includes 6 girls. WFA is funding the building of a boarding house to enable these students to continue their studies. The total cost of the boarding house is expected to be around \$13,000. Thanks to donations which have come in over the past 6 months, a lot of work has been done (see photo) but we are keen to receive help to complete the building and

an appeal was put out to ing the building of a boarding from Liwan coming to Dekia above. Liwan is a rural vil- from the closest road, and building of a school and pro- sanitation, the entire village fered many problems. There but there has been wonderful only goes up to grade 4, but dents who are attending

purchase beds and bedding. The photo shows the front of the house, but there rear has not yet been plastered.



Abinet

We are also seeking sponsors for 17 of our Liwan Graduates – this includes 14 new graduates which came to Dekia in September. One of these is **Abinet**, who is the second girl from Liwan to reach grade 5! She will attend school now in Dekia as a boarding student, with sponsorship assisting her in living, schooling and accommodation. The families in Liwan have no income to assist with these costs.

## Education for Blind Children in Jimma.

This project has now been running for nearly 18 months. Disabled children who also live in rural areas and/or are in poor families are some of the most vulnerable people in Ethiopia. Many can not attend school, especially if they live out of the major cities. Those in cities or whose families have financial capacity can send their child to one of the few boarding schools for blind children in Ethiopia, often far from home and in a different language area, perhaps seeing their family once a year. With many local and rural schools having 70-100 children in each class and only a small blackboard for materials, inclusive education for children with additional needs is almost impossible. However the majority of Ethiopian's live rurally and blindness is more likely in the poorest families who haven't been able to access medical care, and they are rarely able to access boarding school for their children. As a result many children with blindness sit isolated day after day in their homes, and many adults with blindness beg on the streets to survive.

Some successful milestones have been the training of 6 teachers and 1 parent, purchase of equipment (including Braille resources in the local language), setting up of a classroom in a public school for the pilot class of 10 children. A great deal of effort has been put in by Dr. Girum, the ophthalmologist coordinating the project in Jimma, in developing relationships with local government, local non-government organisations, the university, school

and religious leaders in Jimma to enable a collaborative and sustainable project. Our current focus is providing accommodation to enable a number of older boys who live in rural areas to attend the school. In June Dr Girum and I met with the Mayor of Jimma to request his help for a temporary accommodation option. He has arranged for us to be provided with 2 dis-used classrooms, and at the time of writing (and hopefully completed by the time this newsletter goes to print ☺) we are raising funds to fix up the dilapidated classrooms and build a latrine and shower room. The school has contributed some of the building materials as their way of supporting the project.

I would like to also thank with all my heart an Adelaide charity called 'Sight for All'. This charity, together with AusAid, recently funded some ophthalmology equipment for Jimma University to assist them in doing outreach clinics to places like Bonga. There is just such a need for eye clinics in Bonga and other areas away from the cities. Yohannes (see photo) should not be blind – yet he was found too late for surgery to regain his sight. Many, many people are blind but could have sight restored if they were seen and assessed. Dr Girum also reviews all the blind children admitted to the project so as to ensure any reversible conditions are addressed.



With thanks to everyone who has supported the project so far. Donations of any amount, or on going sponsorship, are welcomed for the project.

Sandi Petersen Project Officer for World Families Australia, Jimma, Bonga, Liwan and Lalibela Ethiopia.

PO Box 116, Stirling 5152

rspetersen@optusnet.com.au



### **Damayan Community Center**

So many things have happened here as I guess you would have heard on the news from our country. We have suffered so much from the effects of the strong typhoons recently. Here in Damayan, the grounds never ran out of water; even if outside our gate it is so dry. Oftentimes our staff get stranded at the second floor because of the high waters on the ground floor. Since the government has put up the streets, our place has become a "catch basin" so every time it rains hard, we experience flooding even inside the former convent, which is now the Damayan office and staff house. As you can guess, we experience so much difficulty handling the situation here.

Sr Susan Montano



### Face Book

Kate Drogemuller is going to start a Face Book page for World Families Australia and needs photo's from different projects to complete. Could project coordinators please send photos that are suitable for our Face Book page to: [katedrogemuller@ozemail.com.au](mailto:katedrogemuller@ozemail.com.au)

### **Bonga Library**

A successful garage sale was held by Christine Hoffman on the 15th of October and about \$625 was raised to help build the Bonga Library. Chris has planned another fund raiser in the form of a Quiz Night that was held on the 29th of October. We'll have an update on how much was raised in the next newsletter. The total cost of the library is \$23,000 and we are nearly there. Any donations would be most welcome.

