

Hope Enterprises

Quarterly Report

October, November and December, 2008

Part 1: Headquarters

After a long search, Dr. Alemu Gebrewold, was finally appointed to head Hope Enterprises with the title of General Secretary of Hope Enterprises effective from December 1, 2008. This appointment completes a process of restructuring and transition that took about four years. Dr. Alemu heads the main office while Dr. Minas Hiruy serves as the President of Hope University College and Mr. Zenebe Ayele serves as the Executive Director of the Ladders of Hope. Based on the decision of the Board, Dr. Minas had revised the Manual of Policy and Procedures of the organization as he had completed the draft charter for consideration of the Board. The three executives have been meeting once every two weeks to coordinate their efforts and address common issues in the Executive Chamber. The Management Committee of the Ladders of Hope and the Advisory Board of the University College have been resolving issues in their respective divisions and all has worked out very well.

We have had expansions to celebrate this quarter. The expansive construction of a high school and vocational training center in our additional compound in Gambella was finally inaugurated on October 6 in the presence of key officials of the state, members of a delegation from Katwijk, Holland, who funded the construction through Woord & Daad, our Board and community representatives. This big investment was hailed as an investment with lasting impact in a region that needs educated people. The high school and the vocational training center became operational few weeks before the inauguration and it was great to see happy youngsters thank all who contributed to the investment through their songs. Dr. Minas was thanked for initiating and laboring much to bring the big investment to completion. We also moved to our partly completed building in Assosa from a rented quarter and our students were happy about the facilities as well. Our job and business mediation efforts continued to bear fruit.

Our partner agency, Ethiopiaid, deployed its manager, Sally Buckley, in October and a group of its staff members in December who came to assist in their various expertise and they did help much to our appreciation. Our financial accounts and management were examined and evaluated by a team from our other partner, Woord & Daad. The team was very satisfied with our management and control system. A big group of Dutch businessmen visited us in October. Kimm Edwards and her family of the US who raised funding for the Dessie Home Workers School were with us in December. The work of the university college proceeded in all fronts developing pretty much like we planned. The website of the university college was a winner as put up by our friends from Menlo Park Presbyterian Church. Dr. Minas' month long trip to the USA in October resulted in a lot of friends for the college.

Part 2: Ladders of Hope

General

The Ladders was busy with a lot of activities under the capable leadership of Mr. Zenebe. A three-day workshop was held regarding the preparation of the strategic multi annual plan (2009-2011) in general and the year 2009 plan in particular from November 17 to 19, with participants from Woord en Daad, Cotton Tree Foundation and Hope Enterprises. The purpose of the workshop was to have a common idea about the preparation of both the strategic multi annual plan and the budget preparation. It supervised the construction projects in Gambella, Assosa and Hirara as it saw the smooth operation of all activities in the six areas in the country. ..

Relief Project 2008

The third and last phase of dry ration distribution was carried out successfully in Arsi Negelle, Shashemene and Roggie Village during the quarter. A total of 7255 adults and 3660 children in Arsi Negelle and Shashemene districts were assisted. In the Roggie Village, 200 households of the Roggie School and 100 households of the nearby community were assisted. A total of 75,060 kgs of wheat, 7,506 kgs of peas 2,469 liters of cooking oil and 15,840 kgs of Famix were distributed from the respective distribution centers. The third round of assistance in Arsi Negelle and Shashemene was fully sponsored by Ethiopiaid while that in Roggie Village was sponsored by Menlo Park Presbyterian Church. Then as the project had to phase out by the end of December, it was evaluated by all signatory offices of the Zonal Finance and Economic Development Bureau, the Zonal Food Security Office and the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau of the Oromia Government.

The cash allowances given to 1312 families in Roggie Village and in Dessie by Menlo Park Presbyterian Church and to 1,162 families in our Gambella, Addis Ababa and Assosa operations by Woord & Daad during each of the three months of the previous quarter were regarded not only as life saver but also as means that anchored families in their villages so that the children do not have to move and miss out on their education. In the case of Roggie Village, the assistance allowed families to do their farm work during the rainy season with the effort paying off by way of bountiful harvest during the quarter under report. All assisted were very thankful to the cited donors for the much that was done in their times of need.

