

Hope Enterprises

Quarterly Report

January, February and March 2008

Part I: Headquarters

During the quarter, we had the good news of Menlo Park Presbyterian Church financing the construction of a second cycle elementary school involving grades five to eight in our Roggie Child Care and Training Center in the Rift Valley. As important as food production is, the construction phase of our irrigation based agricultural projects in two districts in Wollo began. In Addis Ababa, as our feeding center has been operating beyond full capacity, we had to open up another soup kitchen in the premise of one of our projects close by, being the second soup kitchen in the country. Soon, 300 folks lined up for the famous lunch bringing the total number that we fed daily in both soup kitchens to one thousand. Inflation continued to affect the purchasing power of our various services and of those with no or low incomes. Wishing to address the problem of inflation as related to particularly food, we began to plan for a day long consultation in April involving various stakeholders like concerned governmental agencies, companies, farmers' associations, consumer cooperatives and consumer associations. At the same time, the employability of our graduates reached 95%, the highest record ever.

At a special gathering of the staff, Dr. Minas Hiruy announced his long held intention of resigning from his post as president of the organization effective from July 1, 2008. According to him, given the full attention that the university college had been needing, he decided to shift his role to the presidency of the university college with the Board's endorsement. He stated that he had prepared the organization for this eventuality and that the staff has been running the organization quite ably since he left the executive leadership of the Ladders of Hope in 2004. He conveyed that the organization continues to show outstanding results and is in the best possible financial position. He thanked the Board and the staff for their commitment, the various donors for their financial support, the government for its cooperation and most of all the various beneficiaries, whom he saw as the prime mission and source of motivation for his leadership of 21 years.

Soon after, the Board began to work on succession. It revisited the role definitions among the two divisions of the Ladders of Hope (existing activities) on one hand and the Hope University College on the other and how all related to the headquarters. The Board, in keeping with its decision to have each division operate autonomously under its respective CEO, saw it best to have the person in charge of the headquarters focus on just coordination, facilitation and representation with the title of general secretary. This arrangement was discussed with the Executive Director of the Ladders of Hope, Mr. Zenebe Ayele, and the soon to be President of the university college, Dr. Minas and was acceptable to each. The Board then began the recruitment of the general secretary.

Mr. Alec Reed, Chairman of the Trustees of Ethiopiaid and Ms. Joanna Roberts, the Manager of the charity, visited us leading a delegation of company presidents on March 10. A team constituted of Dr. Corne Kocks and Dr. Jan Lok from the Netherlands came to begin gathering feedback about the business curriculum of the university college. Representatives from Menlo Park Presbyterian Church also came to explore future possibilities for the Roggie Project that the church has been financing.

Part II: Ladders of HOPE

The Addis Ababa Branch

Full Family-Based Child Care

The program continued to support 403 students (187 boys and 216 girls), during the reporting quarter. The office of the Addis Ababa Branch purchased food supplies such as *teff*, sugar, tea, oil, lentils, pea, paper, vegetables, banana and spices. We celebrated Christmas on January 3, 2008. The kindergarten and elementary school teachers were busy decorating the Multi-Purpose Hall with balloons and twinkle lights. The children, their guardians and staff members attended the ceremony. The department of Child Care purchased 403 warm-up suits and school bags costing 88,000 ETB as gifts to each of the children from the Bundle of Love budget provided by Woord & Daad. Correspondence between the children and sponsors went well during this reporting quarter. During the quarter, 27 children were medically assisted. The major health problems were common cold, stomach ache, minor fractures, and skin diseases.

Partial Family-Based Child Care

A total of 164 students (81 male and 83 female) were supported by this program during the reporting quarter. 107 students attended their education at HOPE School, 27 of them were trainees at the HOPE Vocational Training Center and 26 students attended schools elsewhere. Prior to this reporting quarter, students under this program used to receive Birr 33.00 per month for lunch allowance. However as the problem of inflation surfaced, the students complained about the money not stretching to buy them full lunch. The students then told Hope that they prefer to eat lunch at the branch's cafeteria than take lunch allowance. This preference was accepted and the children have been provided with lunch since March 1, 2008 much to their happiness.

