

## New Year Brings Change

World Families Australia has changed its email platform. In order to increase security and speed of email reception, we are now utilizing our own domain name; "[worldfamilies.org.au](http://worldfamilies.org.au)". Whilst the old email address, [worldfamilies@bigpond.com](mailto:worldfamilies@bigpond.com), will continue to be monitored for sometime, we would appreciate the use of the following respective email addresses when contacting the office, please direct your queries to the following:

|                                |               |  |
|--------------------------------|---------------|--|
| Office management              | Bert Michels  | <a href="mailto:bertmichels@worldfamilies.org.au">bertmichels@worldfamilies.org.au</a>   |
| General information/Newsletter | Di Amato      | <a href="mailto:diamato@worldfamilies.org.au">diamato@worldfamilies.org.au</a>           |
| Financial                      | Kerry Walker  | <a href="mailto:kerrywalker@worldfamilies.org.au">kerrywalker@worldfamilies.org.au</a>   |
| Sponsorship                    | Robyn Merritt | <a href="mailto:robynmerritt@worldfamilies.org.au">robynmerritt@worldfamilies.org.au</a> |

This information may also be found on our website; [worldfamilies.org.au](http://worldfamilies.org.au).

### To Our Long Term Donors



The triannual review carried out in 2021 showed that we have a significant number of sponsors who have supported children and communities through WFA for 10, 20, 30 and even 40 years. Thank you! WFA would like to honor and acknowledge these long time sponsors and donors and the difference they have made – most importantly to those children and projects WFA supports, but also to the stability, longevity and capacity of WFA as an organization to do the work we do. We would love to hear from any of our long-term supporters about why you have assisted through WFA for so long, and a little about you and how you came to hear about WFA. With your permission we would be keen to put some of these in the newsletters over 2022, so please let us know if that would be okay. If you do not want it shared in the newsletter, instead it will only be shared with the committee".

### Project Officer Needed for Phuket

We thank Peter Mann for stepping in as Project Officer after the passing of Kevin Lynch. Peter now has other commitments and needs to relinquish this role. We are seeking a new Project Officer to handle the Phuket project. The Phuket project (TPT) supports children who come from marginalized groups that are not recognized by the Thai government for support, and hence are unable to access education. The main aim is to support these children to gain an education and become useful members of society.

Please contact the office if you would like to discuss the requirements and duties of a Project Officer.

## WFA Liwan Projects

For those of you who have followed the projects for a long time, you might remember that WFA funded the building of a school (grade 1-4) , a clean water system and a couple of 'long drop' latrines in 2008. The photo's below show the school classrooms, before and after the building project. Liwan is a very remote region of 4 villages making up a population of a few thousand people from the Shuro and Manja cultural groups, who have been marginalized and discriminated against over generations. Other WFA projects to the region include a Health Post, medical outreach and provision of stretchers, boarding homes, kitchen and latrines for students attending grade 5 and above in Dekia, classrooms to increase capacity of Dekia school, solar systems for the Health Post and boarding homes, and oxen and seedling to increase food security in Liwan. It is a very patriarchal village with most men having multiple wives, and each wife having many children. Malnutrition, high birth/maternal and infant death rate, early marriage, lack of basic health care and a lack of education are just some of the challenges faced.

WFA received a generous bequeath from a long-time supporter, Judy Morris. Judy supported a number of Ethiopian children and knitted a ton of beanies, baby clothes and blankets over the years for us to take to various projects. I took many of them to Liwan, as well as to other projects. Judy's fund is being spread across numerous projects in various countries. In Liwan it is being used in 3 areas: 1) completing the village latrines, 2) completing the Teachers Residence, and 3) towards replacing the now defunct gravity-fed clean water system.



Left: The gravity water system that needs replacing.



Right: Original water source during dry season

**Clean Water System:** WFA funded the very first clean water project in Liwan in 2008. This was life changing as previously the only nearby water source was a muddy small creek which was soiled by oxen and people walking through it and washing. Dysentery is a significant cause of death and illness, especially for the children and elderly. The gravity water system was pipes collecting water from a waterfall high up in the hills. However, over the years the pipes clogged up due to the narrow diameter of the pipes. Although, repairs were done, it now requires an upgraded replacement. We are seeking donations to assist in this, with the local contractors having learned lessons of what is best after the earlier efforts. We are so grateful for Judy's bequeath providing a starting fund for this, but **still need to raise \$15,500**. As it is the dry season it is the very best time to do this work. All donations gratefully received, whether small or large, and are **tax deductible**.