The Addis Ababa Branch

Full Family Based Child Care

This project embraced a total of 451 children, of which 244 were girls. The regular service of food provision, school stationary materials and uniforms continued during this

quarter. The school cafeteria provided bananas and breads with a cup of milk with tea for breakfast and injera (a local bread) with wot (sauce) for lunch to the children. Ten new benches and five dining tables were placed in the cafeteria to increase serving capacity. The purchase and distribution of shoes to all the children were completed and Birr 40 was paid to the children's parents/minders every month during the quarter. In December all our sponsored children wrote Christmas letters to their sponsors. Nine children were medically assisted and no serious health problem was encountered by the children.

Partial Family Based Child Care

This program supported 264 children of whom 137 or 51% were girls. The breakdown of their enrollment was 110 children in Hope's school, 127 children in government schools and 27 youngsters in Hope Vocational Training Center. The children attending our facilities were served lunch in our cafeteria. The children attending outside schools collected a monthly allowance of birr 40.00 instead. The terminal report for the mitad (local bread baking appliance) project was prepared and sent to the donor. The mitad project assisted mothers of children in this program to bake and sell injera. In so doing the mothers had extra income to meet family needs.

Feeding Center

As usual our two soup kitchens were crowded during the quarter serving hot meals for lunch to a total number of 84,360 poor and destitute adults and children every day except on Sundays. Of the total served, 32,171 were female and 12,777 were children. Teff, edible oil and soya bean were purchased during the reporting quarter, when such foods had the lowest prices. As can be noted the numbers of the fed increased from those of the previous quarter by 5,360 or by 6%. One could ask, why had so many come during the season, when food is most abundant after the big rains? Many of the fed who were approached stated that while life was hard owing to the rising cost of living, the harder problem was that they were getting less assistance from people.

During the quarter a number of youngsters from various countries came and helped in many ways. Most assisted in serving in the cafeteria for one or two weeks. And then there were youngsters who brought cheers to the poor playing their guitars and showing their dramas. How fun it was to watch how simple distractions can literally force those in misery enjoy some laughs forgetting for few seconds the pains within. Ria Hoffius, the wife of the project manager of the construction of Hope University College continued to serve the poor as well. The poor loved Ria who talked with many.

Street Children's Breakfast

The provisions of breakfast for the 730 destitute street children continued every morning, except Sundays, serving two loaves of bread, a cup of milk with tea and a banana. 293 of them were girls. For most of them this was the only food they had through out the day.

During this quarter, several people from abroad volunteered in teaching playful games, moral lessons, songs and other interesting activities to the children. These contact points were empowering as virtually all began to have hopes for a better day and a better future. From this attitude, all of them took their schooling seriously after breakfast in the feeding center and in the many schools enrolled.

Hope School, Addis Ababa

A total number of 791 students attended their education in the school during the quarter. Of these, 417 or 52% were girls. Mid examinations were administrated on the 20th of November. During this reporting quarter, a total of nine extracurricular clubs were in action. By the end of December, the school principal and five teachers took educational quality package training as organized by the Education Bureau of Kolfe Keranio Sub city. Upon completing the training, they gave the same training to the rest of our school teachers. The school was visited by a group of volunteers from England and Australia.

Community Based Education Support

i. Street Children

All the 450 street children enrolled in the program got assistance through the provision of school stationary materials and school uniforms. These children continued attending their lessons in the 45 governmental schools. The academic performances of these children were monitored by the social worker through his regular visits made to the schools.

ii. Other Children

The 500 children supported under this program continued their schooling in five different government schools while living with their families. In this group 282 of them or 56% were girls. The distribution of school uniform to these children was finalized in October. Cognizant of our work in the sub city, a national TV station known as ETV2 televised the distribution made in Bole Gerji Primary School on December 20. When interviewed by the TV reporters, many teachers and students of the school expressed their appreciation of the support made by Hope. The usual tutorial classes were carried out every Saturday morning for two hours.