In as much as this support was partial, Hope has tried its best to augment whatever income the families of the children had by assisting in income generating activities. Previously 25 of the poorest mothers were assisted with the provision of injerra making electric appliance known as mitad along with the other start up inputs for them to bake and sell injerra and earn additional income with funding provided by Interkerkelijke Stitching Ethiopie of the Netherlands. As the activities of the mothers showed profitability, the mothers were able to feed their children three meals a day and meet the educational expenses of the same. Five more mothers were assisted in a similar way during the quarter and a plan is underway to include additional women with budget allowing in the coming few months.

Feeding Center

During the quarter, a total of 52,500 hot and nutritious meals were served. More than 80% of those fed were adults, and the remaining 20% were children. Beginning from March 16, 2008, we started to serve additional 300 meals per day by establishing another soup kitchen at our rehabilitative street children's project, a couple kilometers away from the existing soup kitchen. This addition became the second soup kitchen in the whole

country. We have been working for a long time to locate another location noting the gradual increase in the number of those needing lunch. But, with a difficulty to rent a place, we had to make place in our other down town project location. We promoted the opening of the second feeding center among the poor and did we have a crowd right during the first day of opening. Every one including the staff was happy about the second soup kitchen being opened.

Street Children Breakfast Program

Considering the important service of breakfast to street children, the number of those being fed breakfast was increased to 700 from the 630 children previously assisted. The 70 children added were very happy given their precarious situation facing hunger on the streets. The street children's breakfast continued to provide service at a time when what the children's earnings from the begging and the small chores that they did during much of the day could not stretch. We had a number of volunteers that taught and counseled the children after breakfast and this intervention of listening and remedial help steered many to be serious about their future. An Ethiopian engineer named Mr. Semru Mehari, taken by the need and the motivation of the street children in the breakfast program, volunteered his time to teach and counsel. And then when he noted the effectiveness of the help, he hired a teacher to assist four times a week. What an example and we thank him for this gesture.

HOPE School, Addis Ababa

A total of 814 students (381 male and 433 female) attended their education in our school during the reporting quarter. First semester final examinations were given and results were notified to students. Based on these results and teachers' discussions, teachers made necessary preparations for the second half of the academic year. After a week-long-vacation, school was opened for the second semester in early February. The school hired a number of staff members including a replacement for the school principal, who resigned only after few months of work.

The various clubs in the school were active. Members of the Girls Club visited the Fistula Hospital here in Addis Ababa and were briefed by one of the medical doctors about the causes and consequences of Fistula, which is a medical condition caused by labor complications in young women, that were given to marriage in their early teens. Underage marriage is one harmful traditional practice that has had its toll on girls. Much awareness raising is done to mitigate it. But as steeped as the tradition is in culture, it continues to prevail particularly in the back country. The Environmental Club launched a cleaning campaign in the school compound with the aim of creating awareness about the importance of sanitation. The Anti-HIV/AIDS and Red Cross clubs were working on peer education about the spread and prevention of the pandemic.

Community Based Educational Support

i. Street Children

350 street children of whom 163 were girls, continued to be supported with their educational expenses and uniforms being paid for. The performance of the children in the various schools of attendance was beyond our expectation considering their terrible living

conditions. But the breakfast they were entitled to and the provisions for their education were two strings that gave them hope and the hope they gained showed in their smiles despite the hardships that they faced everyday.

ii. Other Children

The educational support for other children targeted rural and urban children in the periphery of Addis Ababa in Bole Sub city with the total number of those being assisted being 400. Of these, 228 or 57% were girls. Our intervention with the usual support for school supplies and uniforms was great news and it was great to see so many go to schools like other children. Tutorial classes have also been set up for the children in their various schools.

