



Impact

Quarterly Newsletter of
World Families Australia Inc.

Impacting children and communities

June 2010

Internet Apology see page

PROJECT NEWS



Shashenda Library Project

for many students in southwest Ethiopia (Bonga Rural region). Students in remote areas face many challenges to study, such as having a big work load at home (especially girls), long distances to walk to school, and a complete lack of resources for study and research (no books). There is no electricity in their mud and thatch huts, and often the only opportunity to study is after dark. Reading by candlelight makes this a very difficult, if not impossible, task. So WFA was delighted to have this opportunity to assist with funding a library to provide access to relevant research and study books for over 3000 students.

You may be interested to know that the approximate amount needed for this project was \$13,500 – a small amount indeed for the impact it will have on the large community.



Waiting for the concrete

NEW PROJECT: Dekia School Floors

Dekia is a village on the way to Liwan. It is the main school for the region and it is huge (about 1500 kids) but like many remote area schools in Ethiopia, lacks most facilities. They have about 70 children in each classroom (smaller than the size of an average Australian transportable classroom) and the school is overflowing. There are 4 classrooms built which are not able to be used because they have no floor. To complete these floors and other completion tasks will cost about \$5000 – and then 4 new classrooms will be available. If you would like to help, please mark your tax deductible donation as being for 'Dekia School'.

A Sponsor's Story

Visit to Ethiopia

Christine (Project Officer for Bonga Feeding Centre) and I spent 4 wonderful weeks in Ethiopia in Dec/Jan, including a short trip to Israel to bring Tamru back to Ethiopia who has recovered well from his life saving heart surgery. Please note our travel was completely self funded – **no** WFA donations or sponsorships are used for this purpose. We visited projects in Lalibela, Jimma, Bonga, Liwan, Shashenda, Chiri and Dekia and met around 350 of the children registered for sponsorship in Jimma and Bonga – many of them in their homes. I am delighted that Christine has agreed to taking on the role of the 'DOC' sponsorship children (those in the town of Jimma) whilst I will continue being the sponsorship officer for the 'DOL' (leprosy community) program.



Shashenda Library

The Shashenda library project is now completed! When Christine and I visited in January the library was already half built, and that the materials to complete the project had been purchased, AND that boxes of books are waiting to go into the library. This library is to provide much needed access to books and a place to study after dark

Postal address: P.O. Box 11, HOPE VALLEY 5090 Telephone/Fax: (08) 8261 0008
Email: worldfamilies@bigpond.com www.worldfamilies.org.au

Report from Sri Lanka



January 2009 we were at last able to make the return trip to Sri Lanka with our adopted daughter Satima and her husband Ross.

We stayed at the beautiful Galle Face Hotel on the beach and enjoyed the most amazing sunsets, restaurants and hospitality.

We visited Good Shepherd Convent at Nayakakanda and met with Sr. Nilanthi and Sr. Princy. Sr. Nilanthi showed us around the orphanage, the nursery and introduced us to the Rehabilitation girls. The girls showed us the sewing that they had left following their sale and we were lucky enough to be able to purchase some of their work. The girls were so excited we would have loved to have spent more time with them.

One day we set off to visit St. Joseph's Convent at Negombo and to meet with Sr. Murine. We were introduced to staff and given a tour of the orphanage. The girls and boys were so excited to see people and to have photos taken. It was Sr. Murine's birthday and they all sang Happy Birthday.

They would like more assistance with water supply and toilet upgrades. Also, they have had a fire and were working on repairs while we were there.

Beautiful country, beautiful people, we would love to return.

Barry & Josie Anderson



APOLOGY

Internet & Email Issues

Dear Sponsors/Donors,
With the relocation of the office to Holden Hill due to accessibility issues with the previous office in Kent Town, World Families Australia has had significant issues with internet and email services. Our previous provider, Chariot, has been bought by/merged with TPG Internet Services and our organization told that it would need to transfer to the parent company. Since moving to TPG Internet Services our organization has had approximately 4 weeks connectivity in the past 4½ months causing great frustration in the office that has not been resolved by our provider. All in all our experience, including our communication, has been an unmitigated disaster with TPG Internet Services.