School of Home Workers, Addis Ababa

With the growing number of home workers applying for the school of home workers, the program enrolled additional 45 home workers in the quarter. This brought the total number to 295 children and youngsters. Thus in the three levels designed for this program, level one contained 123 students, level two contained 85 students and level three contained 87 students. Necessary stationary materials were provided in the quarter. Classroom instruction was given in two compounds, one in the Hope School at Jack Smith Campus and the other at our Rehabilitative Street Children's Project. The home workers were very studious and happy about this opportunity. Some had problems

catching up as they had no spare time to do their homework. Some frequented absenteeism, as they tried to balance work pressures with school.

Scholarship for University Students

11 students continued to be supported in the program with eight of them being females. The universities where they got enrolled were Addis Ababa University, Mekele University, Jimma University, Haromaya University, Dehub University and Dire Dawa University. These students were assisted with pocket allowances and school supplies. We found out that all of them were majoring in difficult disciplines like physics, forestry, English with Oromiffa minor, Mechanical Engineering, Statistics, Horticulture, Health Science, Business and Economics.

Hope Vocational Training Center, Addis Ababa

All in all, there were 125 trainees attending the various levels of training as per the curriculum of the Bureau of Education. Of the total figure, 47 students or 37% were females. There were three levels with each level representing one academic year. Our streams of training were also modified to fit the streams approved by the bureau. This meant we had to choose the closest fields to our previous disciplines. Thus general mechanics became general metal fabrication and assembly, electrical technology became industrial and electric machine and drive. The others in the branch retained both their names and courses. Each stream was classified into any one of the three levels depending on its complexity with level three hosting the most complex disciplines. The disciplines that are classified within each level along with their enrollment figures are as follows:

Level 3: general metal fabrication and assembly having 37 trainees
industrial and electric machine and drive having 38 trainees.

Level 2: wood works having 18 trainees

Level 1: hotel services and catering having 32 trainees

Our vocational training center hosted a number of guests. One of the initiators of BEST (business entrepreneur skill training) program, Mr. Corjan Legemate, visited us from November 7 to 14 along with other businessmen from Holland and checked how the training has been going on. With Hope's increasing emphasis on training youngsters to have their own businesses instead of being trained to "work for someone", BEST was one of the helpful components that we included in the vocational training. Similar delegation, working for various offices of Ethiopiaid visited the center and shared their experiences.

During the quarter, the center produced office tables for Assosa Area Project, cupboards and blackboards, notice boards and chairs for Roggie Area Project and charcoal burners, kerosene stove stands and benches were also manufactured. The School of Hotel Services and Catering processed 163 jars of peanut butter along with certain spices. In an effort to

improve the English proficiency of our trainees, the English language instructor became a member of the British council, thus expanding his access to a wide range of resources helpful for English language instruction. We founded a network of TVET centers in Kolfe Keranio sub city on December 29 in the attendance of four of the five centers and a representative of the education bureau. The objective of the network was to facilitate knowledge and experience sharing and cooperation in providing best possible training for our youngsters.

Job and Business Mediation

Seven graduates were placed in jobs in different private organizations bringing the total since that got jobs to 66 out of the 77 graduates of last July. This led to an employment rate of 86%. This was great news particularly during the time when the economy is supposed to slow down amidst global economic down turn. We did advertise our graduates a lot on TV and in newspapers and our networking efforts with companies continued to be strong.

The Dessie Branch

Full Family Based Child Care

This project continued to support 912 children, of whom 452 or 49% were girls. School uniforms and shoes were provided to 812 children during the quarter. Monthly allowances were also given regularly. As a result of continued health and environmental education students' hygiene and sanitation of the school environment showed improvement with no one having serious ailment. Christmas letters and photographs were sent to sponsors. At a time of cost overruns, the branch did its best to meet the full menus of breakfast and lunch. The children were very appreciative of this input and their physical stand showed it.

