

# **Hope Enterprises**

## **Quarterly Report**

### **July, August and September 2008**

#### **Part 1: Headquarters**

As the rains finally came and brought much needed water for the big harvest of the year, the quarter marked a show of many of our achievements. The graduation of 138 technical trainees occurred during the quarter. At the ceremony in Addis Ababa, our special guest was a medical doctor, Dr. Yirikal Geremew, who declared his thanks for our assistance of his academic pursuits at a time when he could have stopped out of school for lack of support. We also had the appreciation of Mr. Tesfaye Yigletu, who became a chemical engineer following our full sponsorship since his childhood.

Hope completed its own transitional chapter that it started implementing since four years ago. Dr. Minas Hiruy resigned his post as the president of the organization and took over his new duty as the founding president of Hope University College effective from July 1. At a graduation ceremony of the vocational graduates of the Addis Ababa branch on July 12, he told an audience of about 400 guests how happy he was to see 21 years of his service come to a happy end with more people that he had never imagined being assisted and standing on their own free of dependency. He was thankful to our Board, donors and staff for enabling him to see through virtually all of the ideas that he initiated to help the needy help themselves. He also conveyed that he was happy to leave behind an organization with a positive financial balance and an internal manpower capacity and structural maturity that could operate without him.

The staff of the organization, which earlier wrote a letter to the Board asking for Dr. Minas to stay on as president, awarded Dr. Minas a trophy for the much stability and confidence that he brought to the staff and for the thousands of the needy that were assisted through the steady expansions of his leadership. Soon after his resignation, a number of letters were sent to him from our various partners and friends worldwide congratulating him for long and illustrious service. With this milestone, Mr. Zenebe Ayele, the Executive Director of the Ladders of Hope continued to run the various activities of the division very well, while the Board started the search for the general secretary to run the main office and coordinate the two divisions.

The needs for relief assistance in Southern Ethiopia being urgent, we began distributing dry rations to families and children as per ration quotas of the state government from July 1 to the end of September. At the same time, support levels to all the children being sponsored were increased during the three months as a way to address the sharp increases in the price of particularly food. The office of the Ladders of Hope was busy preparing for the inauguration of the Gambella High School and vocational training center and for the move of the primary school in Assosa to our newly built campus right in the city. At

this juncture, Hope was exploring the possibilities of starting the seventh operation in Dire Dawa in Eastern Ethiopia involving educational support for children in collaboration with Ethiopiaaid/Ireland.

Dr. Minas visited Thames Valley University in London during the last week of July and learned a lot about how to run a university. His trip was sponsored by Mr. Richard Rose, one of the CEOs who came to visit the university college in January as part of a delegation organized by the principal sponsor of the university college, Ethiopiaaid. Upon his return, he finished writing the first draft of the charter of the university college and distributed the same to the members of the advisory board of the university college. The advisory board approved the charter for the Board's consideration during its meeting on September 25.

In August, the Chairman of the Board and Dr. Minas went to China along with the project manager, Mr. Niek Hoffius and the consultant of the construction of the university college to choose finishing materials for the university college following the invitation of the contractor, China Jiangsu. The team examined the materials and was pleased about much of the choice. It also used the trip to check furniture and equipment for the university college. It was during this time, the main office began to advertise both the Ladders of Hope and Hope University College on the front page of the national papers, the Ethiopian Herald and Addis Zemen and to ask the Ethiopian community to contribute funds. A team was set up to maintain a data base of local donors, acknowledge donations and write and send reports.

## **Part II: Ladders of Hope**

The Office of the Ladders of Hope was mainly occupied with emergency response while the normal activities proceeded as planned. With the swiftly soaring food prices and the government declaring 6.4 million people in need of food assistance, the provision of dry rations and cash assistance to drought affected adults and children in the Roggie Village, Arsi Negelle and Shashemene began on July 1 following the signing of a project agreement with the Food Security, Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency of the Oromia Government. The operation was headed by the director of projects from the office of the Ladders of Hope. The projects of dry ration and cash allowance were for three months of July, August and September.

