



PLEASE MAIL LETTERS AND GIFTS TO:

**BLESSING THE CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL**  
2267 FRASER ROAD  
KAWKAWLIN, MI 48631

NON PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
SAGINAW, MI  
PERMIT NO. 149

# BLESSING THE CHILDREN POST



## Caring for the Orphans & Widows

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 4

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF BLESSING THE CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL — A MINISTRY DEDICATED TO CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD.

APRIL 2013

WWW.BLESSINGTHECHILDREN.ORG

INFO@BLESSINGTHECHILDREN.ORG

## THE BCI ACADEMY LIBRARY

It has been a slow boat ride from Michigan to Chicago, Montreal and off to Addis Ababa but the book pallet has finally arrived at The BCI Academy!

Three long years of collecting books, organizing, packaging, and fund-raising have paid off as the book pallet, filled with over 3,000 books, arrived this month and our amazing staff are hard at work organizing and shelving the books.

It has been a dream of Blessing the Children to stock a library for The BCI Academy. We believe that a good education is one of the most important things you can give a child. A good education will open a door to a bright future and that is exactly what we want our children to have!

We want to give a huge thanks to everyone who has made this possible. May God bless you as you bless His children!



Hard at work.



**KEITH V. STRAWN**  
FOUNDER & PRESIDENT

Dear friends,

Please join us in this edition of the Post for an article about Blessing the Children's "Around the World" activity day. On the cover you'll find the arrival of the book pallet for the BCI Academy and some exciting news in this month's praise report.

Inside you will also find a touching story from a BCI long term missionary and this edition's highlights feature more pictures of the The BCI Academy Library book pallet!

Thank you for your support and continued prayers. Because of you, we are touching lives in Ethiopia.

Abundant blessings,

## PRAISE REPORT: SEIZURE FREE!

Many of you who follow our blog or newsletters may remember a young lady named Yepsira.

We invite you to read her full story here:

<http://blessingthechildren.wordpress.com/2012/05/22/her-god-always-shows-up/>

Yepsira is a bright, caring young lady who is dedicated to her education and her family. Four years ago, she started having seizures and began a long medical journey that would lead her from having numerous seizures a day to where she is now – seizure free for a year!

In March of 2012, Yepsira's mother took her to a specialist in Addis Ababa who put Yepsira on a new medicine that, although more expensive, was able to successfully control her seizures. Since then, Yepsira says that although she sometimes feels the "warning signs" of a seizure, that she has not had one. With her seizures under control, Yepsira has a

new lease on life, not living in fear of when the next seizure will strike and how weak it will leave her. She is able to live worry-free and enjoy being a child!

Yepsira is scheduled for routine check ups with the specialist in Addis every six months and we are believing that she will continue to remain seizure free.

In May of 2012, Blessing the Children shared Yepsira's story and received a donation providing a years worth of medicine for Yepsira but as April is drawing to a close, the funds donated to provide for Yepsira's medicine and medical bills are almost gone.

For \$84/mo, we are able to provide Yepsira with her medicine, as well as cover all of her medical visits and required testing with the specialist in Addis.

Would you consider making a donation to keep Yepsira seizure free?!



Yepsira in November of 2012

## THE WORST OF THE WORST BY JONNETT T.

Sometimes I think I have seen the worst there is to see of the poverty in Debre Zeit, Ethiopia. But then I see something new, something worse. Recently, I was visiting one of the Blessing the Children International's (BCI) sponsored children. There was a lady and a baby in the house that I had never met before. I started a conversation with the woman about her baby. She told me her baby girl is 9 months old; however, I would have guessed her to be 6 months old.

I continued with the home visit but I couldn't stop staring at this little baby. I went for a long walk around the village-the whole time thinking about the new woman and her tiny baby. When I got back to the house she was standing outside. I asked her which house was hers and she pointed to a small gate. I asked her if I could come visit and she said yes. I walked into the small compound and then she led me into her home. I stopped dead in my tracks.

four children and she has just told me that two other adults live there. I asked her where they all sleep and she showed me by spreading the clothes and burlap sacks on the floor.