The City of Dessie has been growing fast with the location of a number of higher education institutions and with many people moving to the city to learn and to work. On top of this development have come the huge and high standard road projects and continuing building boom that are literally redoing the city. At the same time there have been disruptions in the services of water, energy and telephone due to the construction. This situation has slowed down business causing some hardship to the families of our children who had to do odd chores to survive.

Hope School, Dessie

The school had a total of 636 students, of whom 321 were girls. All necessary school supplies were given to the students. In order to strengthen the teaching, different teaching aids were prepared for all subjects. Weekly and daily lesson plans were prepared according to the annual plan and supervision of the strict adherence of the plans was also undertaken. Close follow ups were made to ensure the proper transformation of knowledge by applying student-centered approach. 44 students of grade 10 and 41 students of grade 8 registered for the national examination that is to take place in May.

The computerized English language learning software provided by Menlo Park Presbyterian Church along with computers helped our students a lot in improving their English language proficiency. The various clubs in the school ran their activities based on their weekly programs and under supervision by a faculty member. Three teachers took part in 'civics and school improvement' training organized by the district education office. Mr. and Mrs. Todd Johnson and his two children along with other adults from Menlo Park Presbyterian Church visited the school from December 27 to 30. They followed up on the welfare of the children and were happy to see the shade that the church sponsored so that the children lining up for their meals do not have to suffer from rain or the heat from the sun.

Parents of the preparatory students had a meeting with the branch manager and discussed on enhancing the performance of their children, who made it to the college preparatory school. The manager advised the parents stating that while Hope will continue to do its best to follow up on what their children do in the preparatory school, nothing replaces parental or minder follow up as Hope could not be in all places at once. He also emphasized the need for parents to talk with their youngsters on a continuous basis so that there is no deviation on the part of the students.

Community Based Education Support

All the 500 children enrolled in this project continued attending their education in the eight government schools in the city. The usual support of educational materials, school uniforms and school fee payments were provided during the reporting quarter. This helped the children to continue their education. With the regular follow-ups in place, plans were underway to start tutorial classes for low performing students. Seven students were medically assisted during the reporting quarter.

School of Home workers

The program started educating 248 home workers in the quarter. Then 40 of them dropped out of the program for reasons related with their employers. By the end of the quarter, 208 students remained in attendance in the three levels designated. The will of the employer is a must in supporting the home workers. There were 97 home workers in level one, 58 home workers in level two and 53 home workers in level three.

Replacements were to be made soon from the community from many home workers that applied. The problem of teaching books was solved as the branch got resource materials from the Adults Learning Center.

Kimm and her four children who had raised the fund for the branch's Home Worker's School came and visited the home workers while in attendance of the school. Earlier in October, Kimm and her husband Paul, hosted Dr. Minas in their home in San Francisco and a fund raising dinner was held involving their friends featuring Ethiopian food and a band from the Zeni Ethiopian Restaurant. Dr. Minas made a power point presentation and thanked the guests underscoring what their gifts would mean to many girls that would have otherwise wasted away for lack of education. Later Kimm reported that enough fund was raised to double the enrollment and that was exactly what happened. The Edwards are great people thinking of others as a family. They have been coming every year to spend time with the children by doing things children like like giving gifts and engaging them in plays, songs and encouragement by way of counseling. We certainly thank them for their show of compassion.

Scholarship for University Students

The program continued to support 98 university students with the provision of necessary educational material and monthly pocket allowance of birr 95.00. Of the total students, 43 were girls. This ratio of 44% is triple the ratio of girls attending institutions of higher education nation wide. This encouraging turn out has come about because of Hope's stipulation that in all enrolment at least 50% of the enrollees be girls. From the grade reports submitted to the branch, all of the youngsters are doing well in a number of universities all throughout the country.

