

A TRIP TO ETHIOPIA, A TESTIMONY, AND LAND

Summer is here, and the children at Shining Light's Children's Home in Ethiopia are preparing to begin their summer break. Recently, it was decided to shorten the length of Ethiopian students' summer break, allowing students more time in school, so this summer break will be slightly different than summers in the past. As we have done each summer, we want to update you on what has been happening at the children's home, so this letter includes **news regarding a trip Genet took to Ethiopia, an amazing testimony of salvation and deliverance, and some information about a specific fundraising project we are very excited about - the children's home pursuing the purchase of a piece of property.**

Genet's Trip to Ethiopia in December

Last December, Genet traveled with her husband to Ethiopia to spend time with some family and to visit the children's home. While they were together, Genet spent time encouraging everyone in their faith, and they also discussed areas of the children's home that were going well and areas that could be improved. The time was not only encouraging for the children and workers but also for Genet. Genet and Arero Wario, the children's home director, have commented many times since the trip that the children's faith in Christ is solid and growing! **Last week, during a phone call, we asked Arero what has been most exciting for him this year. He shared that many of the children are involved at church, leading worship, and even preaching!** He also shared the following testimony of how God powerfully used Kabele, one of the older girls at the children's home, and Chuni, one of the main caretakers!



Kabele (far left) with Chuni (center), Turu (far right), and Dabo (front center)

Kabele Shares the Gospel

Kabele, now 16, had received Jesus Christ after arriving at Shining Lights Children's Home. **This year, Kabele wanted to return to the rural area where she had come from to share the gospel with the wife of a family who had helped take care of her before she came to the children's home.** Chuni went with her, and they shared the gospel. The wife accepted the message and said she wanted to receive Jesus as her personal Lord and Savior. They were thrilled! When they prayed for her, not only did she accept Christ, but she was also delivered from a demonic spirit. Praise God!

Since then, and because of this woman's testimony, four other individuals have accepted Christ in this rural area. **When Arero shared this story, we were rejoicing and so thankful that Kabele was obedient to what the Holy Spirit was leading her to do, and we praised God for how He used her to spread the gospel.** This story brought to mind the verse where Jesus commissions his disciples to *"Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give."* Matthew 10:8 NIV

Three More Children and Buying Land

During our last phone conversation with Arero, we also asked him, “What is your vision for the future, and what has God put in your heart to do? **First, Arero replied that he would like to add three more children needing care by the end of the summer, so there would be 20 children.** He will work with local government officials and the Ethiopian Board of Directors to decide which orphans to accept. There is space to do this in the current home where the children live. They also have enough bed frames to accommodate three more children. However, additional funds will be needed to increase the amount we send for food, clothing, and education.

Secondly, he shared that they desire to purchase land. One area of concern is the situation regarding the current property they are renting. Although this property is in a great location and has been a huge blessing, the possibility of it not being rented to the children’s home in the future is a strong reality. Arero has inquired about three pieces of land nearby that cost between 400,000 and 600,000 birr. This equates to about \$7,600-\$11,500. So we are asking for your help!

Our goal is to raise enough money so Shining Lights Children’s Home can buy one of the three pieces of land as soon as possible. Below is a QR code you can scan that links to a video of Arero walking around the preferred piece of land, which would be around \$11,500. Would you prayerfully consider partnering with us to enable the children’s home to purchase this land? Ways to donate are listed below, and donations designated for purchasing property can be marked with the note “land,” or you could email us to designate a donation at the email address below. Any donations not designated will go to the general fund.

Thank you for your continued interest, prayer, and financial support. We are excited to see how God is growing Shining Lights Children’s Home. We are thrilled at how the children are growing in their faith and anticipate all that God will do in the future. Our continued prayer is that the children will let their light shine for Christ, even as they are doing so already!

Trusting Him,

Bianna Nelson

Board Chair



Scan and then click the link to view the video of the potential land.

Ways to Donate:

Online: www.shininglightsministry.org/donate

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

Questions or messages: shininglights@shininglightsministry.org

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.