The Ladders had a number of visitors during the quarter among which were Ms. Sally Buckley, Manager of Ethiopiaaid/UK, Mr. John Lyndon, Manager of Ethiopiaaid/Ireland and Mr. Geoff Quinn of Tear Australia. We discussed possibilities of starting a 7<sup>th</sup> operation in Dire Dawa, some 550 kms east of Addis Ababa involving community based educational support with Mr. Lyndon. We also we went over the plan to dig water well in Hirara with Mr. Quinn of Australia.

## **i. Dry Rations**

In a planned intervention of three phases of dry ration distribution, the first and second rounds have successfully been completed. To this effect a total of 150,000 kgs of wheat, 15,000 kgs of peas, 4,983.75 liters of cooking oil and 30,240 kgs of Famix (protein rich supplementary food for children) were distributed to 6,625 adults and 3,660 children in Arsi Negelle, Shashemane and Roggie Village starting from July 1, 2008. Upon receiving a letter from the West Arsi Zone Food Security, Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Office requesting us to help additional beneficiaries due to the considerable increase in the number of people needing food assistance, 125 adults and 300 children from Arsi Negele district and 1,250 adults from Shashemene district were added in the second round. The beneficiaries picked up their rations from their respective distribution centers. The two rounds of assistance in these areas were fully sponsored by Ethiopaid.

As regards dry ration provisions in Roggie Village, 200 households of the Roggie HOPE school children, 100 households of the community and 300 selected malnourished children received dry rations in the first round. During the second round, 50 households were added following similar request from the cited office. The Roggie relief operation was financed by funding from the Menlo Park Presbyterian Church.

## **ii. Cash Assistance**

Minders and parents of children whom we sponsored in five of our projects got support during such hard time being given Birr 100.00 to each family per month in July, August and September. Woord & Daad supported 1,162 families in the Addis Ababa branch, Gambella Area Project and Assosa Area Project. The same was done for 912 minders/parents in our Dessie Branch following a generous donation obtained from Menlo Park Presbyterian Church.

# **The Addis Ababa Branch**

## **Family Based Child Care**

50 needy children from the poorest of the poor community surrounding our project area joined the program in September bringing the total number of children to 451. Of these 244 were girls. During the Kiremt (Rainy Season) of July and August, the children were on vacation. A monthly allowance of Birr 65 was disbursed to each child during the two months along with the additional cash allowance to help mitigate inflation. Classes began on September 15 with the school cafeteria resuming the lunch service.

The branch purchased and distributed school stationary materials that included 9,040 exercise books, 4,520 ball point pens and 4,520 pencils. The child care department purchased school uniforms and distributed to all children in September. Inspection of the

proper utilization of allowances was carried out through random visits involving 164 homes. 36 students received letters and gifts from their foster parents. 87 students wrote reply and greeting letters to their sponsors. 12 children were medically assisted for minor illnesses such as head ache, cold and injuries that occurred during outdoor playing.

### **Partial Family Based Child Care**

In an effort to reach more children who are in need, 100 new beneficiaries were added to the program increasing the total number of children assisted to 264. Of these 137 were female. 137 students attended their education in HOPE school and vocational training center while the remaining 127 children attended various public schools elsewhere. The branch provided 5,280 exercises books, 2,640 pens and 2,640 pencils. School uniforms were also distributed to the high school students and work clothes to the vocational trainees. With the exception of three students, who attended their education out of HOPE school, all students were successful in passing to the next grade.

### **Feeding Center**

Slightly over 1000 meals were served every day except Sunday during the quarter hosting 79,000 of the hungry. Compared to the 56,700 folks that were fed during the previous quarter, the increase by 22,300 people or by 39% was substantial. The summer months featuring cold weather and the lean times as far as food was concerned, the additional visitors were expected. Of the total, who were fed 27,023 were females and 12,393 were children. The main feeding center had some repair work. Psycho-social counseling was also given by some volunteers and staff to some of the fed.

