



BLESSING THE CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL  
2267 FRASER ROAD  
KAWKAWLIN, MI 48631

(888) 269-2719 TOLL FREE  
(989) 684-2005 FAX

INFO@BLESSINGTHECHILDREN.ORG

March 6, 2009

Dear friend,

It's hard to imagine how different our lives would be if we never learned to read or write. Even the simplest tasks would become arduous:

- Going grocery shopping – you couldn't make a shopping list, so you would have to remember everything you need. When looking at items on the shelf, you would have to rely only on pictures since you couldn't read labels.
- If you make a doctor's appointment – you could not write down when your appointment is. Even if they wrote it for you, you could not read the card. You simply have to remember.
- You could only cook meals you already knew since you could not read a recipe.
- No reading directions on labels to know how to use products or reading instructions to operate or put something together.
- No to-do lists, no letter writing, no simple notes to friends, no newspapers, no magazines, no signs, not even able to read your own mail.

Illiteracy is not just a handicap, it is a prison. This is exactly how life is for two out of three people in Ethiopia. But it doesn't have to continue this way.

*We can help hundreds of children through providing them an education and hope.*

Our new school, the *American Academy of Excellence*, will do just that. Starting with four classrooms of 28 students each, phase one will begin official classes this year.

Much work is yet to be done in completing the construction of phase one. We have the workers, and the walls are going up. We have already raised 60% of the \$54,000 total needed to complete phase one.

We still need \$21,600 to fully complete this phase. At the very minimum – we must raise \$6,925 to get the walls up and roof on in order to start classes this September.



*A world-wide outreach blessing needy children.*

Fighting illiteracy is something we can do together. All it takes is a little bit of your effort. If each of us will do what we can, it adds up to be a mighty force. Some of us will go in person to teach, others to help build the school and still others will sponsor a child's education. You can make a difference in a child's life.



Missionaries and teams are coming in constant supply to do the work along side of the nationals. What we need now is the finances for construction materials. Won't you consider how you can help us purchase building materials to finish the school?



Your support will make the difference for 112 children starting school this fall, and nearly 400 students when all phases are complete. Every gift helps!

If you have been contemplating visiting us on a mission trip to see the work in person, we invite you come. We have ten trips each year, or you're welcome to bring your own team from your church.

We are on the home stretch of finishing the first-phase construction and opening the *American Academy of Excellence*, but we can't do it without your help. Please be as generous as you can to help us see this project finished on time to start school this September.

Every child deserves a chance in life, and education will make the difference. I pray that the Lord will bless you friend as you consider the need and take action to make a difference.

With a sincere attitude of gratitude,

Keith V. Strawn

PS: Just today, I received an email from our director in Ethiopia, Pastor Tadesse, asking us to send \$1,870 to pour the concrete floors. Please send what you can!

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### TAKING ACTION TODAY

Donate by Phone: (888) 269-2719

Online:

[www.blessingthechildren.org](http://www.blessingthechildren.org)

By Mail: Blessing the Children  
2265 Fraser Road  
Kawkawlin, MI 48631

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