Original school class room

25.12.2006

## Liwan Projects, Continued

**The School Latrines** are now completed and I have attached a photo (see below). The latrines, built in 2008, have long filled up and were no longer useable. Lack of sanitation is the biggest cause of dysentery and a primary cause of death in children in Ethiopia. We hope over time the community will be interested in building latrines for their homes with the children learning about the importance of sanitation at school.



**New toilet block, completed**

**The Teachers Residence:** is partially complete however it is now on hold until the rains start again. The dry season means they can't make the mud needed to seal the walls in the local building structure way (very similar to the wattle and daub structures used by early Australian settlers). They can only get the water for this from a small river and in the dry season this dries up. So the building will re-start when the rains return. *\*No further funds required for this project\** thanks to earlier donations from supporters and from Judy's bequeath.

**COVID prevention** – The Medical Outreach Project (MOP) funded distribution of soap, hand sanitizer and masks across multiple projects in Ethiopia to help limit COVID spread. Of course, soap is only helpful in the wet season until we have the clean water system functional again. For this reason I had asked for hand sanitizer to be given instead, but they were concerned that the people would drink it as they have such limited water and a complete lack of familiarity with the purpose of hand sanitizer.

If you would like to donate toward the Liwan Clean Water System (**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** with a note attached saying it is for '**LIW-Water**' with your NAME and ADDRESS to get a receipt as donations/sponsorships are tax deductible.

Or by internet transfer with the details '**LIW-Water**'. If paying by internet you must put your name and at the same time EMAIL the WFA office [wfasponsorship@bigpond.com](mailto:wfasponsorship@bigpond.com) with your postal address for a receipt for the donation.

WFA Sponsorship account> Name: World Families Australia> BSB No. 065-149> A/c No. 10342470>  
Bank: CBA Bank Sandi Petersen, Liwan Project Officer



**Current school class room**

# The Story Of Kumelachew



I first met Kumelachew in Jimma, Ethiopia in March 2015. Kedouse, our Social worker brought him to meet me to see if I could help him. He was very sick boy in desperate need of a heart operation. World Families has an association with Save a Childs Heart in Tel Aviv, Israel. They will take a child with heart problems from Third World Countries and operate for nothing. It is an amazing Charity. On my first trip to Ethiopia with Sandi Petersen in 2009, we added Israel to our itinerary, as one of Sandi's boys from Lalibela was in hospital there recovering from a heart operation. Could we stop on the way and pick him up and take him back with us to Ethiopia. We met Sheila who insisted we stay with her and her husband, She was SACH's official photographer, that friendship lasted until she passed away last year.

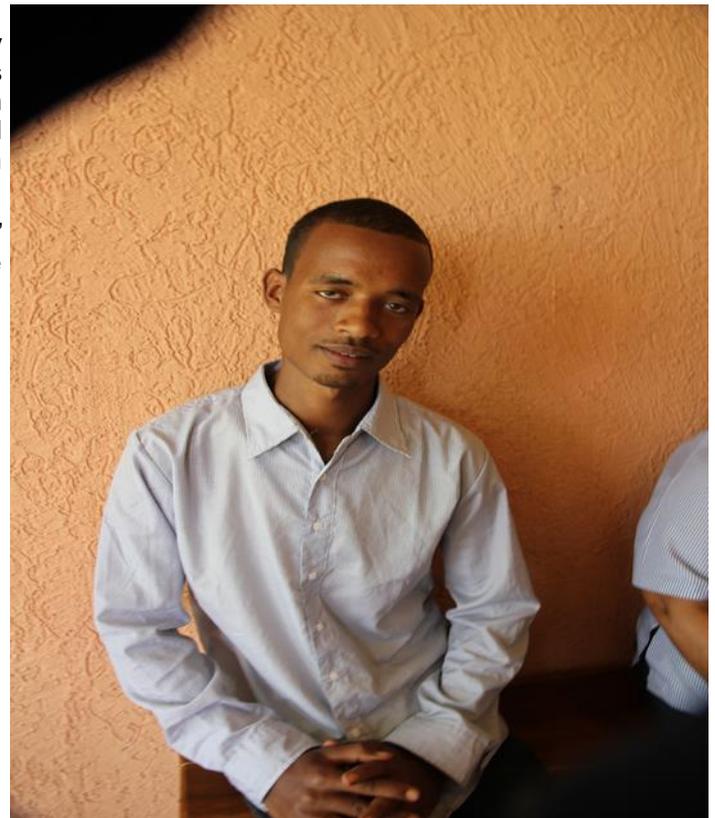
I took Kumelachew to see Dr. Abreham, head of Paediatrics at Jimma Hospital. He was very sympathetic but his hands were tied, Kumelachew was 18 years old and SACH only took

children under 18 years old. So I was able to contact Simon Fisher, the director of SACH, he too was sympathetic, nothing he could do, after a couple of days he rang me back and said SACH would do the operation for half price - \$10,000.00 plus airfares. Then you wonderful people came to the rescue. The needed money was raised and Kumelachew was off to Israel with Sheila keeping an eye on him whilst he was there.