### **Street Children Breakfast**

730 children were served with hot tea latte, banana and bread each morning Monday through Friday. Daily counseling was also given. The good news was that as a result of the counseling 30 street children were reunited with their families. Mr. Semru Mehari, an engineer, has also continued his service of providing informal education to the children. The quality and quantity of the breakfast was regularly supervised by the social worker.

### **Hope School, Addis Ababa**

July 6 marked the closing of the 2007/08 school year in a colorful ceremony in the presence of parents, students and teachers. 39 outstanding students from thirteen classes were awarded for their scholastic achievements and a short play revealing the characters of hard working and lazy students was staged with an incredible performance on the day. Entertaining puppet shows and poems were also presented to the audience. In a speech made by the school principal, it was reported that during the 2007/08 academic year, with the exception of two students, all students were promoted to the next grade.

All the 104 students who sat for grade 8 national examinations successfully passed to the next grade as did all of the 64 students who sat for the grade ten national examinations. Of the 64 students, four students got straight As or a 4 grade point average, 57 students scored B and B+ and only 3 students earned from 2 to 2.75 grade point average or C to B-As September dawned a total of 791 students were enrolled with 417 of the students being girls. One development that surfaced in July was the phasing of the second track class that we had been running for ten years in order to sustain the service that we opened up to the students that were enrolled following a decision to have a second track for each class and the change of heart about that decision after a year.

## **Community Based Educational Support**

### **i. Street Children**

With the recruitment of 100 additional street children during the reporting quarter, a total of 550 children were assisted with their educational expenses. Of these, 203 were girls. These children were from the street having nobody to look after them and were of age less than ten. The children were enrolled in 40 different government schools with close regular follow-ups by the project officer. Breakfast provisions continued for all the 550 street children in two of our soup kitchens. As the end of the quarter, school uniforms and stationary materials were distributed to all the children. 47 of the children were regularly counseled during the quarter.

### **ii. Other Children**

100 destitute children in Bole Sub city were recruited for the program. This brought the total number of children assisted to 500. Of these, 282 were girls. All were provided with school stationary materials and uniforms were being tailored for them. The students being enrolled in five public schools in and around Kebelle 16, a semi rural area, all of the previous students assisted made it to the next grade in July. The tutorial classes given to them every Saturday for two hours and the close follow-ups helped in their achievement.

## **School of Home Workers, Addis Ababa**

Basic education to 250 female home workers continued during the quarter with the provision of all the necessary educational materials. In the three levels designed for this program, level one and level two contained 90 students each, while level three had 70 students. By way of good news, the basic education that we had featured was accredited by the Kolfe Keranio sub-city.

We also learned that with the passing of a regional examination offered by the sub city following the completion of level three, those who passed the examination qualify to enroll in grade five in the formal schools. We are discussing the possibilities of financing those girls who succeed in such examination join public schools at night. The newly prepared teaching guide on basic education at national level was given to the teachers. An

inclusion of male home workers into the program was suggested by the local education bureau.

### **Scholarship for University Students**

Of the 15 students supported, 11 remained to be assisted in the program. Of these three were girls. Three students graduated and one dropped out. Of the remaining 11 students, six of them attended Addis Ababa University and the remaining five students were enrolled at Debu University, Jimma University and Haromaya University. During this reporting period, they received their transport allowance, pocket money and school supplies from the branch office after submitting a copy of their second semester grade report. The grade reports showed that all the 11 students scored more than average grade point passing to the next year. The project is supported by Mr. Kevin Cashman of the US.

### **Vocational Training Center, Addis Ababa**

July 12, 2008 was a special day marking the graduation of 77 trainees from vocational center with 18 students graduating from electrical technology, 20 students from general mechanics, 8 students from wood works and the remaining 31 students from the school of hotel services and catering. Of these, 34 were girls. Different project works of the graduates were exhibited during the graduation ceremony.

During the quarter, the center produced office and guest house furniture, laboratory tables and chairs and other materials for the newly constructed Gambella high school and vocational training center. Desks, office tables and cup boards were also made for Assosa and rift valley area projects. Bulk purchases of raw materials for the upcoming six months were also completed.