World Families Australia has now engaged Telsta Bigpond.

Should you wish to contact our organization, our email address is:

worldfamilies@bigpond.com

Once again our sincere apologies for any inconvenience.

Visit to Bonga, Ethiopia January.2010

I was so thrilled to be able to travel to Ethiopia and go to Bonga to see the Kindergarten/Feeding Centre which is being run by Daughters of Charity. We stayed with the sisters for 9 days there.

The Kindergarten is located within the nuns compound, there are 150 beautiful children in 2 classrooms, 3-4yr olds in one class and 5-6yr olds in the other, school time is 8.30 - 3.30 (government rules) there are more than 50 children on the waiting list!! They are all so willing to learn, it was such a joy to watch and join in with their lessons.

There are 2 teachers trained in the Montessori System and 2 aides. They have a cook and a Cook's aide.

The children are provided with 2 meals a day, plain porridge in the morning and plain rice/ pasta in the afternoon.

Morning lessons consisted of singing, in English, naming parts of the body in English then days of the week and months in English and Amharic. Music is an important part of their lives and plays a big part in their education. Sr.Genet and I had met a visiting American nutritionist Erin and her Dr husband (Greg) the day before in another village called Sharpa and I thought it a good idea of we got together and had a talk on nutrition for the children. They were based in Chirie, a further hours drive away. You can't just hop in a car and drive in Bonga, the roads are

definitely 4 wheel drive roads only and besides none of the nuns has a license so they have to hire a driver.

We were scheduled to return to Sharpa for the consecration of a church so to kill two birds with the one stone we took two children with us who we thought needed urgent medical care. One little boy with severe malnutrition and one older boy who we thought had leprosy. Plus we could talk to Erin the nutritionist about the kindergarten food.

We dropped the kids off first then came back for the celebrations which took much longer than we thought but were truly wonderful, lots of singing and dancing, a long Mass then lunch. Off Sr. Genet and I went to collect the kids and have our discussions. Dr Greg had treated the kids, the little one with multi vitamins and his mother given a lesson in nutrition. The older child, Kifler didn't appear to have leprosy but Greg didn't know what it was (**through Dr. Abraham an Ethiopian Doctor we had met in Israel we were able to email him a picture of Kifler's hands and discover that it was a fungal infection and could be treated.**)

Our talk with Erin was great, she explained to Sr. Genet that the children's diet consisted of just carbohydrates and that they needed some protein and iron added. She said to think about eggs (meat far too expensive) and adding spinach or cabbage and carrots to their rice/pasta dishes. Sr Genet and I planned how we were going to manage all this extra spending. We went to the Dept of Agriculture where we learnt it was cheaper in the long run to buy eggs than to keep chickens. 150 eggs were quoted at 90birr approx \$9.00 so to start with the kids could have one egg meal a week. There is enough room near the KG to plant spinach, that is now going to happen. Also Injera, the national bread-like staple needs to be added to their diet, it is full of iron but because it takes so long to make the cook is loathe to make it. I would like to raise some money to buy an electric/gas Injera maker which would cost approx \$400.00. this would allow the children to have Injera every day. **Please consider sponsoring this very worthy project.** It would be so wonderful if the children could continue to have eggs in their diet.

My other plan is to build a hall/classroom. They desperately need another classroom, one that also could be used as a meeting place for the parents, for concerts and for graduation ceremonies. That is a huge project and one that has to go through Management first. That's the plan!

I cannot thank Sandi Petersen enough for letting me accompany her to this wonderful part of the world. Her heartfelt passion has rubbed off on me, so much so that I intend returning to

Ethiopia at the end of this year- I have family there now.

PS the \$400 has been raised to buy the electric Injera Maker.

Christine Hoffman
Project Officer for Bonga
Feeding Centre
ce.dj.hoffman@bigpond.com
0417793300



.2

1 Ethiopia after heart surgery

Christine and I were totally delighted to visit Tamru, (10yrs, not 11yrs as I had thought) in Israel following his surgery. Tamru is from our Lalibela Street Children's project who – as you probably all know unless you are very new to the projects – had gone to Israel for life saving heart surgery after a dramatic 6 months where he teetered at the edge of survival. Shelia, a volunteer with Save a Child's Heart (website <http://www.saveachildsheart.org>) and her husband Yosi, invited Christine and I to stay with them so we could visit Tamru and SACH.