School of Home Workers, Addis Ababa

A total number of 250 Home Workers continued to benefit from the nigh school in the two locations in Addis Ababa that we set up. The director of projects had visited both schools and talked to the students and the staff. As the schools were reused during day and evening, they were maintained. Furthermore certificates were prepared for those home workers who dropped out for one reason or another. We realized that the certificates from the Hope School had value and availing these with the transcripts were appreciated.

Scholarship for University Students

Under this project, there were 15 students (10 male and 5 female) from different Universities in the country. Nine of these students were from Addis Ababa University and the remaining six were from Debu University, Jimma University and Alemaya University. During this reporting quarter, they took their monthly stipends from the branch office after they submitted a copy of their first semester results. Wro. Ruth Abraham, a member of our general assembly and a retired staff member of the UN, volunteered two hours each Saturday and taught nine of the youngsters on improving communication skills. This intervention helped a lot raising up self confidence as well.

HOPE Vocational Training Center, Addis Ababa

The total number of trainees during this quarter was 128. Of the total 45 were girls. Mid-term and final-term examinations were prepared and given only for common and supportive modules. Continuous assessment was used for the main modules. Final examination was conducted from February 5 to 9, 2008. Both trainees and instructors then had a-week-long vacation from February 12-16, 2008. Searching for apprenticeship-offering companies was one of the main activities of the quarter. The 70 companies we contacted gave us positive response. The apprenticeship program will start on May 6, 2008.

The bulk purchase of workshop materials based on the request for Wood Works, Electrical Technology, International Hotel Service and Catering and General Mechanics was carried out during the quarter. The Job and Business Mediation Center, in collaboration with the Vocational Training Center advertised our training programs and

the types of skills that employers could count on through prime-time television. This step paid off as calls for graduates came one after the other and virtually all graduates were placed in jobs.

Our training center was visited by a number of guests. On March 15, 2008, guests from Ethiopiaid visited the center. Ethiopiaid has been fully financing our vocational programs in Addis Ababa. On March 16, 2008, Mr.Gert Wiggelinkhuijsen, Small and Medium Business Development Officer of Woord en Daad, held a discussion with BEST instructors, representatives of trainees who were engaged in BEST training and previous graduates who have been involved in business sectors. Mr. Wiggelinkhuijsen also had discussions with Gasha Saving and Credit Company that we had worked with in order for the company to avail business loans to our graduates. With financing from Woord & Daad, we had put over half a million Birr in the bank as collateral for those graduates with business plans that qualify.

Job and Business Mediation

Of the 73 graduates from last year, 70 were permanently employed and the remaining two youngsters free lanced using their skills. This success was gained due to the untiring efforts of the manager of job and business mediation, the series of advertisements that we had on prime time TV and the relevance of the training program that we have had in various fields.

The Dessie Branch

Full Family-Based Child Care

This program continued to support 912 students of whom 449 or 49% were girls. Of the total, 634 attended our school in Dessie, 124 were in HOPE Vocational Training Center, 72 were in different preparatory schools in Dessie and the remaining 82 students were following their education in various universities throughout the country.

On January 4, 2008, the branch celebrated Christmas with students, parents, invited guests and staff members. Dr. Minas Hiruy and his family also spent the day with the children. He made an inspiring message to the children and the minders/parents that came. As usual, he had a way of relating advice to practical outcomes and this was taken particularly by the youngsters. He then presented gifts to each child. This time the gift to each child included bed sheets and blankets and the funding fro this surprise was made by Woord & Daad. The event was made special with the presence of Paul and Kimm Edwards and their four children, who came from California and spent few days teaching the children. Their children bonded with our children showing clearly that it is not only adults who cared for others.