Hope Vocational Training Center, Dessie

With a total of 114 trainees, of whom 63 or 55% were girls, the center started its training in stride using the level system of the Bureau of Education. In keeping with the new reformulation, all the four fields of general metal fabrication and assembly having 28 trainees, industrial and electric machine and drive having 27 trainees, administrating office and secretarial services having 29 trainees and masonry having 30 trainees were all under level 3.

The masonry department, which replaced construction technology, completed the shower room construction, produced bricks and undertook surveying works. Under the industrial and machine drive department, practical training on three phase and single phase rewinding, solar power conversion into electrical power, water boiling materials, injera baking stove and other port and lamp maintenance works were carried out. The general metal fabrication and assembling department had accomplished different theoretical and practical works based on modules and repaired student desks, classroom windows and

doors and produced shelves for the bakery house and flag poles. The cleanness of the workshops was regularly monitored.

Job and Business Mediation

Of the 61 graduates of last July, the 28 graduates began their training in the Kombolcha Industrial College at a level 4 certification. Eight graduate got jobs leaving 25 youngsters still looking for jobs. Efforts in the Dessie area were not as fruitful with much business adversely affected by all the construction in the town and with many of the other towns along the federal highway being affected similarly. Some of the youngsters were brought to Addis Ababa for whom there were various opportunities to compete for jobs. But as their allowance ran out, they had to go back to Dessie.

The Gambella Area Project

Family Based Child Care

579 children of whom 291 or 50% were girls were provided full support. Those children of the program that made it to university continued to enjoy a stipend of birr 95.00 per month. The school nurse recurrently addressed the personal hygiene of the children and the sanitation of the campus through health education and inspection. KG students, who failed to keep their personal hygiene were advised to use the shower facilities in the school compound with the help of an assistant teacher. 63 students were medically assisted during the quarter. Correspondence of sponsors and students continued with the students sending our Christmas greetings. After each monthly meeting that was held with parents/minders, the parents/minders had a contribution of their own by cutting the grass and clearing the bush of the campus.

Community Based Child Care

The 44 children who came from very poor families benefitted from the provision of educational materials while attending their education in different government schools. Of the total, 24 of the children were girls. The social worker closely followed up their performance and reported it to be good. 17 children who contracted malaria and water borne diseases were treated in the nearby governmental health institutions and their expenses were totally refunded by us.

Hope School, Gambella

A total of 526 students were enrolled in Hope School, Gambella, during the quarter. Of these 269 or 51% were girls. Registration of grade ten students for national examination was done. Successive performance evaluation tests were administered in the different

grade levels as part of the first semester evaluation. The school's various clubs were very active. A great feature in the Hope school system was the grand inauguration of the Hope High School, Gambella that took place on October 6, amidst much pomp and show.

Inauguration of the Hope High School and Vocational Training Center, Gambella,

The Hope High School and Vocational Training center, which were built by Chekol Genral Contractor, with funding by Woord & Daad through contributions from a businessmen's group in Katwijk, a fishing village along the North Sea in the Netherlands were inaugurated. During the occasion, a delegate from the office of the president of the region, and teams from the donors represented by the businessmen from Katwijk and the Reformed Daily of the Netherlands, members of Hope's Board and management as well as various known people from Gambella attended the inauguration. The executive Director of the Ladders of Hope, Mr. Zenebe Ayele, described both the high school and the vocational training center and thanked the donors for the funding and the regional government for providing the land to build such facilities.

Mr. Zenebe also thanked Dr. Minas Hiruy, the former president of the organization, who initiated the idea and sought funding to get the area project and the building project started and developed. The delegate of the President, being the key note speaker and the one that cut the ribbon, thanked Hope for such great investment and promised to cooperate in any way possible. The high school is the third high school in the whole state and all who came to visit it were very impressed about the set up and the quality. Many also commented on the design seeing it as appropriate for the weather of the area. The vocational training center was also a rare addition in the state and all were very happy to see its inception noting the problem of shortage in technical personnel in the region.

