

## 2023 MINISTRY UPDATE

**"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13**

This Bible verse is so powerful, and I pray that it encourages you as you read this letter. I was struck by the wording of the verse that not only can we have hope, but that we can **overflow** with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. In coming alongside Shining Lights Children's Home in Ethiopia, our desire is to provide safety, care, and education to the 17 children there, and our desire is that each child will encounter the God of hope! We pray **that each child will trust in Jesus and overflow with hope to others who need Christ.**



Genet, our board member, alongside her husband Dawit, after sharing at a church in Ethiopia when she went to the children's home in 2019

Along these lines, recently, the Lord laid it on our board member Genet's heart to video conference with the children each Saturday to disciple them further in their faith. **The Lord spoke to Genet's heart about the fact, that in addition to providing for their physical needs, the children need a really strong spiritual foundation.** Although they go to church each Sunday and receive Biblical instruction from the caretakers at Shining Lights, she felt, after her time of prayer, that the children need even more discipleship. Before coming to the United States, Genet was an evangelist and led many people to Christ in both Kenya and Ethiopia. Currently, she and her husband pastor an Ethiopian congregation in Fargo, North Dakota. We are excited that she is responding to what the Lord has laid on her heart.

As children at Shining Lights Children's Home continue to grow and thrive, **we are excited to share that one of the older boys (now in 9th grade) was selected last spring to speak at a regional meeting sponsored by the government to advocate for quality orphan care.** Sesa, the oldest of three brothers living on the street before coming to the children's home, spoke to government officials, community leaders, and families about the importance and impact of providing quality care to orphans. He encouraged everyone present to care for orphans as if they were their own children.



Sesa, in the middle, sharing about the importance and impact of providing quality orphan care

In addition to being chosen for the advocacy opportunity, Sesa was also distinguished among his peers after receiving the highest test scores of all 8th graders in the city. The director noted that many of the children at the children's home are excelling academically. The director is thrilled that the students are succeeding in school. He is also very thankful for all the support that makes quality education, tutoring, and Christian care possible.

We also want to thank you for your continued financial and prayer support. As we end this year and continue to support Shining Lights Children's Home, would you consider partnering with us for the first time or as continued support in one of two ways?

- By making a monthly recurring donation to the ministry to help us continue to grant financial support. Recurring donations can be set up on our website's donate page (see below).
- By making a year-end donation of any amount to Shining Lights Ministry.

Thank you,

*Brianna Nelson*

Board Chair

**Ways to Donate:**

**Online:** [www.shininglightsministry.org/donate](http://www.shininglightsministry.org/donate)

**Mail:** Shining Lights Ministry, 119 37th Ave E, West Fargo, ND 58078

*Shining Lights Ministry is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and donations are tax-deductible. We encourage you to check with your employer to see if donations can be matched. We are currently approved to receive workplace matching funds through Benevity for specific projects.*

P.S. Below is a summary of our functional expenses for the fiscal year July 2022-June 2023.