The monthly parental meetings were conducted and issues like student conduct, personal and environmental sanitation, academic performance, punctuality for class, etc., were discussed. The sanitation of the dining room, kitchen, and bathrooms were closely supervised. Correspondence between the children and their sponsors was carried out. The bulk purchase of staples was made to hedge against the continuing rise in food prices. The 72 students that were in different preparatory schools were provided with monthly stipends and stationary materials. Discussions were also held with their parents regarding

their academic performance. We sent the monthly stipend of 95 birr and bed sheets and blankets to the 82 students in the different Universities throughout the country. Eight children withdrew from the program for various reasons, and five of the vacancies were filled during this reporting quarter.

HOPE Junior Clinic

A total number of 124 children were medically assisted in the Junior Clinic during the reporting quarter. However, the case of four students was beyond the capacity of the clinic so they were referred to a nearby hospital. It was reported that all of them were doing well.

Food Security Development Project

A contract was awarded for an irrigation development along the Jebdes River in Worebabu district following bid formalities. The project involves damming Jebdes River and then developing channels for water distribution to various holdings where vegetables and fruits are planned to be grown. A program of site handover took place in the presence of the local community and local government delegates. The irrigation development is expected to benefit a total of 2000 farmers and enabling them to produce vegetables two to three times a year. In Tehuledere district, the same work is to be undertaken involving Yitecha River and when the search for a qualified contractor is completed.

HOPE School, Dessie

The school enrolled a total of 634 students during the quarter. Of the total 312 or 49% were girls. Students were given first semester final examination from January 14 to 19. After taking a week-long vacation, school was re-opened by the end of January. Based on the results of the exams, tutorial classes were arranged for students with low marks.

Supervision was undertaken to ensure that the daily lesson plans were prepared in line with the annual lesson plans, and were then implemented as per the schedule of the school. Classes which were not conducted due to different reasons were compensated during Saturdays. The weekly time schedule was prepared in line with the educational radio programs. With this alignment, students had a chance to listen to the broadcasts of the educational radio sponsored by the Bureau of Education. The first semester examination results were made known to all minders/parents so that they could allot enough study hours for their children when at home. Lists of students that scored below 50% were given to teachers for them to closely follow up their academic performance and help bring about better academic attainment. During this quarter, a roster with personal data for grade eight students was prepared and submitted to the district's Education Office. Supporting educational materials were made available to students. Our libraries were opened the whole day on week days and half day on Saturday so that students and teachers could make the most out of them. Counseling services were also provided. We sent an activity report to the districts Education Office every two weeks.

Community-Based Education Support

Under this project, there were a total of 400 students. Of the total, 242 or 61% were girls. The children were supported in eight public schools in Dessie. All of them received

educational materials and funding for their uniforms and footwear. Medical expenses of those who were treated for sicknesses were also refunded upon presentation of a legal receipt. Based on the results of the first semester examination results, tutorial classes were arranged for slow learners. This was done by collecting their results from the eight schools in which they were learning.

School of Home Workers

In this reporting quarter, a total of 99 female home workers attended school, ranging from grades 1 to 3. Twenty-one beneficiaries left the program for their own reasons. Upon a rapid assessment, we found out that many of the young girls could not keep their jobs for one reason or another. This meant moving to a different location too distant from our own school for them to commute at night. We had discussions with some of their employers. A typical response given is that the education has empowered the girls changing their attitude and giving them hope. We noted that some of the employers do not like this change process as the young girls could say no to some work conditions or have the confidence to find better alternatives.

Scholarship for University Students

Our office of child care maintained constant contact with the 84 university students in various parts of the country. The contacts were appreciated. Even more the monthly stipend of Birr 95.00. The Christmas gift sent to them added to their happiness. As the first semester ended, all were promoted to the second semester.

HOPE Vocational Training Center

The center had 124 trainees. Of these 68 or 55% were girls. Our training center was invited by the Amhara National Regional State's Technical and Vocational Agency to a training program on the implementation, evaluation and review of the new vocational curriculum. Four of our teachers attended this training, which took place in Bahir Dar from February 20 to 29.

