



## JUDY MORRIS

Judy Morris was a wonderful friend. She had no family or children of her own but loved children and adopted children of her friends, developing a rich relationship with each of them through life. Judy believed that the world would be a better place when education and opportunities for disadvantaged people were improved.

Judy was a truly good woman; very bright, well travelled, curious, discerning and she laughed easily. Many thousands of people live with less pain and greater dignity from her professional work as a Physiotherapist and senior practitioner of the Feldenkrais method.

Judy cooked feasts and often from her garden, as she always had fruit trees and a prolific veggie garden. She was extremely well read and could talk easily about politics, music, literature, human behaviour, ecology, and botany. Every day walking the beach with her Border Collie dog, swimming in the Southern Ocean and chatting to others.

Judy educated herself, pulling herself out of a tough beginning. She travelled all over the world. Only a couple of years before she died she was hiking through the Kalimantan jungle to see Orangutan.

A generous soul and a loving, physical woman whose heart was as big as the ocean she adored.

We thank Judy for the generous bequest made to World Families Australia. In the coming newsletters please look for notification of projects completed, or started, through Judy's charitable commitment.

***Rest in Peace***

# Sight Impaired Support Project ~ Ethiopia

SISP is a grassroots project seeking to improve health, educational, social and income generating opportunities for sight impaired children and adults through a range of initiatives. Poverty and disability can be a devastating mix for children in Ethiopia, especially those in rural areas. Disability is often seen as a curse resulting from some offence in remote areas, with the stigma leading to the child hidden away and excluded from community. Some of these initiatives respond to the needs of individuals, such as helping them access medical care, housing and education (including advocacy and funding travel and other costs to access the very, very few boarding schools for blind children), whereas others are aimed at improving broader services and systems, including facilitating training in Braille for teachers in remote and town areas; funding Braille text books, slate and stylus, audio machines and other learning materials; paying bonuses to teachers who learned Braille and who took in blind students as there initially was a very low (zilch) motivation to teach them; and supporting eye clinics. The program is primarily focused on **Jimma** and **Bonga** areas, and the small villages surrounding Bonga, although where possible, the project assists children with blindness from other areas.

## Bonga News



Genet is a young energetic woman who manages the Bonga program, visiting families in their homes, liaising with local schools and teachers, and travelling by bajaj (tuk tuk) to the rural villages to check on the students and ensure the teachers being paid to tutor them are engaged in doing this. The school and home visits program were on hold between March and October 2020 due to COVID shutdowns of all schools and bans of any travel, however Genet is now travelling between towns again. The project needs to fund Genet with, gloves, sanitizer and masks for all travel within and outside Bonga. Travel during and following COVID has also seen a doubling of transport costs, which not only impacts on the SISP project, but on the lives of so many people in the context of poverty. **Genet (left in the photo on left) welcomed a little girl into her family in 2020, a little sister for her son, Ermias**



**Yohannes:** SISP developed from efforts to help Yohannes, a young blind boy I met in December 2007. He lived in a thatch and mud tukel with his mother and younger siblings. Although WFA assisted him through child sponsorship, building his family a home after their tukel burnt down, and medical assessment and care, Yohannes was desperate for an education. However, he was not welcomed in the local school and remained isolated and discriminated against. Following years of failed efforts to help Yohannes get an education, he was eventually accepted to attend Shashamene Boarding School for the Blind, after significant advocacy as by then he was 14 years old, way over the schools usual intake age of 7 years. SISP funded a tutor to help him catch up, and he rapidly progressed through his grades, often completing 2 grades each year, returning to Bonga at the end of grade 6 (the boarding school only goes to grade 6). Despite initial reluctance of the local school to accept him, eventually he was allowed to attend the Bonga Barta School. Once there, his intelligence and the quality of his character did more to change the stigma of blindness to anything else I have witnessed, leading to the school now welcoming blind students. He is no longer excluded but respected and greeted when he walks through the town. This exceptional young man is about to **start grade 12** in the pre-university stream! He hopes to be a lawyer. In June SISP funded his new Braille Amharic, geography, history, economics and civics text books for grade 12. To get this far he has had to reach national benchmarks in national exams at the end of grade 8 and grade 10. I am **hoping to raise money to buy him a computer with software that allows him to 'speak type' and 'hear'**. This would really assist him in his study. I wish him every success and am so enormously proud and in awe of his efforts and his character.