Following the summer vacation, the training center resumed class on September 14, 2008 with a total of 125 trainees. Of these 47 were girls. 37 trainees joined the electric technology stream, 38 trainees were in the general mechanics stream, 18 trainees were in the wood works stream and 32 students were in the school of hotel services and catering. One of our instructors in general mechanics, Ato Mesfin Amerga, was sent for further training on modern welding for seven consecutive weeks.

### **Job and Business Mediation**

The office of job and business mediation advertised the available graduates and the high standard training given at our center in national newspapers entitled the Ethiopian Herald and Addis Zemen. This effort seemed to have paid off as many calls looking for graduates came. Of the 77 graduates of July 59 or 77% secured employment.

# **The Dessie Branch**

## **Family Based Child Care**

With the recruitment of 50 children from the poorest of the poor communities, the number of beneficiaries supported during the quarter reached 912. Of these 427 were girls. During the summer break, each child was given an allowance of Birr 50 per month and lunch each Thursday. In addition, a monthly allowance of Birr 100.00 was given to each household in July, August and September to help food affordability on account of inflation. Beginning from 15th September, when classes started, the usual lunch and breakfast services were availed to the 714 students who attended our school. Uniforms were also distributed to these students.

All of the 912 students were provided with the necessary school supplies. In a new development, a new grain mill was installed next to the kitchen of the campus of the branch to mill grains that are used for both breakfast and lunch. This step is expected to save cost phasing out loading and unloading charges and of course the increasing charges for milling. With support from Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, a shed leading to the cafeteria of the elementary school was built to protect children that line up for meals from rain and sun.

## **Hope School, Dessie**

In the 12 classes from KG 1 to grade 10, there were a total number of 639 students who attended the Hope School, Dessie. Of these, 324 were girls. After spending a two months Kiremt vacation the students were excited to come back to school for registration for the new academic year. School opened on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September. During this day, an orientation was undertaken in three separate sessions involving the staff, students and minders/parents. During the orientation, the school's academic plans, expectations, rules and regulations were conveyed. All the 54 students who sat for grade 8 exams passed to grade nine. Similarly, the 36 students who took the tenth grade national examinations passed and were enrolled in the college preparatory classes. Annual, weekly and daily lesson plans were submitted to the school's director during the month of August.

## **Community Based Education Support**

With an additional enrolment of 100 new children in August, a total of 500 children were assisted with their educational expenses. Of the total, 273 were girls. An analysis of the performance during the previous school year showed that of the 400 students 12 did not make it to the next class.

## **School of Home Workers**

All the 99 home workers successfully completed their education in July. Additional 149 home workers were recruited for the new academic year that started on September 15. Of

the total 248 enrollees, 112 home workers were in level one, 66 home workers were in level two and 70 home workers were in level three. The K Connection of California funded this helpful project. Kimm and Paul Edwards, who had raised the fund for this project continued to be enthusiastically supportive with their children coming to visit the project every summer. To the girls involve, the whole thing is a new leaf in their lives opening up so many opportunities of success and thus hope. To our surprise, the attrition rate has continued to be low as the employers seeing how settled the home workers have become have continued to allow them to sue the few evening hours for school.

### **Scholarship for University Students**

Of the 82 university students supported under this project, 12 of them graduated. Then 28 youngsters that passed the college entrance examinations were added bring the total number assisted in this project to 98. The support included bed wear, clothing and footwear, transportation allowance and monthly stipend.

### **Hope Vocational Training Center, Dessie**

On August 23, 61 trainees of the vocational training center graduated in a colorful ceremony. Of the graduates, 17 majored in electrical technology, 13 in general mechanics, 15 in secretarial and office management and 16 in construction technology. 36 of the graduates were girls. Board members, district and zonal government officials, parents/guardians and other guests attended the ceremony. Mr. Zenebe Ayele, Executive Director of the Ladders of Hope, made the key note address. Different project works of the graduates such as bread making machine, grinding mill, hydraulic press, welding machine, current limiter welding machine, controlling system water pump and dust cleaner, two house models, and a corridor were displayed after the graduation ceremony. In August a total of 114 trainees of which 63 were girls were registered.