### **Kenya Mission Trip 2011**

Twenty five travellers from the Tyndale Christian School have returned from their trip to Kenya. During the time in Kenya, the students and teachers spent a morning at New Life homes (a rescue centre for abandoned and orphaned babies), 11 days at Testimony Faith Homes (a large Home caring for 150 orphaned children) and Neema Homes (a Home for HIV children). We are very excited to have raised over \$32,000 which was used to purchase baby formula for New Life Homes and clothing, school equipment and to finance a number of practical projects at Testimony Homes and at Neema Homes. Mike Potter



# Management Matters



Ritchie's has registered WFA as a recognized charity. When shopping at ANY Ritchie's store and by using a community benefit card linked to World Families then Ritchie's will donate money back to us. So if you would like to support our organization and shop at Ritchie's all you do is pick up a CB card/tag at the registers next time you shop at Ritchie's and nominate World Families. There are no costs involved and no personal details required. Use your card or tag every time you shop, even if you only buy a couple of items it all adds up! These cards and tags can be used at ANY Ritchie's store throughout Vic, NSW and Qld.

You as the customer are entitled to over 1000 red ticketed discounted items throughout the store just by using your CB card or tag. Go on shop at Ritchie's whereby World Families will benefit. Check the website: [www.ritchies.com.au](http://www.ritchies.com.au) for phone numbers and addresses of the following stores or ring Head Office on (03) 9784 2000

## Annual General Meeting

6th December 2011

39 Jacobsen Crescent, Holden Hill

6:30pm

### Agenda

- \* 1. Welcome
- \* 2. Present and apologies
- \* 3. Minutes of last years AGM December 2010
- \* 4. Business arising
- \* 5. Presidents report Diane Amato
- \* 6. Sponsorship report Morgan Smith
- \* 7. Adoption support report Vicki Hyde
- \* 8. Treasures report Elaine Smith
- \* 9. Other business by prior notification to WFA office Telephone: 82610008
- \* 10. Election of committee members
- \* 11. Close

Following the meeting we will go to the Hog's Breath Café, 550 North East Rd., Holden Hill for a meal together.



The management committee encourages you to consider becoming a member of the committee. A caring heart and the will to support people in need is all that is required. Self nomination is encouraged. Please send this to the office, 39 Jacobsen Cres, Holden Hill, 5088 or bring it with you on the day and give it to the President, Di Amato.

### Nomination Slip for WFA committee

I..... Wish to nominate.....for membership of the WFA Management committee (self nomination is acceptable)

## LAI THIEU MONTAGNARD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

The community of Lai Thieu is 40 Km from Saigon. It was started in 1903 by the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres who worked for the parish and had a primary school. In this community the Sisters began to care for deaf orphans. A Centre for Deaf Orphans was established there in 1970 and is still active today.

When the deaf orphans moved to the Centre, the Sisters opened a dispensary for Montagnard people who used to come to Saigon for medical help, until the collapse of the government in 1975.

In 1990 some Montagnards started to come back to ask for help since no one was helping them in their villages. There was no medical service, no schools and often nothing to eat.

Most of the young people were illiterate. The Sisters decided to take a few, in secret, to teach them to read and write. When that became known in the villages the parents begged the Sister to take their children and teach them. They had 5 in 1990 and today there are 134 girls and boys, coming from ethnic minorities and from different provinces on the high plateaux. They come to Lai Thieu because the secondary school is too far from their villages, and because they do not have enough money to pay school fees. The youngest are 10 and the oldest are 24 years old.

Sr. Marie Huu spends 40 million dong (approx. & 2,500AU) each month for the food and school fees. Because Sr. Marie cannot find the funds needed, she must turn down some applicants.

We are seeking sponsorship to enable the Montagnard children to continue with an education. Without this they will always be in the worst possible position of inferiority in relation to the Vietnamese. Sponsorship will help pay the school fees.

Please contact Margaret Palin: leith.palin@three.com.au or call the office.