## Feven, Befekadu and some other students



Each year, for Yohannes and a number of other blind students, SISP funds Braille text books, slate and stylus, and audio-recorders (so they can tape their lessons). These are quite expensive and completely out of reach for schools or families to provide. A few years ago SISP also funded a large amount of Braille text books for Shashamene boarding school.

Feven (photo left) is a young blind girl in Bonga. She is now just finishing grade 9 (Ethiopian school year goes from mid-September to July) and so we have ordered her grade 10 Braille history, geography, biology and Amharic text books. Other students include Ibrahim, Husien, Ageze and Ayineza who live in rural villages surrounding Bonga, with village school teachers who attended the training in Braille education tutoring them. A young girl, Abebash, from Adiya region is being assisted with transport, personal needs and other costs to attend Shashamene Blind Boarding School. This is a 3-day bus trip from Bonga. Nigusie, who was previously assisted in attending Shashamene School, has now completed senior school and hoping to be accepted to university. He is currently in Addis Ababa (capital city) attending some further training through Dr. Tamiru. Dr Tamiru is a blind Ethiopian-Canadian who has been pivotal in supporting us with training of

teachers and access to Braille materials and who has a special interest in assisting blind students in university. Some blind children/youth are unable to manage senior school grades, so we seek ways to help them get some work training or set up small business initiatives.

## Waynetu moves into her own home



SISP also assists families where a parent's blindness brings poverty, discrimination and homelessness for the family. Waynetu (photo left) is a blind single mother who was destitute, abused and homeless. I met her a number of years ago after she had been beaten, both arms broken, she was blind, homeless, unable to use her arms, with a baby and young daughter. The family has been helped through SISP, the emergency medical fund, and child sponsorship for her two children. In 2020 this family was bought their very own home through the Bonga Housing project. The newly built house is close to the children's school, and is on land with mature avocado, banana, coffee and other plants, providing them with a means to make a small income.

## A new family in the program



We have a new Bonga family who has entered the program. Ago Mamo (photo on right) became blind a few years ago. They live some distance from Bonga and the family is struggling to manage. SISP has funded his travel and associated costs to Jimma for medical assessment and treatment. His daughters Abebash and Asnakech have been entered into sponsorship program.

Kind Regards,

Sandi Petersen

Email: [rspetersen@optusnet.com.au](mailto:rspetersen@optusnet.com.au)

## Meskele Kristos School Kitchen



This image was taken outside the recently completed Meskele Kristos School kitchen. Those pictured include School Staff, Education Department representatives, community members and project development workers. The kitchen has been constructed with the aim to provide nutritional meals to students studying at the school to encourage attendance and supplement dietary deficiencies. The objective of engaging the local community is to make the future feeding program sustainable, community managed and encourage strong community engagement. More sponsors are needed to reach our goal for the feeding program.

You can find out more at [www.worldfamilies.org.au](http://www.worldfamilies.org.au) or you can contact Dee Hudson (Project Officer) on 0404 454 390.



## New Project Officer for Mission Uplift

Françoise Penaluna was born in France & came to Australia in 1971 with her family. She met and married Jim and has 3 children; 2 boys, 1 girl & 7 grandchildren! Françoise enjoys reading, entertaining and sewing. She is on her 65th blanket!

Françoise became involved with Mission Uplift over 20 years ago through Jenni Callender, who encouraged her to go to Indonesia with her. Since then she has visited the project about a dozen times, her husband joining her on several occasions, helping with the maintenance of the buildings while she runs seminars.

Mavis Pardede, founded and developed the project to what it is today, has had some personal issues and while still very involved with Mission Uplift, is turning over the daily work load to Françoise. We thank Mavis for her tireless work and her wonderful commitment to the children and wish her all the best in the future.

With Femi, running the project in Indonesia, the project is in good hands and will continue to provide loving care for the children of Mission Uplift. So let's all reach out and keep up the good works.

