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KAMASHI POST



Caring for Orphans & Widows

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WWW.BLESSINGTHECHILDREN.ORG

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FIRST PHOTOS OF THE NEW ARRIVALS



Andrea

Eight of the ten new children have already been selected for adoption by families wanting to adopt in America. It may be several months before the paperwork can be finished and the children will actually be able to go home to their new families. In the meantime, we will care for and love the babies and toddlers with great joy.

CCI, we are partnering with another agency based in Kentucky, to also start adopting from Ethiopia.

With an estimated four million orphans in Ethiopia, there are plenty of children in need of a loving family. With two adoption agencies finding

Blessing the Children has accepted ten new children, all infants and toddlers, to be adopted into loving families from America.

With the majority of children adopted being infants and toddlers, it was important to expand the age of children we received to include the little ones.

It is exciting to see these children find loving families who will love and raise the children as their own child. What a blessing for the orphaned child being adopted!

Blessing the Children cannot do adoptions from Ethiopia due to our operating an orphanage there. Ethiopian law prohibits an organization from doing adoptions and operating an orphanage.



Ribka

This new initiative to start reaching out to infants and toddlers is thanks to our partnership with CCI (Celebrate Children International based in Florida. In addition to

homes in America, we pray the Lord will allow us to help twice as many children.

If you would like more information on adopting a child, whether one of our previous children or an infant/toddler, please feel free to contact CCI's Ethiopian Director, Debbie Wankel at 618-263-3705 or email her at:

Debbie@celebratechildren.org

If you'd like to visit their website, go to www.celebratechildren.org



KEITH V. STRAWN
FOUNDER & PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

Thanksgiving Day may be an American holiday, a festive day celebrated with family and friends, but that does not mean we have a monopoly of thanksgiving. In fact, the wonderful children being so blessed in the Kamashi Orphanage give thanks everyday for their sponsors and those supporting the orphanage. They kneel each night at the foot of their beds and pray for their sponsors. Some have even received a photo from their sponsor which the children treasure and hold as they pray for them.

If you have any prayer requests, please write and let us know. We would love to pray specifically for you!

Abundant blessings,

Keith V. Strawn



Letu

Lelise

CRUST OF BREAD



*A crust of bread
for my little brother?
It's all I ask
for we have no mother.*

*She died in the hut
when my brother she bore,
my father and brothers
with me made just four.*

*Our father, you ask,
"Where is he now?"
He passed last month
killed by a cow,*

*No mother, no father
it's now just us three.
We beg for our food
and live under this tree,*

*We drink from the river
and have only these clothes.
Now I ask you one question,
just one I will pose.*

*A crust of bread
for my little brother?
It's all I ask
for we have no mother.* 🌍

HOPE FOR MANY

The photo to the right was taken looking out of the gate at the Kamashi Orphanage. It is one of so many children that crowd around the gates for hours a day, looking in at the Americans and the children playing.

One of the hardest issues to deal with, for visitors and teams is, "With so much need and so many children, why toil to try to make a difference? What can come of it?"

Believe me, I have asked myself the same question many times. In fact, I took the photo of the little girl to the left, about five years ago on my first visit to Ethiopia. She was raising her two little brothers because her parents had both died. It is not uncommon to find children raising children.

It is for this reason that we started the Kamashi Orphanage. Not so we might help every child in Ethiopia, but so that we might connect individuals like you to children like these. As God provides sponsors to individual children, a child is helped and given hope. And for that one child, the world is changed.

Whether you are a sponsor or if you donate to this ministry, you are changing the world for individual children. Thank you! 🌍



REFRESHING

One of the few luxuries of life that is available in Kamashi is soda. It is strange that in the remotest parts of Ethiopia, where Christ has yet to be preached, you can find Coke and Pepsi.

Catherine (l) and Kathy (r), come into town to get a cold one. Well, they are not so very cold, but the sodas are refreshing.

Kathy and Catherine were with us this past summer, and were a huge blessing." 🌍



HE'S MY BROTHER

A number of our children in the Kamashi Orphanage are related. In the photo on the right, Tarekegn(r) and his brother Geremu(l), were living with their aged grandfather since their parents died.

Their grandfather is quite elderly and could not feed the children. They could not attend school and were very happy when they were accepted into the Kamashi Orphanage & School.

They have been with us since April, 2006, and are growing strong and doing quite well in school.

Tarekegn is a devout student, likes to learn and has progressed to the second grade, even though he is

twelve. Not having been in school prior to coming into the orphanage means he got a late start, but he is progressing very well.

His brother, Geremu, is now just eight years old. He is learning great English, and uses it when



as he plays on his own. Geremu (in the photo below), is drawing a church in the dirt and writing in English.

These two boys are going to make it, and it is all thanks to wonderful sponsors and donors who make it possible for them to be with us. 🌍



PRAYER PARTNERS NEEDED

The effectiveness of this ministry, like any other, is a result of many of you holding it up in prayer. We understand that the battles we face or not against flesh and blood, but are spiritual. We need your prayers.

While we covet the prayers of everyone, some of you are given to intercession. If you feel God is calling you to be a regular intercessor for Blessing the Children, the orphanage and all the children and staff, please let us know by marking the enclosed envelope. It would be good for us to know who to notify when we have a particular prayer request. 🌍

HIGHLIGHTS



FUN WITH BALLOONS (ABOVE)

Several of the boys enjoyed playing with balloons that a team member brought. In the foreground is Begir Desh



SHHH, IT'S A SECRET (BELOW)
Girma Chaye tells his friend a secret.



DELIGHT AND ANGER MEET (ABOVE)

Habbitamu (left) gives his standard response to conflict (even when picked on). Like water off a duck's back, he is impervious.

Elias (right) expresses anger, but gets no rise out of Habbitamu, who's simply easy-going.