Hope Vocational Training Center, Gambella

The center started its vocational training program with the two fields of administrating office and secretarial service on one hand and masonry on the other at a level three certification. Each stream had 15 students. A thorough needs assessment was done on the selection of the disciplines. Realizing critical shortages in professionals in office work and construction, the two fields were incorporated. A cross cutting training in intensive agriculture is envisioned considering the availability of fertile space and water on one hand and the minimal availability of particularly fruits and vegetables in the area on the other.

Daycare Project

The day care project supported 160 little children and provided breakfast and lunch every day except on Sundays. The quality of the food was daily supervised by the social worker. The children attended pre-school informal education in the four shelters built.

Parental/minder meetings were conducted weekly and parents took part in cleaning and in guarding the shelters as part of their contribution.

Community Based Education Support

160 children attended their education in the four different governmental schools. They were provided with the necessary school materials and uniforms. These children were formerly in the day care project. But doing well to be integrated in the school system, they were financed to attend various public schools in their neighborhoods.

The Assosa Area Project

Family Based Child Care

The 250 children under this project continued to get assistance with the regular monthly allowance of birr 40, breakfast, lunch, clothing and footwear and medical care. Of the total, 126 of them were girls. Following the resignation of the food caterer a new caterer was hired. The area project stretched its budget to its maximum limit due to increase in food prices in Assosa. 34 students got medical care affected by malaria, typhoid, influenza and fungal infections in nearby health centers with their expenses wholly covered. 25 students who were below the age of five received polio vaccination in the school compound. The regular supervision of personal hygiene was also conducted twice a week. In this quarter all the 250 students had sent Christmas greeting letters to their sponsors and 46 children received greeting letters from their sponsors. New photographs of 58 children were sent to Woord en Daad. 15 students dropped out of the program as their families moved to different places in search of jobs. Immediate replacement of these students was done.

Hope School, Assosa

250 students continued their education in the newly built classrooms from grade one to grade three. It was in during this reporting quarter that school uniform and shoes were purchased and distributed to all the students. Continuous assessments were carried out and students who showed low performance were assisted by their own classroom teachers through tutorial classes. A total of 1,450 exercise books, 300 pens and 400 pencils were purchased and distributed to all the 250 students. With the aim to increase participation of parents in the teaching and learning process, parents were invited to suggest and comment on the ongoing educational instruction by the end of December. Their comments were very helpful. The school received various furniture made by the workshop of the Addis Ababa Branch.

The Construction Project

The construction showed progress with a performance record of 90 % in the quarter. Though progress was made by 7% during the quarter, the contractor has not been in full force to finish the various buildings. Formal complaints have been registered and we are expecting rectification.

The Rift Valley Area Project

The Roggie Child Care and Training Center

Family Based Child Care

All the 250 students under this project continued receiving support under this program. 125 of them were girls. The provision of lunch, home allowances and medical care continued during the quarter. A total of 34 students received medical treatment for malaria. A student who was sick from typhoid and lung disease was admitted to a hospital for a week and he successfully recovered.

In the meetings held with the community members, the project officer discussed on issues related to family planning, personal hygiene, gender equality and HIV and AIDS. Community members expressed the need for health care center, grinding mill and electricity for their community. A group of 10 people led by Mr. Wim Hasselman from Woord en Daad visited the project area on November 5. They also visited the homes of some of the children. They were very enthusiastic about the activities of the project.

Hope School, Roggie

All the 250 children attended their education in the school with close and careful follow up from the teachers. During the reporting quarter, school books were distributed to all grade 1 to 3 students. The continuous assessment tests revealed that the academic performance of the students has shown an improvement. Tutorial classes benefited those students who had shown low performance. The good news is that the district bureau of education gave the school full recognition as one of the primary schools in the district. The executive director and project officer visited the project site and discussed with teachers about different issues regarding the teaching-learning process on December 13. In the discussion it was planned that adult education will be launched soon. In an effort to alleviate the long distance travel made by the teachers two bicycles were purchased and given to teachers.