The training program continued on the basis of the weekly time schedule. Various practical works were accomplished in the four fields of training. The trainees of general mechanics manufactured various metal products while the trainees of construction technology maintained hand-wash troughs, undertook the foundation work of bathrooms and produced building blocks. The trainees of Secretarial Service and Office Management handled various office works using the computer and the trainees of electrical technology handled industrial wiring, single phase motor rewinding, refrigeration, and air condition systems.

Job and Business Mediation

As the quarter started, the branch had nine of the 55 graduates that were waiting either for jobs or further education. By the end of the quarter, of the nine, two got employed and three joined high level training in their respective fields. The remaining 4 youngsters freelanced using their skills. As the Office of Job and Business Mediation was advertising for help wanted including the graduates of Dessie, this effort helped in the job

placement. The persistent contact with exiting and potential employers was also important to the success registered.

The Gambella Area Project

Family-Based Child Care

A total of 560 children of which 266 were girls were cared for during the reporting quarter. Of the total, 58 students were attending schools outside of HOPE. The usual support continued to be provided. The children ate breakfast and lunch every day except on Sundays, and the quality of the food was regularly checked by the organization's nurse. The children continued to show significant change in their height and weight. The family allowances were also given to parents. With the aim of improving the academic performance of children and shaping their behavior, the usual weekly parental meetings were held in the school's compound. The results of first semester examinations were reviewed and corrective measures were taken. Health education was given by the school's nurse. During the quarter, a total of 85 students were medically assisted.

Community Based Child Care

A total of 76 children (43 female and 33 male) were supported under the Community Based Child Care. The children attended their education in four community schools in Gambella. The usual monthly allowance of 45 birr was distributed to the minder/parent of each child. 13 students were medically assisted for minor health problems. Stationary materials were distributed to all the 76 students and the Child Care Officer gave counseling services to the same at regular intervals.

HOPE School, Gambella

The purchase and distribution of school materials for the 560 students was accomplished. Classroom materials were distributed for the second semester. There were awards of books to children who excelled during the first semester and these awards were given in a special ceremony at the end of January. Before school was closed for a week long vacation, all teachers submitted the weekly lesson plans to the principal of the school for an evaluation.

The different co-curricular activities continued to be operational during the reporting quarter. An inter-class volleyball competition was undertaken by the Sports Club. Each club accomplished activities expected from it which promoted the extra-curricular participation of students in and out of the school compound. With the aim of keeping the environmental sanitation and personal hygiene of students, the school nurse regularly monitored the hygiene of students and advised them on how to keep themselves clean. Teaching aids were prepared by the Pedagogical Center and were given to each teacher. In the preparation of the teaching aids, both students and teachers were actively involved.

Community-Based Child Care

Under this project, 76 children (43 girls and 33 female) were supported. Some of these students attended HOPE school while the remaining students attended four other schools in town. The usual monthly allowance of 45 birr was given during the reporting quarter to

each student. A total of 28 children were medically assisted. Education on how to prevent Malaria was also given. In analyzing the performance of the first semester, 70 of the 76 students got above average marks. We contacted the parents of the remaining six students that scored below average and discussed with them the ways they can help in helping their children improve their grades. During the quarter, the sponsors sent 108 letters, along with stickers, balloons, stationary materials, pictures etc. The children wrote thank you letters in reply.

Construction of the High School and the Vocational Training Center

By the end of March, most of the construction work was done. A team from headquarters and the consultant, Abba Architects, went to verify the progress of the work. A lot was done in a very short time and the investment certainly added to the completeness of the Gambella Campus. The authorities visited the work and were quite happy about the accomplishment. At the same time, the office of the Ladders began to get the furniture for the various classrooms manufactured by the wood shop of the Addis Ababa Vocational Training Center.

Scholarship for University Students

This project has been supporting 13 university students all over the country. All students received monthly allowances and stationary materials. During the quarter, we checked their first semester grade reports and the results ranged from very good to excellent.