The ICT center that was built with funding from Tear Australia was to be fitted with brand new computers bought locally. However, upon our technical inspection, the offers made following bid formalities for brand name equipment proved otherwise as clones were actually offered under the cover of brand name specifications

A new development that surfaced was the revision of the vocational curriculum by the Ministry of Education. Vocational programs were laid out in four levels with specifications of what field falls in what level. Our fields of training were also renamed as per the guidelines. The vocational training center had to adjust to the revision.

### **Job and Business Mediation**

Of the 61 graduates, 28 of them joined technical colleges of the government having the qualifying grades to benefit from such privilege. Seven of them secured employment. This left a total of 35 graduates looking for work. A number of requests for workers have

come from the Addis Ababa area and every effort is exercised to have them compete for the jobs therein. The one problem that we have had in this regard is the coverage of their expenses while in Addis Ababa considering that the expenses went over their sponsorship allowances.

The Gasha saving and credit company was asked to set up an office in Dessie to process loans for youngsters who may want to establish their own businesses. The Dessie Branch was to provide an office for this facilitation. But with the company not responding to this matter of contract, the youngsters have not had the benefit of business mediation as those in Addis Ababa.

## **The Gambella Area Project**

### **Family-Based Child Care**

The area project recruited 40 new children from the poorest of the poor communities of Gambella in the quarter. This addition brought the total number of children assisted in the program to 579. Of the total 269 were females. By mid September, a new food caterer was chosen for the both the breakfast and lunch program. The quality of the food was regularly supervised by the school's nurse. School uniforms and shoes were distributed to the targeted children. 41 children were treated for Malaria, typhoid and intestinal problems. Consultative meetings were held between teachers and parents on environmental and health problems in an attempt to maintain proper hygiene so that children do not have to suffer from preventable health problems.

### **Community Based Child Care**

44 children were assisted in this project. They were given an allowance of Birr 45 each month along with the provisions of school uniform, supplies and medical care. Nine children who were sick of malaria got their treatment.

### **Hope School, Gambella**

The school had a total of 526 students by September. Of the 39 students who sat for grade eight regional examinations, 33 made it. Similarly of the 29 students, who sat for the 10<sup>th</sup> grade national examinations, three of them were able to join the preparatory school, 21 of them joined the Hope vocational training center and the remaining five were waiting on possibilities to join government vocational schools of a 10+1 category.

The school opened on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September after a vacation of two months. Students were excited to come back to school and see their friends again. Teachers on their part readied themselves with their annual and weekly lesson plans. Students were provided with all the necessary stationary materials. The school's nurse regularly advised and guided students on personal hygiene. Various school clubs like girls club, pedagogical

club, sport club, environmental protection club, Red Cross and anti HIV/AIDS club were reorganized and leaders were elected.

### **The Construction of the High School and the Vocational Training Center**

By the end of September, the construction of the high school and the vocational training center was completed and the handover was scheduled to take place soon after in the presence of the concerned government office. All the necessary furniture for the various buildings was made by the VTC of the Addis Ababa branch and transported to the area project. Different equipments, fittings and books were also put in place. The laboratory rooms were fitted with the necessary lab equipment and the book shelves of the library were also completed and transported. While students began to use the facilities in both the high school and the vocational training center, the inauguration of this important contribution was planned to be on October six in the presence of representatives of the donor agency, Woord & Daad, members of the community and the regional government.

### **Daycare Project and Community Based Educational Support**

The 160 children, of whom 77 were girls, who were supported with a day care service and the provisions of breakfast and lunch, completed their day care education and were absorbed in the community based educational support attending various government schools with our financing. In September, a new crop of 160 abandoned children were recruited for the day care service. Of these 90 were girls.