The Water Project

The new water committee comprising of seven women took a five-day-training from December 22 to 26. Trainers from the zonal and district Water Bureau gave a detailed training on the areas of administration, finance, audit, maintenance and sanitation. Each

member of the committee undertook responsibility given by the zonal and district water office experts. A new bank account for the committee was also opened as per the required procedure, where the money collected from the service was being deposited. Members of the committee were also advised about proper utilization of the limited water resources and how to keep the water potable after collecting it. The committee did some repair works contracting a technician.

Considering the availability of water, a rapid assessment was made on how to start irrigation using the water. Various stakeholders including the farmers were asked about this proposal made by the donor of the water system, Menlo Park Presbyterian Church. On the whole, while the idea was appreciated, the stakeholders foresaw complications in running the operation. With the pump needing a lot of diesel, they felt that they did not have the transport system to continually supply the pump. They were not also sure that the supply was enough and that frequent use may bring maintenance problems, which may disrupt the water supply for drinking. Then there was the problem of what to do with farmers outside the reach of the water.

Goat Project

With the donation gained from Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, the 150 she-goats that were distributed to the students in 2006 had reached 450 in number. Being encouraged by this success, we distributed yet another 50 she-goats to our KG-2 students gaining the fund from the same church, thus bringing the total number of goats to 500. The students in KG-2 would then give the first born goat to their fellow students in KG-1 and we made the parents of KG-2 students sign an agreement saying they would. The students were very happy with their goats and promised to take good care of them. A clear impression that we had was that the goats were not just money makers. They were also pets to the children gaining their attention and helping to build their character.

The Hirara Child care and Training Center

Family Based child Care

The support provided for the 250 students in the center continued during the reporting quarter. The new 50 KG-1 students adjusted well to the school environment. Hot lunches were provided to all the students six days a week. 55 students had malaria treatment care in the nearby health center. All of them recovered well and their medical expenses were covered by Hope. In the regular meetings of parents held in the school compound, teachers discussed about the establishment of a parent committee to deal with matters concerning the school. Christmas was celebrated warmly in the school compound in the presence of Mr. Dave Hunt, Hope's senior management team members including Mr. Zenebe Ayele, the Executive Director and Dr. Alemu Gebre Wold, the General Secretary. During the occasion, parents, teachers, students and people from the surrounding community were invited.

Hope School, Hirara

In the beginning of October, exercise books, pens, pencils and shoes were distributed to all the students. Classroom instruction continued to be given in line with the daily and weekly lesson plans. The school reported that students did well in the continuous assessments tests carried out in the quarter. During this quarter, we requested the district education bureau for accreditation and school textbooks for our school. We are waiting for the bureau's response. In a field visit made on December 12 the executive director and the project officer discussed with teachers about different issues regarding the teaching-learning process and how it could further be improved.

Adult Education

Two kerosene lanterns were bought for this program to facilitate the adult education between 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. General education on HIV/AIDS, family planning issues, environmental sanitations, personal hygiene, water preservation, basic literacy and environmental science were some of the major topics dealt with during the education. Community members who are residing in islands in Lake Zeway had also requested us to start adult education in the respective locality by seeing the benefit that their fellow neighbors were getting from the education.

Water Development Project

A total of birr 608,000.00 was secured for the water development program in Hirara. This generous donation was made by Tear Australia. The bid documents offered quoted an amount than our available budget. This was brought up due to rising cost of raw materials since the original proposal was drafted. Thus, Hope is looking for additional funding to fill the gap created by price increment.

Construction of the Elementary School

The construction of the school was going well. The Executive Director, during his field visit on December 12, saw the progress of the work and was able to witness that close to 40 % of the work was completed. The construction is projected to be completed on time.

Part 3. Hope University College

Hope University College addressed a number of issues during the cited period. Applications that were submitted for the positions of the two vice presidents following the job ads in the Reporter and the Monitor were screened by the selection committee that was set up by the Advisory Board. The president then began to work on faculty recruitment, book collection for the library and classes. He spent a month in the US designating volunteers to collect books. Four centers were set up for this job. These were Seattle, Menlo Park, San Jose and Ft. Washington, MD. In the west coast, he spoke in universities and small meetings to line up volunteers and solicit books. In Maryland, he was on one of the famous Ethiopian radio stations asking for the same and the response has been great. By the end of the quarter, volunteers got a lot of books and World Concern in Seattle had arranged for a container to be filled up.

