



Seek the Lord and Live (Amos 5:6)

Newsletter 56 - December 2017



Dependent on Him ... (Isaiah 55:8-9; Coll. 4:2; Psalm 116:17)

⁸ “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. ⁹ “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Think of whom I am when you spend time with me. Let the miracle of being able to be one with the King of the universe, any moment, any place, amaze you. Never take that privilege for granted. Sarah Young: Close to Jesus.

What is described above is often applicable to our life. We make plans and then we see things develop differently. Did we take enough time to listen to Him?

Children. In our Newsletter of July last, we reported that we hoped to help 151 children in 2017. Meanwhile, 100 children have been added to that number. With the help of one of our donors, we started a children’s project in Langanu with 100 children. This is a temporary project. As you may already know, many people in the Langanu region suffer from famine because it hasn’t rained enough in the past 3 years to grow sufficient crops/food. No money for food also means no money for school. So we started providing breakfast at a school for 100 children, because learning on an empty stomach doesn’t work.



We also gave them notebooks, pencils, pens, etc. We visited the project several times and the help appears to be working. Children who stopped going to school came back again. During our last visit on 17 Nov 2017, we saw that the help had

attracted more children than we had expected. More than 150 children were present. Because there are only two classrooms, a third group had started class outside, under a tree.



It goes to show what an impact such aid can have.

Langanu. Before the rain season we provided seeds to 12 families in Langanu who are responsible for the care of several hundreds of people and children.



They had rain during the rain season, but it wasn't enough to lead to a good corn, wheat and teff harvest. But we aren't unhappy, because the harvest can still provide a substantial part of their food.

Debre Zeit. In Debre Zeit (Bishoftu) we started day care for 3-5 year olds. These children come from a very poor background and often suffer from malnutrition because the mother or caretaker has not got sufficient means to buy food. Because she carries the child on her shoulders – literally on her back- she cannot take a job, if a job were available. The goal of New Creation is twofold: 1. Take the child off the mother's or caretaker's shoulders and take it to day care. In day care the child will receive food and attention and will prepare for school in a playful way. 2. Enable the mother or caretaker to find a job to provide for her family. In short, a great idea that hasn't been done before in Ethiopia.

August through October is always very busy months in our programme. Right after New Year on 11 September 2010 in Ethiopia schools start again. The children have been free for a few months, and it isn't easy to motivate them to come to the school uniform fitting sessions. Fortunately we managed. Next to this, our new three-year proposal needed to be signed by the government, which happened after more than 8 months, on 7 September.

Generators. As most of us know, for the past three years we have been living without water on our compound. A 103 meter deep well was dug, but there is insufficient power to operate the pump. Our foundation in The Netherlands has worked very hard to send two generators to Ethiopia. The generators arrived on the airport in Ethiopia on 14 March 2017. It took until 25 September 2017 before all the papers needed from several departments were in order to import the generators tax-free. We went to the airport directly, to find out that Ethiopian Air presented

us a 31,000.- bill for the space the generators had taken up: An incredible amount of money that we could never pay. We filed an objection the following day. After many trips to the airport we could finally welcome the generators our compound after 5.5 weeks. We had to pay 1,800 in the end. Ethiopian Cargo means well now and wants to aid us. The installation of the generators will take several days.



We are grateful for the many hands that have cooperated, and especially for our friend Frans who took charge of the technical and electrical part.

Children's club. The Saturday morning Children's Club is going steadily. Before the rain season many more children attended -160-170- than after. Now that school has started again, the numbers are going up again. At this moment around 40-50 children join, which is a number that is better manageable for our tight number of staff.

Communication with us. We have noticed that people are trying to reach us by telephone when we are not in The Netherlands, but in Ethiopia. This is very expensive for both parties: the caller pays 2.24 and the receiver pays 2.29 a minute/ part of a minute. It is cheaper to call from The Netherlands via special 0900 numbers to our Ethiopian mobile phone. You can find these 0900 numbers at www.televergelijk.nl/goedkoop-bellen-met-0900-naar-ethiopia. All addresses and telephone numbers, both in The Netherlands and Ethiopia, you can find in our Prayer requests letter.

At this moment, I, Co, am in the Netherlands. I need to arrange several matters before I am leaving for Ethiopia again on 28 December. Perhaps we will meet each other before that date.

We would like to thank all of you for your support, both in prayer and financially, also on behalf of the people in our programmes. We wish all of you blessed holidays and a healthy and prosperous 2018.