



EthioFaith USA: Developing Christian Special Education for Ethiopia

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Adonias is a Greek word meaning a youth of remarkable beauty. Our Adonias has been a student at Faith School since it began and his story is a story of beauty. Adonias was given his name by his grandmother from his father's side. He was born in 2013 from his mother Nigist and father Addisu in their early relationship as an unwanted pregnancy.

Adonias's mother witnessed initially that the infant had many symptoms of delay, but it wasn't until the end of Adonias's first year that a doctor confirmed the diagnosis of Down Syndrome. Nigist, the child's mother said she will never forget the moment how she was then betrayed by the child's father. He said to her "go and search where you sinned, for I am not the father of this cursed baby." From that moment on the child and his mother were abandoned permanently by the father.

Life as a single mom meant Nigist was struggling to survive in the community with a goal to become economically independent while facing the challenges of social stigma. However, it was so difficult for a single mother to find a daily labor job carrying a two year old baby with Down syndrome on her back. As a single woman she was very desperate, and had neither power to charge her child's father nor enough money to hire a lawyer. But she was admitted to a safety-net program in her local county in order to survive.



Adonias when he first began at Faith School.

Before Adonias was four, Nigist found Faith School where she could drop her child for the day so that she could go and find a job. She recalled the time: "When I saw people loving my child, hugging me and giving me assurance to take care of him, my little faith was raised once again by EthioFaith " she said.

"Moreover," she said, "they offered me a job at the school for a half a day to support my family." She was grateful for all the support and the job became full-time for her gradually.



Now Adonias is 9 years old. His verbal communication and interacting with different activities has improved and he is writing the alphabet, counting numbers, and telling stories. His progress is very promising and motor skills have improved greatly. While Nigist hopes that Adonias will someday be cured, her goal is that he will become self-sufficient. And she is proud of him in all ways. "Now I am proud of being the mother of Adonias" she said. "He is everything to me, loves me, takes care of me. He is the one next to me all the time. I love him".

Get Involved

- For more information, reach us at ethiofaithusa@gmail.com or go to the website: www.ethiofaith.org
- Give on-line: www.ethiofaith.org or by mail: EthiofaithUSA; 3500 Eastview Dr. NE, GR, MI 49525
- Pray that we will find a bigger facility for the fall so that we can add more students to Faith School.