### *"Wanted:- a home for World Families Australia*

***In the new year the property that World Families currently calls home will be placed on the market. It will be very unlikely that the new owner would be prepared to continue the relationship with World Families that the current owner has had, for which we have been extremely grateful. Prior to moving to our current office location, World Families was paying a rental of \$60 per week, so we would be prepared to pay something of this nature, however our endeavour would be to ensure the maximum donations received reach the intended recipients rather than meeting the organization's running costs. If you are aware of an office space of approximately 25sqm with phone and computer access (although if required our office could install this) and access to toilet facilities, we would be grateful to receive your phone call and let us know. We would be happy to chase up any opportunities, however if you are able to make initial enquiries that would be fantastic. Please phone the office on 82610008 if you become aware of a possible home."***



## Brief Update On Meskele Kristos

In the first half of the year, toilets have been half built with impressive large holes dug in solid rock, by locals in the village and the structure for walls, floor and roof has been erected. Books have been supplied to the school, a collapsing school wall fixed, some table and chairs have been purchased etc. The students and staff of Meskele Kristos School have been on their yearly holidays. The longest break they have for the year. Not much has been happening over the break. Their new school year resumes in September and it is hopeful that the improvements WFA is helping to fund will continue then also. Below is a short summary from Anteneh in Ethiopia, of what will hopefully be achieved during the rest of this year. In September Anteneh plans to visit to Meskele Kristos and provide updates on the sponsored children, the school and some information which may be helpful in assisting to work out if it is possible to have water connected to Meskele Kristos. I believe there is currently none in the village or the school.

Dee Hudson

Children & School Project Officer for the Meskele Kristos Projects - Northern Ethiopia

## [Visit to Bonga](#)

I recently returned from Ethiopia in June, after spending 4 weeks in this beautiful country, meeting many amazing people. Please note that the trip was entirely self funded and no WFA donations or sponsorships were used. The highlight of the trip was the time spent in Bonga, with the wonderful Abba Alemayehu Haile, who facilitates the Ethiopian side of the sponsorship program, the boarding houses, kindergarten and caring for the elderly. His love and desire to help his community, is touching. Thanks to the generosity of so many of our sponsors, I felt very privileged to be able to visit many of the sponsored children and their families in their homes. It was humbling to see that many of our sponsored children's families feel that their sponsors are a big part of their family. Many of their homes had only a mattress on the floor and their sponsor's photos on the wall. They really do love receiving letters and photos from you! There is no doubt that sponsorship has made a huge difference in the lives of so many children and these children take nothing for granted.

## [Boarding Houses](#)

It was lovely to visit the girls and boys boarding houses which help to support students from rural areas by providing them with accommodation, so they can live in Bonga to attend high school. This is a batch sponsorship, so the money is pooled between the students, which ensures all on them benefit. Also if a student drops out of school or completes their education, they will not receive the support, but any new student joining the group will automatically receive the support of education, food and other essentials.

Currently there are 10 in the girls boarding house and 16 in the boys. They function like a family, cook and look after themselves. They are a lovely group of students who really need your help. The blankets on their beds are deteriorating and we want to be able to give as many students as possible the opportunity of an education, so if you would like to make a difference and sponsor this project or alternatively make a donation to help with the running of these houses for the students, please contact me.

## [Kindergarten](#)



Many of you may be aware that the kindergarten roof was destroyed in a storm, which means the kids were not able to attend for many months. Thanks to the generosity of many WFA donors the roof was repaired and it is wonderful to see the kids back learning and having fun.

There are 69 children attending and four teachers. The day we visited it was very wet, making it difficult for the children to get there, so there were fewer that day. Unfortunately, due to so much rain, and the walls being of mud/clay, the classroom is not holding up too well. The other part of the roof also leaks in some areas. Donations can be made to assist the kindy.

## [The Elderly in Bonga](#)

Unfortunately the elderly in Bonga have been forgotten as there are many who are homeless, have no clothing or food. Abba Alemayehu is passionate about assisting them with the basic necessities. He has managed to help 5 elderly in the community by providing them with accommodation in some small church buildings. I was fortunate to meet these frail ladies and deliver blankets to them. A portion of sponsorship money is used to employ a young man in the community to help these elderly ladies. He is currently working on growing vegetables to help with food.



Emma Lewis Project Officer for Bonga Rural, Ethiopia [embella@optusnet.com.au](mailto:embella@optusnet.com.au) 0415 978 066

## [Sahayamatha Home-Chennai, India](#)

First of all, I thank you one and all for having helped the needy and poor. All our sponsored children are keeping in good health and started their academic studies. We have paid school and college fees, bought school bags, note books and uniforms for the children. They share their love, prayers and regards to you and the sponsors who help with their studies.

Rev Sr. Alice Peter, Seva Missionary of Mary (SMSM)



Speakers are available to tell groups about the work of W.F.A.

Please contact us through the office.

Telephone: (08) 8261 0008

## LAST DAY FOR YOUR GIFT THIS QUARTER

Please pay by the

1 December 2011

### Please Note

Any articles for the next newsletter should reach us at the

office by 1st of February 2012

It takes a dreamer  
to change the world

Adele Basheer

Opinions expressed by contributors to Sponsorship News are not necessarily those of Family Families

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