Daycare Project

The construction works of the four shades and the fence to house the four day care centers were completed. A week-long training was conducted for the staff on topics such as how to keep the day care centers clean and the content and method of educational delivery as well as recreational programs for the children. Breakfast and lunch were arranged for the children with the meals being served from Monday to Saturday.

Each of the four centers had forty children and our school's nurse visited each center regularly and attended to the health of the children and the sanitation of the centers. A total of 23 children were medically assisted.

The Assosa Area Project

With the growth of the area project, an accountant and a secretary were hired with the oversight of the office of the Ladders over the selection. The area project was also connected to the Internet during the quarter. The area project was invited by the regional government to attend two workshops on children's vulnerability and contributing factors to child marginalization on one hand and various ways of service delivery to affected children on the other. The workshop was for five days and the two staff members who attended it from the area project were appreciative of the knowledge and the experiences shared.

Family-Based Child Care

A total of 200 children of which 108 were girls were supported in this program. The children ate breakfast and lunch every day except on Sunday. The quality of food was constantly checked. A total of 62 children were medically assisted. According to the report we got from the Assosa Hospital, major causes of illnesses were malaria, typhoid, common cold, headache and different Funguses.

The children and the staff celebrated Christmas together in our rented quarter. Each child was given clothing then with funding from Woord & Daad. During the quarter, 63 sponsors sent greeting letters, and the children wrote thank you letters. New household utensils were purchased to prepare the meals for the children.

HOPE School, Assosa

During the reporting quarter, a total of 200 children attended their education at the school. The quarter was marked by the administration of first semester final examination. Accordingly, 45 students scored above 90% and only one student scored below 50%. Based on the result, evaluative discussions were conducted with teachers and tutorial classes were conducted for low achievers. Parents were called to discuss the results of their children and they signed the report cards of their children. In addition, with the aim of improving the quality of education, one assistant kindergarten teacher was hired. Question & answer programs were also arranged every Saturday in each class. In the 2007/2008 academic year, a total of 1,790 exercise books, 590 pencils and 200 pens were provided to students.

The Construction Project

By the end of the quarter, 70% of the work was done. Much of the work during the quarter revolved around plastering, pointing, roof works, ceiling works, pavement and metal works of the store, library, dinning room and class rooms. The work did not move as fast as we had agreed. This was discussed with the contractor following an analysis of the work done in relation to the contract by our consultant. Rectification was promised and we look forward to better performance during the subsequent quarter.

The Rift Valley Area Project

The Rift Valley Area Project, managed by Ms. Adey Dereje from our office on Churchill Road, progressed well. Both operations in Hirara and Roggie were visited by their respective sponsors. The sponsors came in groups with the members of each group often contributing what they could in their areas of expertise. Thoughts were exchanged on how to chart the future of both operations in the light of their rural character.

With water development being a key component in the operations, it was noted that the Roggie water project was working well while a proposal submitted to TEAR Australia to install the same project in Hirara was accepted. A new addition that is even a pioneering initiative in the country was the phasing in of water filtration equipments for people in two villages. Hope managed to get four of the water filters as contributed by an American company and two of the filters had been installed following a project agreement with the Oromia Government. The water filters worked very well with

remarkable acceptance and use by the public and they are in a position to address the problem of water born diseases with a 99.99% water purification capacity ascribed to the purifiers.

A new problem noted in the area had been that the rains did not show up. This meant no grazing turf for livestock and no planting of the seasonal foods. Added to this problem is the spiraling cost of food.

The Hirara Child care and Training Center

Family-Based Child Care

During the reporting quarter, there were a total of 200 children of which 93 were girls in the program. We provided lunch for all of them and the quality was checked by the project officer. The health of the children has been showing improvement. The monthly parental meetings were conducted and issues like construction of the school and its fencing, the water project, and the toilet construction were raised and discussed. The children were visited by Mr. Dave Hunt and Ato Zenebe Ayele, the Executive Director of the Ladders of Hope. Mr. Hunt provided blankets to all the children. The director of finance, Ato Temesgen Tamene, also conducted property inventory.