Left: Sheila and Tamru and right: Professor Abraham and Tamru

Sheila and I had developed a strong email friendship over the year, since Sada from our WFA Jimma project went for heart surgery with SACH some years ago, so I was delighted to be given the opportunity to meet this wonderful woman who had been such a support to me, particularly during this uncertain journey of helping Tamru.

I am not sure that without her total commitment and involvement in Tamru's situation that he would have received the surgery which saved his life, due to a number of significant hurdles along the way.



Left to right: Sandi, Tamru and Christine in Nazareth

When we planned the trip we thought we would just be visiting Tamru in Israel – I had never met Tamru, so wanted to visit him so he was important to those who had helped him. He had recovered so very well from his surgery that we were allowed to bring him back to Ethiopia with us! We spent a few days of getting to know each other, with Shelia and Yosi taking us to Nazareth, Sea of Galilee and the River Jordan. Yosi found us a beach to visit when we noticed the delight on Tamru's face when he saw it in the distance (Ethiopia is a landlocked country).



Tamru is truly the most amazing child and everyone is drawn to him, from the capable and busy medical staff to the youngest and most vulnerable child. He is bright (very bright – he has learned some Hebrew, English, Swahili, Romanian etc language in the short time he was in Israel, with a large motivation being that it helped him make others arriving to the SACH guest house from other countries feel comfortable), and he is so caring of everyone.

If you would like to find out more about 'Save a Child's Heart' and visit Tamru on U-Tube with Idan Raichel (he came out WOMAdelaide a few years back) here is a link for you.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CieTkMwO3X4>

Christine and I were there as they were filming this – it was Tamru's and our day in Israel before we returned to Ethiopia. Many of the children shown in the clip are kids that Tamru became friends whilst he was there. They are a fabulous organisation!

Whilst we were in Lalibela, and before we travelled to Israel, Anteneh and Solomon (who manage the Love and Hope Lalibela Project as volunteers) took us to Tamru's village to find his mother. We wanted to arrange for her to come to the city of Addis Ababa to greet Tamru when he arrived back to Ethiopia - and of course to let her know Tamru had come through the surgery successfully.

Her village is 85 km from Lalibela along a dirt bumpy mountain track. When we arrived to the village, crowds of people came to the car and by showing Tamru's photos we were able to locate his mother and little sister. Tamru's mother was literally beaming with delight and emotion when we showed her Tamru's photos. She repeatedly kissed his photos and showed everyone who knew him. I have never seen anyone so burstingly happy. On the other hand, her daughter, aged 4yrs (and the size of an 18mth old child) was totally terrified. She had never seen a faranji (white person), nor been in a car, and she screamed and 'trilled' with fear.

As we travelled the tracks out to her hut we came across 2 of Tamru's brothers and they continued the journey with us to their home.



Their home – in which originally 8 people lived (Tamru is one of 6 children, 3 younger and 2 older) – was a tiny tukel (thatched mud hut).

Tamru will live in Addis for the short term at least.

Yarod, who is an absolutely wonderful young man that also had heart surgery in Israel a number of years ago, has welcomed Tamru into his home.

And after spending a short time with him, I felt completely confident that he is the perfect guardian for Tamru – Yarod is supremely competent. On their wall is one enlarged photo – of Yarod and his siblings WITH Tamru as part of the family.

My daughter Lexi will be meeting Sheila and her husband Yosi in Ethiopia in October this year. We

hope to take Tamru up to Lalibela to see the other kids in the house and his mother and siblings. We will do our best to ensure this young boy keeps connections with all the special people in his life.

