



The Blessings of peace
The beauty of hope The
spirit of love The
comfort of faith May
these be your gifts the
Christmas Season.



The World Families Australia office will be closed from 22nd of December to 12th January 2021.

Wishing you all a secure, enjoyable and safe holiday season and a Covid-19 free 2021.

Television Required

World Families has initiated the ability for its committee members to participate in meetings using a computer program called "Zoom". This has enabled Project Officers who live interstate to engage with other members for the first time. The current screen World Families uses is a small computer monitor.

With the advent of "Smart televisions", people are updating their televisions and consequently their older flat screen become surplus to requirement.

World Families is looking for a flat screen television (no older than 5 years) to mount to the wall in our meeting room that is either 48" or 55" size that someone might like to donate. This would enable us to interact with members more readily and would be at a height that is conducive to good viewing.

If you have a television you could donate, please either email worldfamilies@bigpond.com, phone on 82587909 on a Tuesday or leave a message or contact your Project Officer and leave any relevant information

Abrenget



AGM

Presidents report 2020

Despite COVID 19 many generous donors continue to fund World Families Australia projects that improve the quality of life for communities, families and individuals.

Under Bert Michels continued leadership the governance of the organization remains strong. Di Amato continues to provide us with informative newsletters that record the activities of World Families Australia. Kerry Walker and Robyn Merritt continue to manage the finances competently. During the last 12 months adoption support activities have been minimal and discussion over the future of this aspect of the organization will be required in the coming year. Projects have continued to be managed, monitored and evaluated over the year. A new project has commenced in Bali – 'The Lighthouse' with Kate Drogemuller as the project officer. The project aims to support women with alcohol related issues to rebuild their lives so they can support both themselves and those that depend on them. Under the guidance of Dee Hudson, a major achievement this year, has been the completion of a kitchen build at Meskele Kristos, Ethiopia. Getting this build to completion was a challenging and sometimes stressful experience. Funds to fit out the kitchen will be sought over the next year.

A strategic planning meeting in August, chaired by Adele Basheer, was invaluable in assisting members of the Management Committee to articulate what aspects of the organization should remain unchanged and where change is desirable. Priorities for change include a need to focus on high value projects and better marketing strategies for present and future donors.

Updating the website has commenced. Doing so is a large undertaking. BizBoost, a long-time partner of WFA, has provided some support to the organization in this activity, at a competitive cost, and has been appreciated.

I would like to thank everyone for their support over the last twelve months. The donors who made funding the projects possible, the office staff for ensuring the organization ran smoothly, the members of the management committee and the project officers. **Thank you, Morgan Smith, President**

Last chance!

Order your *Seeds of Hope Christmas Gift Cards* now for delivery by 1st December.



The ideal gift for KK, family and friends...and those hard-to-buy for people. Every \$25 gift card you purchase will provide a family in need in Jimma or Bonga with a self-sustaining survival hamper, including valuable seeds to grow fruit and vegetables to feed their families.

Each gift card complete with envelope, will feature a lovely design and space for you to write your own message. Prefer a virtual card? Let us know and we'll create one for you to send!

ORDER your cards now for delivery by December 1st by emailing your name, address, and number of gift cards you'd like to Kerry at wfasponsorship@bigpond.com

HELP us reach our goal to provide 500 Seeds of Hope hampers by passing on order forms to others in your circle or organising a drive within your community groups.

IDEAL for Kris Kringle • Grandkids • Grandparents • Family • Friends • Work Colleagues • Staff Gifts



Life grows from the seeds of hope, love and kindness ♥

Ethiopia: two homes for destitute families

In early October I received a plea for help for a family with 6 children in the Bonga area. (see right) The family is from a cultural group who have been disadvantaged over many generations. The family has a plot of land, but their tiny tukel hut is not providing adequate shelter. For around \$2000 a simple earthen home was built for the family. The cost is very low given they already have land. After sending out an email in October about this need, donations flowed in and we now have sent the full amount needed to build them a home. I will share photos of their completed home soon.



We are now seeking funds to help another family – we started fundraising for this family a couple of years ago due to the extreme circumstances of the family. Due to a range of local government issues we have not been able to obtain land from the government. I am delighted to hear that an alternative has been found and negotiations agreed to.

The family is Weynitu, a blind woman, and her two young children. I met her a number of years ago in the Bonga hospital after she and her baby had been brutally attacked by the man she was renting a room from. He had broken both her arms and slashed her baby's head. The Medical Emergency Fund helped her access treatment in Jimma, and the Support for Sight Impaired Program (SISP) paid someone to help care for her children during her treatment. On her return to Bonga, her children were placed in the sponsorship program and the family was assisted to rent a home through the SISP fund. Unfortunately they have repeatedly had to move so we sought to build her a home of her own, to bring housing stability and space to grow food.

We are delighted to hear there is a newly built, simple two-roomed home on a plot of land with the most AMAZING established garden. The home is very close to the children's school and near to where both the sponsorship program coordinator and the SISP program coordinator live, who both provide the family with regular support. The established gardens are a bonus as this will provide a way she can start to establish a small business selling avocados, bananas and coffee beans (as well as improving her families nutrition), and a place to keep chickens and sell eggs (she has a couple of chickens through the support of the SISP program).

