



EthioFaith USA: Developing Christian Special Education for Ethiopia

NEWSLETTER: WINTER, 2021-2022

EthioFaith USA; 3500 Eastview Dr. NE; Grand Rapids, MI 49525

A LONG YEAR

Our last newsletter came out about a year ago, and it's been a long year. We held off on publishing a newsletter these last few months, hoping that we'd have some definitive outcomes to share given where we left off with the last newsletter which ended this way: "We are facing a great problem. We have a waiting list of students and our facility isn't large. We're exploring the options at present, so pray with us that we will be able to accommodate these additional students!" Getenet spent some time in Addis Ababa in August and in addition to providing some staff development, he sought to address the many dimensions of our situation:

1. We've completed the sale of the original school building given its small size and governmental challenges concerning it. We recovered our entire cost of associated with this building in the sale (and we are saving the money for a long-term solution for our space).
2. At present we are renting a place that is also too small, but it is a good interim solution.
3. One option that we've been pursuing is to have Faith School move into a local parochial Christian school. They have the room and it would be a benefit for all of the students, both regular education and special education. However, that school has some challenges from the government for accreditation, so they've postponed any action at present.
4. Another option we're exploring is a Kale Heywet Church in the exact neighborhood where most of our students reside. They have lots of available room and a large playground area. We have begun negotiating with them.

However, everything is up in the air due to the threat of war and Addis Ababa is under a national emergency. While this allow us to continue to providing schooling, it has required us hitting pause on the options we've been pursuing. The following section gives more details.

THE THREAT OF A CIVIL WAR

In our last newsletter, we explained the initial events leading to conflict in Ethiopia's northern region. Sadly, that conflict has continued to travel south toward Addis Ababa. Dessie, a city

about 400 kilometers north of Addis Ababa is now under the control of rebels (as well as housing 200,000 displaced people) as is Shewa Robit, a city only 200 km from Addis. The prime minister has encouraged citizens to take up arms and he has gone to the front lines. Meanwhile, foreign governments are having their embassies and other workers leave Addis Ababa. The U.S. government has told U.S. citizens to evacuate via commercial aircraft, saying there will be no military-assisted airlift as there was in Afghanistan.



DESPITE THIS ALL..

Our students are getting older and are learning much. Getenet hadn't been there for a couple of years, and he was amazed at how much the students had learned and developed. **Your support is needed to continue their education!** Despite all of the challenges, God has been faithful to Faith School!

-----Get Involved-----

- For more information, reach us at ethiofaithusa@gmail.com or go to the website: www.ethiofaith.org
- Give thanks for a continuing minimal Covid 19 impact, but pray for an end to the threat of civil war.
- Give on-line: www.ethiofaith.org or by mail: EthiofaithUSA; 3500 Eastview Dr. NE, GR, MI 49525