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Dear friend,

I have some good and very exciting news. The roof is finished on the new school in Ethiopia. It is so neat to see the school building being completed. We're right on-track to open for school on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, in time for the new school year. We have hired an experienced principle and are now interviewing teachers.

With more than fifty people coming on teams from America and Canada over the next couple of months, we will be having them finish the floors, windows and doors in time for school.

What we need now are classroom furnishings. Each of the four classrooms need 28 student desks, a teacher's desk & chair, blackboards, and a bulletin board – totaling \$1,814 per classroom.

We can hardly start school without these essentials. There are many things the school will need over time, but these critical items are needed to start school in just a few short months. As one-time investments, they will serve hundreds of students for many years to come.

Perhaps you friend, would consider making it possible for us to start school this year? Every gift makes a real difference – the difference between a child attending school or going through life illiterate. An education can enable children to grow up as contributing member of society and able to provide a livelihood for their future families.

Here's what we need for each of the four classrooms:

28 Student Desks at a cost of \$54 each .....	\$1,512
Blackboards at cost of \$136 .....	\$136
Teacher's Desk at a cost of \$85 .....	\$85
Teacher's Chair at a cost of \$22 .....	\$22
Bulletin Board at a cost of \$59.....	\$59

**Total for one classroom ..... \$1,814**

I am sharing this specific need with you friend, in the hopes that you would prayerfully consider what the Lord might have you do at this very important time to help meet this need and make a lasting impact in the lives of children in Ethiopia. Even in times like this, with the current economy in America, do we stop giving and caring for those less fortunate? A dear friend of the ministry named Deanne, once told me of a challenge or question she posed to the company she works for:

**“Do we only give when times are good?  
Isn't that a real test of character; giving even when times seem tight?”**



*A world-wide outreach blessing needy children.*

We really are a blessed people, living in a blessed nation. I have often thought of how different my life would have been to have been born in Ethiopia. The tough times facing many in today's economy still afford us in America the privilege of living like kings in comparison to the average Ethiopian.

*Are we living in mud huts, and sleeping on dirt floors?*

*Do we find ourselves cooking what little food we have over an open fire?*

*Do we go hungry so our children have a little more to eat?*

*Are we and our children illiterate and unable to go to school?*

Yes, blessings still abound to a great many of us. As God blesses us, I count it a privilege to be able to be a blessing to others. As my pastor says, "God gives to us to be a blessing to others, not to keep for ourselves. The more we give, the more He can bless us."

If we are so busy holding on to what we have, how can the Lord bless us with more. Release what we have in our hands and we can receive what the Lord has for us. Certainly I'm not sharing the thought as eloquently as my pastor, but it is a good lesson none the less.

What are you able to do for the poor in Ethiopia?

*Might you buy one child's desk for \$54?*

*Can you purchase a blackboard for \$136?*

*Could you provide ten children's desks for \$540?*

*Would you be able to equip an entire classroom for \$1,814?*

Each of us is able to impact the lives of orphaned and impoverished children at different levels. Please do what you can and together we will see the hand of God supply each child with an opportunity to go to school and transform their life. Please help.

With a sincere attitude of gratitude,



Keith V. Strawn