Food Security Development Project

The final report of the evaluation of the food security development project as done by Getachew Joseph from Addis Ababa University and financed by the donor of the project, Wood & Daad was discussed with the management team of the Ladders of Hope and approved for final submission to the donor.

HOPE School, Hirara

After a week-long vacation following the end of first semester, all the 200 students returned to their schooling. Teachers began the teaching-learning process based on the daily and weekly lesson plans. Roster was prepared and submitted to the records office. According to the results, 34 students scored above 90%, while only seven students scored between 50 and 59%; the rest fall between 60% and 89%. Stationary materials were distributed to each of the students for the second semester. The re-bid process for the construction of the school was completed and the final contractor agreed to transport the construction materials before the beginning of the rainy season.

Adult Education

The adult education involving 60 farmers continued well. Basic arithmetic, literacy and health education were parts of the curriculum. The farmers constituted men and women with almost an equal ratio. There was much appreciation for the intervention as the transformation from illiteracy to literacy began to make profound meaning to the adults.

Water Development Project

Considering the problem of drinking water in the area, Tear Australia was approached to dig a well to supply water to our school and the neighborhood. Tear had approved the proposal and the work of water development will start soon. Here the lessons learned in Roggie, our other project site in the rift valley where we had developed water supply along with the community's management will be useful.

The Roggie Child Care and Training Center

The center was visited by a team from Menlo Park Presbyterian Church (MPPC) along with the President, Dr. Minas. There was discussion about future plans with the visitors with Dr. Minas underscoring the need to elevate the educational outreach to grade eight from the current track. Emphasis on community development was also underscored considering how much good can be gained in each household. The headquarters submitted a proposal to MPPC to finance the construction of two blocks to house grades five to eight, two blocks for a library and two blocks for an auditorium. Subsequent to the submission of the proposal, there were a number of questions that were posed by Dr. Jeff Zwiers, who had liaised the application. Following responses given, we received the good news that the proposal was accepted for the needed funding by the Church.

Family-Based Child Care

The 200 children (103 male and 97 female) under this program continued to receive support. All of the children eat lunch daily from Monday to Saturday. Monthly stipends continued to be given to each child's minder/parent while all educational expenses including uniforms and footwear were covered by Hope. There were no health problems affecting the children during the quarter. The center was visited by zonal and district level government authorities. The authorities gathered the minders/parents of the children and talked on what the project had meant to them and to their children. All responded in the positive seeing the work as a bold initiative for an area which they regarded long neglected.

HOPE School, Roggie

The tutorial classes, which were started during the previous quarter continued. Teachers provided their daily and weekly lesson plans and the school director ensured strict implementation of the plan. A total number of 33 students (23 male and 10 female) scored more than 91%, and none of the students scored below the average. The monthly parental meetings were conducted and issues like class attendance of students were raised and corrective measures were taken.

The Water Project

Except some technical problems and the consequential service interruption, the provision of clean water was going well. The selected committee had been fulfilling its responsibilities given by the community. There was a suggestion to use the water of the well for irrigation as well. The feasibility of this great idea could be studied and if found workable, the water can be used for particularly vegetables and fruits.

Part III: Hope University College

The construction of the university college progressed well while inflation affected it rather dramatically. Related primarily to the increases in gas prices, the price of cement and iron bars more than doubled putting us in a situation where we had to look for additional funding for the consequent variation.

By the end of the quarter, all foundation work except that of the auditorium and the technical center were completed and headway was made on various works on the superstructure of various buildings. The work on the auditorium was pended till November, 2008 to avoid disruption by the oncoming big rains. The foundation work of the technical center proceeded well until the contractor hit the water level during the digging to put the piles. The foundation engineer was consulted on this development and it was concluded that a slight change in the design of the foundation structure would have to be made and that the remaining work would have to be pended until October 2008, after the end of the rainy season.