## **The Assosa Area Project**

### **Family Based Child Care**

By August, enrolling an additional 50 needy children, the total number of children assisted in the area project reached 250. Of these 127 were girls. Biodata of the children were filled with their identity card prepared and their photos being taken. All the provisions of care were provided to the children.

### **Hope School, Assosa**

Of the previous 200 students, all of them passed to the next grade of three with 84 of them scoring above 80%. In July, during a parent's day held in the school's compound, outstanding students were awarded special gifts. By the end of August, 50 additional children were recruited for the nursery bringing the total number of students to 250. Of the total, 127 were girls.

A great development during the quarter was the moving of the school from the rented quarters to our own buildings that were almost completed. The students and the staff liked the facilities and thanked Woord & Daad for the financing provided. They also

liked the scenery and the much space that was availed. For this all of us are thankful to the regional government, which gave the land to Hope free of lease.

The weekly lesson plans in line with the annual lesson plans were carefully planned and submitted to the director of the school in early September. One additional teacher got employed for grade three. With the purpose of providing quality education a teachers' meeting was held and discussions took place on strengthening the tutorial classes, make up classes for the missed classes, strict adherence to lesson plans and one to one consultations with students. By this reporting quarter three co-curricular clubs namely, Anti AIDS Club, drama and literature club and question and answer club were established and began functioning.

### **The Construction of the School and Office Complex**

The construction of the office and most of the classrooms along with the installation of electric power were completed during the quarter. Work on the other facilities continued with performance record of about 83%. As distant as Assosa was and as rainy during the quarter, the work did not proceed as expected.

The long road to the city was being asphalted giving possibilities for us to reach the project in ten or so hours. Similarly, the airfield is being asphalted improving the option of air transport. Local air transport is getting modernized as we learned that the national carrier had ordered bigger planes to serve destinations such as Assosa.

## **The Rift Valley Area Project**

### **The Roggie Child Care and Training Center**

#### **Family Based Child Care**

With the newly recruited 50 children, the number of children supported reached 250. Of these 125 were girls. School uniforms and stationary educational materials were provided to all the children. Minder/Parent meetings held during the quarter were pivotal in raising and discussing health and academic issues essential to the well development of the children. A team of eight visitors led by Bennie Ingraham from Menlo Park Presbyterian Church of USA visited the Roggie children from Sept. 6 to 15. As a result of improved personal hygiene, sanitation, accessibility to clean drinking water and close follow ups by the teachers, there was no recorded health problem among the children during the reporting time.

#### **Hope School, Roggie**

A total of 250 children attended the school. A major achievement worth mentioning in the quarter is the enhanced performance of students with all of them passing to the next

grade. While school was closed for vacation, maintenance of desks, chairs, walls and buildings was undertaken. 50 new desks with their chairs made by the Addis Ababa branch were placed for the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class. With their well prepared daily, weekly and annual lesson plans, teachers began the new school year with zeal on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September. Two new teachers for grades one and three were recruited in place of a teacher who left the school and for the new class that was opened. In the beginning of September the school had a meeting with parents in which the rules and regulations of the school were read out and discussed. Moreover, parents were advised to follow up their children's studies and health matters.

### **The Water Project**

Despite some electric service interruption from the power source, the community benefited from the water project. A technical officer from Addis Ababa branch made urgent repairs on occasions of water pump failures. On the other hand, as part of our effort to increase the participation of women in the water committee works, all the members of the committee became women. A plan is underway to train the committee members using trainers from the Arsi Zone Water Development Desk in collaboration with Kale Heywet Church Water Development Program.

## **The Hirara Child care and Training Center**

### **Family Based child Care**

A group of seven members from Venture Christian Church, the sponsor of the project, as led by Mr. Jack Elwell visited the project for a week in June/July staying there in a tent and assisting the school and the children in various ways. The team gave bags and soaps to the children.

50 additional children of need were recruited by August making the total number of those covered under the child care project 250. The usual support for the 250 students continued. School uniform and stationary educational materials were distributed to all the children. Two children were sick and they received treatment in the near by health center with their expenses being covered by us. The monthly minder/parent meetings were conducted and issues like student personal hygiene, academic performance, punctuality and absenteeism were raised and discussed thoroughly.