There is no kitchen or latrine, however we have negotiated for those to be built as part of the purchase. Traditionally people cook indoors on open fires and go to the toilet outside, but the indoor smoke leads to many health problems, as does a lack of sanitation, so we strongly encourage the buildings of outdoor cooking shelters and household outdoor latrines. The house and land, along with a new latrine and outdoor kitchen, will cost \$5700. Given we already have some funds raised for housing for this family from earlier on, and some excess funds raised for the family above, we only need to raise another \$2000 to purchase this house for Weynitu. The house will be in her name. If we receive more than this, we will provide the family with blankets and cooking utensils as we have for the other family, and if there is significantly more, it will be held to assist another destitute family with housing.

Secure housing makes such a difference to people's health and wellbeing, and COVID – which has arrived to Bonga – has made this even more important. Housing provides warmth, shelter, security, improves sanitation and hygiene, and provides space to grow food and develop small business projects.

If you would like to donate toward building the home for the family above **(tax deductible - no donation too small)**, please either:

- Send a cheque made out to World Families Australia and post to **50 Fern Grove Boulevard, Salisbury East, SA 5109** (please note new mailing address) with a note attached saying it is for '**DOB-Housing**' with your NAME and ADDRESS to get a receipt as donations/sponsorships are tax deductible.
- Or by internet transfer with the details '**DOB-Housing**'. If paying by internet you must put your name and at the same time EMAIL the WFA office wfasponsorship@bigpond.com with your postal address for a receipt for the donation.

World Families Australia sponsorship account:- Name:- World Families Australia; BSB No:- 065-149;

A/c No:- 10342470; Bank:- CBA Bank

Currently administration fees are set at a particular rate for all regular donations (quarterly) and where a large donation is made, it is capped for \$0-10,000.00 at 15% capped (\$300.00); donations between \$10,001.00 to \$20,000 capped at \$500.00 and any donations over \$20,001.00 is capped

TESTIMONY FAITH HOMES & SCHOOLS



Above is a view at the end of the 2019 School Open Day, after Prize Giving. Just the final Secondary Class graduates and Teachers, with me and Esther in the middle. We have about 850 in the School when it is full, as it was in March this year. Our current 140 orphans are of course part it all. We opened the first class of Nursery School in 1981 with just a handful of our own kids. God has blessed the School, and many have come to Love God here.

It was CLOSED in March this year, due to Covid 19.

We had to lay off without pay all our teachers. Students were all shut out.

BUT inside our Lock-down, our College and University children carried on teaching their younger brothers and sisters in ALL classes, determined they should not be at any disadvantage when School opens again. GREAT kids, as a loving and caring show of being Family together



The hundred or so of our Homes children who have been taught since March by their elder University and College brothers and sisters.

COVID and Ethiopia:

Ethiopia has been affected by COVID along with the majority of the world. For many months Ethiopia seemed to keep to a relatively small number of cases (given their population is close to 110 million) as a result of their early and aggressive response to prevent the spread, including shutting down of all schools and universities. Unfortunately, August onwards saw a rapid spike in cases, with the current number of those infected estimated at 76,988, although only 1,208 deaths have been recorded. The reason for the low percentage of deaths might be reflective of Ethiopia's young population – in 2010 41.5% of the population were under 15 years of age, and only 3.3% were aged over 65 years (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_Ethiopia#:~:text=According%20to%20the%202019%20revision,The%20average%20age%20was%2025.1.). However, it is also possible that the limited health care (and therefore testing capacity) in rural areas may impact the accuracy of statistics. Regardless, community transmission of any disease is a high risk in situations of poverty, physical vulnerability due to other illness or malnutrition, and crowded living situations.

The closure of schools and impact on people's ability to work has had a significant impact, but we are yet to understand the longer term impact of these issues. The short term impact is that Ethiopia does not have a welfare system for unemployed and already suffered from high unemployment prior to COVID, and so this has exacerbated the poverty for many of those areas supported by WFA projects, with sponsorship providing vital support for families where no other income has been possible.

Ethiopia is hoping/planning to open schools later this month, and I am unsure if everyone will repeat their school/university year or what will happen. Project officers continue to follow the situation, although a number of serious uprisings of civil unrest has led to internet and phone being down for periods of time impacting communication off and on, as well as adding to the challenges faced by the people there. We are fortunate that Christine, friend and fellow project officer, visited Ethiopia early in 2020 as I suspect it might be a couple of years before any of us are able to travel there again due to the global COVID situation.

From the Ethiopian project officers Christine, Kate, Emma, Dee, Dee, Gemma, Michelle, Morgan and Sandi



Photo by Sheila Shalhevet of Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony



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

Please contact us through the office: (08) 8258 7909

LAST DAY FOR YOUR GIFT THIS QUARTER

1st December 2020

Please Note
Any articles for the next newsletter should reach the office by XOXOXO2020



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

Editor: Diane Amato

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