When I met him again the following year, what a totally different lad I met. He couldn't wait to get back to studies and complete years 11 and 12. This year I received an email from Kedouse stating that Kumelachew had completed his University studies and had graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Social work!

Thank you all for your support, what a wonderful "trip" this has been. I wish I could fly over and give him a huge hug from all of us. Xx

Christine, Project Officer for Jimma and Bonga, Ethiopia





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 June 2022

**Please Note**  
Any articles for the next newsletter should reach the office by 26th April 2022

## PROJECT OFFICERS for WORLD FAMILIES AUSTRALIA

### ETHIOPIA

|                          |  |              |
|--------------------------|--|--------------|
| DEKIA                    | Dee Lumsden                                    | 0413 187 049 |
| ADDIS-BGW                | Morgan Smith                                   | 08 8522-7694 |
| BULBULA                  | Kate Drogemuller                               | 08 8948 0623 |
| JIMMA DOL,DOC-B<br>DOL-S | Michelle Nethery<br>Michelle.nethery@gmail.com |              |

JIMMA,LIWAN, BONGA,  
LALIBELA, SYPPORT FOR  
SIGHT IMPAIRED &  
MEDICAL OUTREACH

|                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| Sandi Petersen | 0408 712 308 |
|----------------|--------------|

BONGA Rural

|            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| Emma Lewis | 0415 978 066 |
|------------|--------------|

JIMMA-DOC  
BONGA Feeding,  
BONGA-BWDP  
SAMERRO

|                                    |                              |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Christine Hoffman<br>Gemma Pilcher | 0417 793 300<br>07 5438 0953 |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|

WOLAYITA

|             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| Katie Davis | 03 6425 1563 |
|-------------|--------------|

MESKELE KRISTOS

|            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| Dee Hudson | 0404 454 390 |
|------------|--------------|

### INDIA

|        |             |              |
|--------|-------------|--------------|
| Minjur | Jenny Minck | 08 8258 7909 |
|--------|-------------|--------------|

### INDONESIA

|                                |                 |              |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Ruth/Naomi<br>Community Centre | Chrissy Sulisty | 0451 766 483 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|

Mission Uplift

|                   |           |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Francios Penaluna | 8260 2142 |
|-------------------|-----------|

### KENYA

|                 |             |              |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------|
| Neema           | Liz Rankin  | 0434 692 207 |
| Testimony Homes | Dani Potter | 08 8283 0728 |

### PHILIPPINES

|              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| Elaine Smith | 0414 434 533 |
| Bruce Smith  | 0414 953 533 |

### SRI LANKA

|                        |               |              |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Shalom Children's Home | Steve Hodgson | 0438 875 957 |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------|

|         |  |              |
|---------|--|--------------|
| Colombo | Karan Coombe-Smith<br>karan.combesmith@gmail.com | 0403 690 695 |
|---------|--|--------------|

### THAILAND

|            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| Peter Mann | 08 8363 2585 |
|------------|--------------|

### FINANCIAL/SPONSORSHIP ENQUIRIES:

Kerry Walker Sponsorship/Financial Officer

[kerrywalker@worldfamilies.com.au](mailto:kerrywalker@worldfamilies.com.au)

Emails monitored daily

Robyn Merritt Sponsorship/Financial Officer

[robynmerritt@worldfamilies.com.au](mailto:robynmerritt@worldfamilies.com.au)

OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesdays

Phone 08 8258 7909

POSTAL ADDRESS:

50 Fern Grove Bld.

Salisbury East SA 5109

EMAIL:

[worldfamilies@bigpond.com](mailto:worldfamilies@bigpond.com)

WEB:

[www.worldfamilies.org.au](http://www.worldfamilies.org.au)

WHEN TIMES  
CHANGE, SO  
MUST WE

BARACK OBAMA



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

Editor: Diane Amato