## Letter From A Sponsor

At times, after many years of doing the same thing, you can find yourself becoming somewhat jaded. A small note from a stranger can have a big impact. This was the case when an email was received from a long term supporter. We at the office were both humbled and lifted by the kind words so eloquently expressed. I thought of all of you, our sponsors, who have supported World Families for so many years and felt that you too, would appreciate this missive. So, should you ever be feeling that you have been donating forever and you are being taken for granted, look to and remember this wonderful email and the sentiment behind it. And a huge thank you all and to our long term sponsor!

*We have never met. I have been a small and largely silent long term supporter of WFA. I have, in newsletters, seen bits and pieces about various projects - always interesting, however, too often the newsletter is skimmed or 'left to look at later' and 'later' never comes.*

*This latest newsletter caught my attention - as did mention of the new website.*

*Congratulations - the website is terrific - I found myself willingly 'taken' around the globe - readily navigating the site - a plethora of interesting and readily accessible information.*

*As for WFA - in the relating of activities and goals about all that WFA does and wants to do, there is a fundamental unstated honesty and integrity that flavours the whole.*

*So many 'good undertakings' seem - at times unwittingly - to become bogged down and sidetracked by the business side of life and by 'finance' rather than 'funding', by 'profit' rather than by 'people'. Profit then moves to salaries and the like, so 'non profit' status remains, however, somewhere along the line, meeting the true needs, staying focussed on the intended task, is re-shaped and some of the 'goodness' is lost.*

*This does not seem to have been the case with WFA.*

*So, thank you - the past hour has been well spent.*

From one of our long term supporters



## News From Bonga



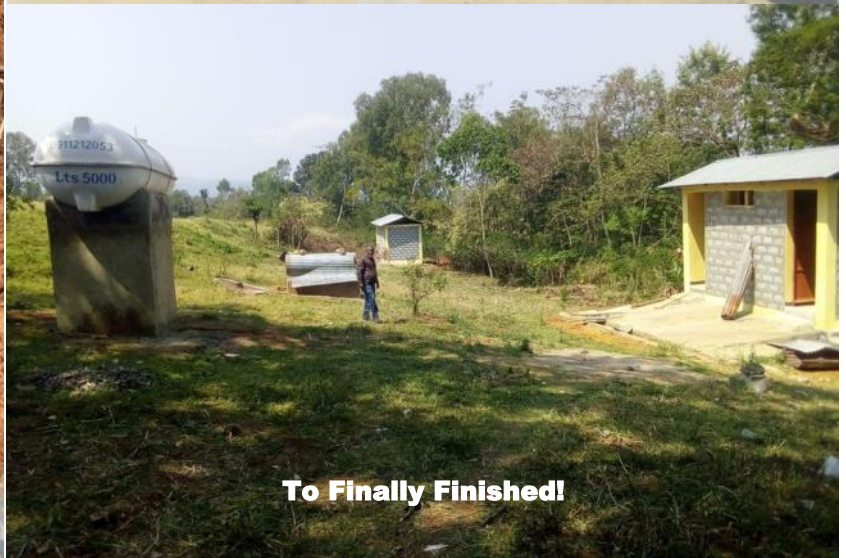
**From This**



**Director, Ato Asrat**



**To This**



**To Finally Finished!**

One toilet for 690 odd children, it has taken awhile!. Because Bonga Barta Elementary School is a Public School, any works etc. has to go through the local Council. First a Contractor has to be booked at a cost. When that Contractor has had enough and leaves ½ way through the project, another Contractor is booked, again at a cost. When that Contractor takes the money and runs etc,etc, it becomes a very long project.

So we now have a Female toilet block which includes showers and a male toilet block and the biggest expense the water and water tank. On behalf of the school and Ato Asrat, the Director, I just want to thank all of you who donated to this Project .Special big thank you's to my dear "Springwood Cottage" ladies who helped organize a very eventful and fruitful Film Night, a special thank you to the children from St Francis Xavier's School at Wynn Vale and to St David's at Tea Tree Gully, as well as the Spencer and Baker Families for their wonderful generosity.