### **Livestock Restocking and Seed Distribution**

Following the previously submitted terminal report and our request for evaluation of the performance of this project an evaluation was made by the Food Security, Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau of the Oromia government. According to the evaluation, the project was found to be inline with the government's policy of ensuring

food security at household level. Different representatives of zonal offices participated during the evaluation.

### **Hope School, Hirara**

All the 250 targeted students started their education after the two months of vacation in the beginning of September. The daily and weekly lesson plans together with the annual lesson plans were prepared and submitted to the acting school director by the teachers. According to the results of the final examination all students passed to the next grade level. Teachers met to evaluate and assess the previous year's teaching and learning experience and take corrective measures. A new teacher was recruited for grade three.

### **Adult Education**

The school started its adult education program with 100 adults in September. The class transpired for one hour each working day from 6:00 pm to 7:00 p.m. as per the request made by the participants. Virtually of the adults were farmers with most of whom being illiterates when they started out.

### **Water Development Project**

A progress was made in putting into action the long awaited Hirara water development through identifying water drilling site, formulating bid documents for contractors with funding coming from tear Australia.

### **Construction of the Elementary School**

The new contractor, Chekol Belete General Contractor, completed the foundation works of the school and office complexes. The construction is funded by Venture Christian Church of San Jose, California.

## **Part III: Hope University College**

Hope University College addressed a number of issues during the quarter. Dr. Minas Hiruy, the founding president, prepared a project proposal for operations and submitted the same to the three major donors. The recruitment for the two vice presidents started in July putting job ads in the Reporter and the Monitor. A selection committee was set up by the advisory board. Planning to open the university college in September 2009, the president began to work on faculty recruitment, book collection for the library and classes. He managed to find volunteers in four areas in the US to collect relevant books for the library. The places for the collection are Seattle, Menlo Park, San Jose and Ft. Washington, MD. As to textbooks he was working on various ways by which either publishers can make contributions or purchases can be made at reasonable prices. With the course lists being completed for the freshman year, book lists are being researched on the Internet. Planning to leave for the US starting from the end of September for three

weeks, Dr. Minas had managed to line up speaking engagements and radio interviews to kick off the book drives.

Similarly, he has arranged various contact points to talk with interested faculty members that may wish to come either as volunteers or on a paid basis. These plans had been made at various universities including Stanford University and partner organizations. Dr. Minas has also planned to observe operations at Fresno Pacific University, a university within the size of Hope University College. The issue of furnishing was also raised during the quarter. We have had a Dutch furniture manufacturer that had a branch in Ethiopia look at the building designs and make proposals of furnishing to the specifications of the design. Through the cooperation of the project manager of the construction, Mr. Hoffius, search was made for furniture using companies like IKEA as a reference for comparison. The other option looked at was the involvement of our carpentry shop in the manufacturing of some of the furniture with strict supervision for quality.

The university college has its own website thanks to the efforts of Mr. John Van Deman of Menlo Park. Please visit it at [www.hopeuniversitycollege.org](http://www.hopeuniversitycollege.org). We have been working on the business curriculum with partners from Dronten Agricultural University and Christian University of Ede as coordinated by Dr. Corne Kocks. A team plans to come before the end of the year to firm up further steps. A new introduction to the university college is competency based training and this would be discussed by the team given that the two institutions had applied the method. The Advisory Board of the university college met on September 25 and on that evening there was dinner to acquaint the members of the advisory board with the members of our Board.

On the construction end, a lot has been going on. A team was in China in August constituting the president, the Board's Chairman, Mr. Negash Kebede and the project manager, Mr. Hoffius, on our side and the consultant on the other side to select the finishing materials of the construction. While checking the quality and type of materials that the contractor was to buy as per our contract, the team also checked for furniture, computers, generator, etc. Though the rains slowed down the work at the site, work continued with increasing prices causing variation charges. The president has been talking with government on the VAT issue and the matter had been referred to a committee by the Minister of Finance.

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