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For two years we've had to postpone our visit to Ethiopia because of political troubles, but this January two members of the Board, Henk Pielage and Jan Jaap de Vries, were able to go. In this newsletter we'll recount some of their experiences which included visiting all the schools and projects where they found that 'our' pupils are doing well and that on the whole the micro credits seem to be working.

Thank you for your support making it possible to provide a better future for these underprivileged children.

Solidarity

At St Michael's School in Addo (where we support 53 children) the teachers are concerned about the miserable living conditions of some Somalian refugees, who speak the same language. They've all made a commitment to donating 5% of their monthly salary.

Date Dec. 25/12/2017

Addo St. Michael Catholic School and KG Teachers and supportive staff.

S/N	NAME OF THE TEACHERS	BASIC SALARY	5% DEDUCTION	REMARKS
1	Terfasa Negewo	5,304.00	265.20	School Teachers
2	Getachew Ragasa	4,085.00	204.25	
3	Adugna Tolesa	2,748.00	137.40	
4	Idile Tadesse	2,748.00	137.40	
5	Ayale Fetene	2,404.00	120.20	
6	Ararse Gamula	2,404.00	120.20	
7	Bilisa Alomayew	2,404.00	120.20	
8	Gamachu Itana	2,404.00	120.20	
9	Meseret Tesfaye	2,404.00	120.20	
10	Sara Toia	2,404.00	120.20	
11	Shimalis Desta	2,404.00	120.20	
12	Almaz Beyene	4,085.00	204.25	Kg. Teachers
13	Desatu Legese	4,085.00	204.25	
14	Birtukan Terfa	2,404.00	120.20	
15	Birtu Malimo	2,001.00	100.05	Supportive staffs
16	Rosa Tolesa	2,197.00	109.85	
17	Terfa Workineh	2,197.00	109.85	
18	Yohannis Abdisa	1,611.00	75.55	
19	Zerihun Mulata	1,916.00	95.80	
	Total	52,109.00	2,605.45	

On behalf of ECS Apostolic Vicariate of Nekemte I would like to thank you all for your contribution of 5% from your salary for the displaced Oromo Sumale.

Thank you
 May God Bless you!
 Fr. Wakuma Ebisa, School Director

The payroll (printed above) shows the teachers' monthly salaries and how much they donate. A junior teacher earns 2400 Ethiopian birr per month (€ 72). That's not a great amount of money, yet they are willing to give away some of it to people who are more in need of it. Charitable giving is infectious!

Maternity visit

We sponsor a micro credit program in Sakko. This includes 15 mothers whose children are also supported by us. We visited the homes of some of these mothers; one of them



just had a baby (see photo above). She and her husband now have five children and they needed to expand their house so the nuns lent them 7000 birr (about €210) so they were able to do this. The husband, who is employed by the nuns, pays off 200 birr every month.

The 15 women who participate in the micro credit program have a joint bank account; twice a month each of them makes a deposit of 20 birr. Slowly but steadily, their savings are increasing. We have donated €3800 to this project. They have used some of the money to build a henhouse for 10 hens and one rooster. (see photo below).



The women sell the eggs and hope to breed more chickens.

There is also a little shop and a corn mill where the women grind the wheat for the villagers for a small payment. This gives some income at the moment. However, things will get better when each of these women uses a loan to buy a cow, in calf. After the calf has been born they can start milking. The morning milk, which is best, will be sold and they'll keep the evening milk for their own family.

The plan is that eventually they'll be able to pay back their loan for the cow, as has happened in similar projects we have sponsored. In the end the women will become self-supporting; already they are able to pay for the education of their children themselves.

De Overhael campaigning for three orphan children

De Overhael, a primary school in Driehuizen, since December 2017 has been campaigning to support four orphan children in Tekalegn: Robera, Ararso, Ebise and Yisihak. Their mother died last year of a fatal illness and they recently lost their father in an accident. Currently the children live with their grandmother in Nekemte.

The pupils raised €500 during a Christmas campaign which will pay for school fees, uniforms, books etc. Henk organized the contact between de Overhael and the orphan children who were represented by Sister Ancy. From now on the school will keep in touch via email.



Granny and the four children Tekalegn

Henk and Jan Jaap visited the Tekalegn family at their home. Earlier that morning they had met the children at school and cheered them up with some presents. In the afternoon they took a rickshaw to Granny's little house, accompanied by Sister Ancy and one of the teachers who speaks Amhar. The roads were in a bad condition and the rickshaw

nearly toppled over, but they arrived safely in the end. The visit was a happy surprise for the children who recognized Henk and Jan Jaap of course, and for their grandmother. The courage of this brave family made a big impression.

Henk and Jan Jaap noticed that grandmother is suffering from podoconiosis (elephantiasis). They recommended her to people who run a project in which patients are being treated and financially supported.

Please keep donating - 100% of your donation will be well spent!

Samson wants to be a doctor

This is Samson Issac, an orphan who lives with his aunt in Addis Abeba.



Fortunately he is a very bright young man and he has a lot of stamina too. Because of his excellent academic results he has been admitted to a prestigious medical school at Black Lion Hospital in Addis where he is in his second year. He is hoping to become a surgeon eventually. Our trust is delighted to give him some financial support.

Henk and Jan Jaap met him when visiting Addis Abeba. Samson was very pleased with the stethoscope, blood pressure meter and thermometer we presented him with; important equipment for a doctor! He asked us if we could help with textbooks: we'll try to bring these next time.

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