I certainly has been a long haul. This year is the first time in 10 years that I have not visited Ethiopia, and boy do I miss it.

### SPONSORSHIP

I have children in Bonga awaiting sponsorship, if you wish to sponsor a child please get in contact with me by email:- [ce.dj.hoffman@bigpond.com](mailto:ce.dj.hoffman@bigpond.com) Thank you all, Christine Hoffman



# ***Testimony Faith Homes***

## ***Eldoret, Kenya***

Testimony Faith Homes situated in Eldoret, Kenya provides a home and family, education and health support for over 100 children who are either orphaned or unable to be cared for by relatives. The children ranging in age from 5 to 23 years of age live in four family homes with house parents. Donations sent through WFA support the Care and Development of these children.

In terms of Development, projects have been established with the goal of ensuring that Testimony has a steady supply of food without the need of spending their limited finances on purchasing food in town. It is hoped that these three projects will generate their own income and become self sustainable in themselves in the near future also.

### **The Bakery**

The Testimony Bakery not only supplies the children of the homes with bread but also has the capacity to sell bread to nearby schools. Unfortunately COVID restrictions saw the closures of local schools for a year in 2020, therefore restricting the income to keep this project running without WFA support. The bakery continued to produced bread for the children at Testimony throughout the year and allowed its bakers to keep their jobs. Whilst schools in Kenya have reopened this year, the restrictions have continued and so the demand for bread sales in the community remains low. Donations sent through WFA will continue to keep the Bakery up and running as we wait for business to resume.



### **Water tanks and crops**

Testimony relies on water supply from the local municipal council. Both the mains supply and rainfall are erratic, and the Homes often run dry during the dry season. The cost of mains water is also a drain on Testimony finances.

As the founder of Testimony Faith Homes, Mr John Green , wrote in February this year,



*Eldoret has almost doubled in size in the last three to four years from a population of 300, 000 to 600, 000! Rainfall has reduced during this period and the few reservoirs that feed the town are not enough, and soon reduce at the slightest reduction in rainfall, as now it has not rained for eight weeks. The problem is pressure so we cannot get water into our tanks. Daryl (Director) is putting mini pumps into the system to offset this but the Town is rationing water.*

These unpredictable events put hygiene for the children and the growing of vegetables, which are essential to the ongoing health of the children, at risk. The lack of water supply makes achieving food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture very difficult.





**Vegetable Garden**

Thanks to WFA donations the Homes have installed four rainwater tanks. Three of these service small vegetable gardens and one is shared between two of the houses.

We will continue to work with Testimony Faith Homes to find solutions to their water supply issues. One possibility could be that water will be found underground and a bore can be dug.



**Dairy**

It is exciting and encouraging to see photos of the dairy cows grazing. This photo shows the cows on the school oval. COVID may have meant that students were not on site but it was an advantage for the cow herder as he has extra space for the cows to graze. Testimony currently have a population 11 at the dairy section, including calves. They have experienced a few problems with their cows in the recent past. As a result of complications with pregnancies, the Home is currently relying on one Ayrshire for milk. The others are giving very little amounts of milk. They are currently buying at least 20 liters of milk a day to meet their daily demand. They have decided to slaughter two bulls, for consumption in the Homes and to also sell to the school. This will help meet milk demand and to buy feed for the cows.

The area around the chicken coup shows evidence of the dry spell during April and May. The chickens have also presented challenges. The Coops were striped of stock and the team have just brought in 250 broilers. They are planning on maintaining a cycle of broiler's to help maintain a steady flow of chicken meat to the children. As to the exact numbers of people testing positive to COVID in Eldoret it is difficult to say as in Kenya people must pay for their COVID tests. A cost that is beyond the reach of most of the population. However, throughout the pandemic, all children and staff at Testimony Faith Homes have remained healthy and we are happy to report COVID free. House parents have had their first round of the vaccine and continue to uphold good hygiene and health practices in their homes.



**Chicken Coop**

**Danielle Potter <daniellepotter64@gmail.com>**



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 September 2021**

### Please Note

**Any articles for the next newsletter should reach the office by 26th October 2021**

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