The President visited the site regularly. Being in constant contact with Mr. Niek Hoffius, the project manager of the construction, seconded to Hope by Woord & Daad, we addressed every issue regarding the construction during the bimonthly meetings with the contractor and the consultant. The issues addressed during the quarter at the meetings were performance as per the time schedule, variation factors, quality of materials used, staffing as per the contract and the quality of the workmanship itself. In January, the master planner, Mr. Hans Treurniet, visited the progress of the construction and was quite happy about what he observed. Similarly, the engineer that designed the energy aspect, Mr. Klaas de Wit, visited the construction in February and had the same feelings. He had a meeting with the consultant to ensure that the ventilation schemes went according to the plans and he got confirmation that it will be done so. The regular report on the construction was sent to our web site manager, Mr. John Van Deman of Menlo Park, California and the site was revised.

The design of the digital network was further fine-tuned with a decision to have a complete and integrated infrastructure. Similarly, given Hope's decision to make the campus the first friendly campus for disabled people, the concrete fitting for most of the elevators had to be built. As these functions including the water supply of the campus need uninterrupted power supply, a diesel generator as an alternative source of energy had to be a part of the construction. In order to deal with the additional financial burden brought by inflation, the cost of elevators, diesel generator and improved digital infrastructure, additional funding had to be sought. Ethiopiaid was approached about the variation cost brought about by inflation and it was willing to cover half of what was proposed to it.

On the other aspects of the university college's progress, Dr. Minas was on top of the progress. As regards the curriculum, there was consensus about what should be the general knowledge component based on what was gathered from the Ministry of Education and similar institutions world wide. Considering learning handicaps, the foundation concept taken from Cida University of South Africa is assumed to be incorporated within a diploma program for those students who need additional preparation before they join a degree program. Then the specifics about the specialization in business had to be explored during the quarter.

To address the business curriculum, which will be the specialization during the first cycle, a stakeholder consultation involving members of the private sector, employment agencies, Addis Ababa University and the Ministry of Education was made in Addis Ababa by a team from the curriculum consortium, constituted of Dr. Corne Kocks and Dr. Jan Lok from March 10 to 14. The initial feedback was discussed with famous Ethiopian educators in the main office of Hope. The first draft is to be written and shared in a plenary in Addis Ababa in October and with our partners in far distances. Based on their feedback the way forward about the business curriculum is to be charted and programmed.

Parallel to this focus, some time was spent on course selection and how to program the whole student personnel component. In March, the long awaited project agreement regarding the university college was signed between Hope on one hand and the Ministry of Education and Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency on the other.

Keeping the opening of the university college in September 2009 in mind, the President of Hope began searches for books for the library and the book store and with the help of Mr. Hoffius, various options for the purchase of furnishings and equipment from the university college were being explored. Furthermore, as contacts with as many external institutions of higher learning as possible were found to be useful for possibilities for faculty support and technical advice, he spent some time on forming relationships. In this process one of the company owners that came to visit the University College with the delegation of Ethiopiaid, Mr. Richard Rose of the United Kingdom, offered Dr. Minas a chance to visit UK universities during the summer. Another relationship with Fresno Pacific University of Fresno, California, was also formed for a possible visit during fall with sponsorships that were incoming. In addition the president has been working on book drives for books for the general knowledge component and the business curriculum using contacts that he knew worldwide.

Parallel to the above developments, the selection of people for the membership of the advisory board was being completed with a plan to hold the first advisory board meeting next quarter.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Office of Public Relations
Hope Enterprises
155 Churchill Road
P.O. Box 30153
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Tel: +251-11-1560345/1560346
Fax: +251-11-1552638
Email: hope@ethionet.et
Website: hopeenterprises.org.**