Thank you to everyone who helped save this precious young boy's life – first of all to Anteneh who noticed him and took him into the project, to Yarod who cared enough to help a young boy he had never met, to Sheila who committed to helping him despite all the odds and made everyone care so much they couldn't say no, to everyone involved in the fabulous organization called 'Save a Child's Heart' in Israel (see <http://www.saveachildsheart.org>) who perform these miracles daily, to Dr Abraham who has not only impacted on Tamru's life but also many other children in our projects, to the Black Lion Hospital in Ethiopia who stabilized him so he could cope with surgery, to Dee and Esther, Jacqui and the many others who helped in ways which made this boys life possible.

Management Committee News

1. World Families Australia Promotion
The Committee has recently been reviewing a number of promotional aspects that support the profile of World Families Australia Inc. in the public domain:
All office stationery
The WFA brochure
The WFA website
After much discussion and review by the Sponsorship Sub-Committee, these areas will be implemented immediately upon completion.
2. Tax deductibility has also been an item for vigorous discussion. With the recent alterations to the defined countries approved by AusAid eligible for tax deductible support and the accompanying definition of "Development and relief" as opposed to "Welfare" which does not attract tax deductibility, the Management Committee to been required to spend considerable time in assessing each project against the Ausaid and Australian Taxation Offices criteria. More information of this in a future edition.
3. The Management Committee has the following office bearers for 2010:
President Di Amato
Secretary and Office Manager Bert Michels
Treasurer Elaine Smith
And the Committee welcomes Jean McMahon who is an employee facilitating all the day to day finances as Elaine has retired from this role.

Project Officers for WORLD FAMILIES AUSTRALIA

ETHIOPIA		
MMM	Morgan Smith	8523 4245
ADDIS	Kate Drogemuller	08 8948 0623
JIMMA, LIWAN, BONGA, LALIBELA	Sandi Petersen	8370 8965
BONGA Rural	Emma Lewis	0415 978 066
BONGA Feeding	Christine Hoffman	8265 5256
BONGA Women's Development	Kate Drogemuller	08 8948 0623
SAMERRO	Gemma Pilcher	07 5438 0953
WOLAYITA	Katie Davis	03 6425 1563
FIJI	Penny Bruce	8767 5074
INDIA Chennai Kolkata	Michelle Williams	8281 1544
INDONESIA		
Java	Peter Routley	8431 2118
Bali, Nais	Donna Peters	9402 3442
Mission Uplift	Jenni Callander	8255 4840
KENYA	Danni & Mike Potter	8283 0728
PHILIPPINES	Tony Bailey	8381 1695
SRI LANKA	Peter Routley	8431 2118
SRI LANKA Colombo	Elaine Smith	8264 8861
THAILAND	Gail Churchill	8344 4264
VIETNAM	Margaret Palin	8263 9022

FINANCIAL ENQUIRIES TO FINANCE OFFICER

PROJECT ENQUIRIES TO PROJECT OFFICER

OFFICE

**Open Tuesdays & Thursdays
Phone/Fax 08 8261 0008**

Voice mail can be accessed anytime and emails

4. The Management Committee has recently acquired charitable status in New South Wales and has lodged an application with the Queensland government for charitable status in the state. All requirements have been lodged we are now awaiting the outcome of this application.

DISCLAIMER: Opinions expressed by contributors to Sponsorship News are not necessarily those of World Families Australia

PHOTOCOPIER REQUIRED

You may have noticed this newsletter does not look as nice as the previous editions due to it being in black and white. Previous editions were supported by Konika Copiers who are no longer able to continue their sponsorship. I'm sure you will agree that colour photos make such a difference. World Families Australia does not have its own photocopier, however to enable the office run with volunteers it is important without newsletter sponsorship, to have its own photocopier. Our organization cannot rely on the good graces of sponsors as they can pull out as Konika has done, making it extremely difficult to arrange for newsletter printing when required. A copier capable of printing colour, the ability to do double sided and fold would cost in the vicinity of \$10,000. Should you wish to make a donation towards the purchase of such a copier, please forward your donation to Elaine Smith, identifying that it is for the purchase of a copier.

These inspiring stories make sponsorship so worthwhile. Please continue to support your projects and pass the message about the work of WFA to those you meet.



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

Please contact us through the office.

Telephone: (08) 82610008



Newsletter
Production
Diane Amato