I walked outside because I was starting to feel really overwhelmed and as I walked out, two of her other children, mother, and sister had just gotten back from hauling water. I asked my translator, Tigist, to help me with the next part of the conversation because I wanted to make sure I wasn't misunderstanding anything.

We discovered that the sister also has a child living in the home. That is five children (one of which is a teenager) and three adults living in this tiny house with next to nothing in it. I asked them how they survive. They told me that they have a horse that the teenaged boy uses as a taxi in town. After buying supplies for the horse he brings home about 30 birr (\$1.70) a day to support the family. They use the horse manure to build a cooking fire because they can't afford charcoal or gas.

None of the children are able to go to school because she can't afford the tuition, books, or uniforms that are required for school.

This family is the poorest of the poor. The mother said that she feels blessed that they have a house to live in, that they are not homeless. But, they only have the house because when her husband was living there he paid the rent. He recently abandoned the family though so now she is worried about where they will live.

I was able to collect clothes, food, and toys for the family but it's not enough. They need immediate help.

Would you consider sponsoring one of the children into the BCI program? In order to add a new child to the program, a full sponsorship of \$90/month is needed.

The children in need of sponsorship are:

**Fasika Girma** (girl, 9 mo.)      **Meseret Girma** (girl, 8)

**Elias Sintayehu** (boy, 5)      **Weynishet Girma** (girl, 10)

If you are unable to commit to a full \$90/month sponsorship, would you consider make a one-time donation to help provide this family with food, rent, bedding, and clothing?

If you would like to sign up for a sponsorship, make a one time donation or would like more information on how you can help this family please email Melissa Strawn at:

[Melissa@BlessingtheChildren.org](mailto:Melissa@BlessingtheChildren.org)



You have to understand that earlier, when I was talking to her about her baby, she told me that she has three other children. The reason that I stopped immediately upon stepping foot in this woman's house is because I was trying to understand how four children and their mother live in this tiny place.

The house consisted of two rooms. The first room is probably 6x5 ft and the other about 2x5 ft. I just stood there and looked. . . looked at nothing. The only things in the house were a small pile of onions, a small cooking pot, two burlap sacks, and a tiny pile of clothes. While I was just staring, the woman told me that she lives with her mother and sister. I asked her again-to confirm I understood what she was saying. I couldn't fathom her living there with her

## AROUND THE WORLD BY MARIANNE H.

When you have lived in the same place all of your life and don't have the means to travel to different areas, the world can seem like a really small place. This is so true, especially for the children of Ethiopia.

Most of the children have seen a map but they have no concept of how big the world really is. Some of the children have taken geography in school, but due to limited resources they have seen very few pictures and basically no videos of the rest of the world. Blessing the Children decided to try to change that. The world is a huge, beautiful place with so many different cultures, cuisines and climates. It is a wonderful display of God's creativity, His majesty, and His power. And we wanted the children to know this.

Every month, the BCI sponsorship program children are brought together for an Activity Day. This is a day of fun, fellowship, learning about the Bible, and a feeding program. Most activity days we try to have a theme but coming up with new themes can be challenging! One of the missionaries had an idea to have an "International



Marianne sharing about her country, Holland.

Day". The goal was to teach the children about countries all over the world, to show them God's diversity, and to show them how God loves everyone in the world.

Six classrooms were set up to represent six different "countries". The countries represented were: Canada, USA, Holland, Australia, New Zealand, and Samoa. The missionaries that were from these countries were in the rooms waiting for the children. Upon arrival to Activity Day, the children were divided in 6 teams and they traveled from country to country and learned about each of them.

There was also a Bible story shared with each group about God's love for the world. The children had so much fun learning about different places. They really enjoyed looking at all the pictures from around the world and seeing different ways of dressing, dancing, and sports.

If you have other ideas for Activity Day themes, we would love to hear them! You can submit your ideas to [Info@BlessingtheChildren.org](mailto:Info@BlessingtheChildren.org). Thank you!



## HIGHLIGHTS



The BCI Academy principal, Mulugeta (left) and additional staff are hard at work unboxing and organizing the books!