On the teaching faculty end, he spent a lot of time in Menlo Park and had managed to secure the coming of two faculty members. He had a number of leads on how to recruit for future volunteers and many applications began to come in our email following the communication in the college's website. He also spent a week at Fresno Pacific University and four days at Stanford University learning how universities are run in a modern way. He talked with many staff members therein and collected useful material. He also spoke to students and gathered important feedback. He came across a lot of people who planned to sponsor students at the university college. The new website of the university college: www.hopeuniversitycollege.org, helped him a lot in getting people to be supportive. We thank Mr. John van Deman who had been behind this important feature and has kept us in constant communication with those interested..

Upon his return, Dr. Minas spent some time looking for the best way to furnish the campus. He and Mr. Niek Hoffius, the project manager of the construction of the college, checked various possibilities. A Dutch furniture company that had a branch in Debrezeit, some 45 kms south east of the college, offered to custom make the furniture. The company had come and visited the buildings and based on the building plans had developed the design of the furniture and shown us the same for our consideration. The advisory board met on December 11 and considered a number of issues for the Board's consideration. Its ad-hoc committee selected the two vice presidents for the Board's consideration after screening the applications that came following the advertisements in two English papers. Dr. Fisseha Itaffa of Addis Ababa University as VP for Academic Affairs and Dr. Behailu Abebe as VP for Administrative and Financial Affairs were selected and appointed effective from January 1, 2009. The Advisory Board had delegated the management of the university college to study two additional faculties besides the faculty of business management to meet the minimum requirement of three faculties for a university college. The first draft of the study had been completed with the faculties considered being science and technology, environmental science, information sciences, food science and music. A small workshop is planned to discuss the draft early in February.

The curriculum team from the two universities in Holland came last December and spent five days discussing the business curriculum and the competency based training approach. The general outlines were presented to the Advisory Board and a draft was to come for discussion by the cited stakeholders. The curriculum consultancy, funded by Woord & Daad, also involved staff training and ongoing monitoring of the teaching and learning processes. The team visited the construction site and suggested various ways by which the classrooms can be used to enable the competency based training. The President finished the draft of the charter on the basis of the changes that the Advisory Board stipulated. The charter took the President a long time to write considering factors like adaptability, research on best practices and how best it can be used to bring excellence. Recruitment for the local staff was planned to ensue once we knew the courses to be taught. The staffing policy was clearly put in the charter with all the teaching and non teaching staff being put on a yearly contract.

As far as the construction is concerned, though the rains slowed down the work at the site, work continued with increasing prices causing variation charges. The President has been talking with government on the VAT issue and the matter had been referred to a committee. We had a team visiting the campus, with a major donor, Mr. Henk de Pagter, being a part of it. Mr. de Pagter, who donated the initial funding for the construction of the library, had offered to fund all the remaining expenses of the library including the furniture, elevator and the variations caused by inflation therein. This was a breakthrough and we thank him.

By the end of the quarter, the foundation work for the multi purpose hall had been completed and the finishing work on the first phase buildings had started. Finishing materials had been ordered from China by the contractor based on the choice of items that we made in China with the company. At the same time, variation payments owing to the increase in cost had been made following certification by our consultant. VAT payments had also been made with the decision for VAT free status still pending and the contractor having to fulfill its tax obligations. The foundation design for the building of technical services was being looked at again in view of water logging that did not go away during the dry months of the quarter.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Office of Public Relations
Hope Enterprises
155 Churchill Road
P.O. Box 30153
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Tel: +251-11-1560346/1560347
Fax: +251-11-1552638
Email: hope@ethionet.et
Website: hopeenterprises.org.**