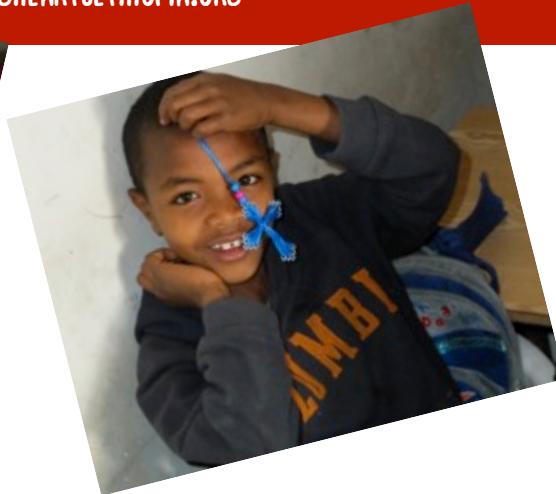


STRONG HEARTS ETHIOPIA

WWW.STRONGHEARTSETHIOPIA.ORG



MARCH 2014

**"DEDICATED TO PROVIDING A
SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE
SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL
DEVELOPMENT OF ADDIS
ABABA'S UNDERPRIVILEGED
COMMUNITY THROUGH INSIDE-
OUT TRANSFORMATION."**

SOME NEWS FROM OUR PROGRAMS ...

On March 19th, Strong Hearts celebrated its 5-year anniversary with a worshipful celebration at the International Evangelical Church. The Vice Chairman, Yosef Lema, preached. Approximately 60 people – staff, friends, and volunteers – gathered to honor the work of Christ through this organization. Strong Hearts has grown into five different programs: hospice, daycare, academy, Kore Christian Community Center, and most recently, the Mercy House.

The Mercy House “Improve the Income of Poor Households” project has been approved by the government and will begin in the first few weeks of April. Beza Tegafaw, the program facilitator, states, “The program’s purpose is to help and empower people by teaching them skills so that they can find good work. I have hope

that this program will change people’s lives.” The Mercy House will accept a maximum of 30 students (15 for a sewing program, and 15 for a hair styling program). Each day, many people from the Kore community are coming to the office to apply to the program. Strong Hearts is currently in the process of selecting instructors; many CVs have been submitted. The sewing training will be held at the KCCC, and the hair styling program will be held in a rented condominium. As a part of this program, individuals will join a Savings Club. Not only will this reinforce the importance of saving money, but it will provide members with a sense of ownership. At the end of the 6-8 week training, individuals will be given a microenterprise grant.

The hospice program and Strong

Academy continue to bear fruit. Please pray for our teachers and students, that they would have joyful and eager hearts as they begin each day of learning. Please pray that the students would grow in their knowledge of the Bible and their love of Jesus. Please pray for wise use of classroom resources, and for sponsors for the children. The hospice program would greatly appreciate your prayers for two of our patients, Sirkalem and Huluagaresh, who are in the final stages of cervical cancer. May the Lord provide for their needs and grant them comfort and peace. Please pray for strength and hope in the midst of all the challenges – economic, psychosocial, physical – that our patients face each day. May the Strong Hearts team of nurses and evangelists bring Christ’s love and light into these homes.

A SUCCESS STORY: About 8 years ago, Getinet was walking the streets of Kore when he approached a beggar woman and quickly noticed that she was hiding her small child. When asked why, the woman explained that she was ashamed because she did not know if her child was male or female. Getinet felt called to help, since this problem would deeply affect the child’s future. Shortly after this encounter, donations were gathered for this boy, Solomon, to have surgery at the Korean Hospital in Addis. Pictured above, Solomon is now an energetic second-grader at Strong Academy. He loves singing, learning, and games.

Interested in making a donation or sponsoring a child? Please visit strongheartsethiopia.org/donate or cmfi.org/whatwedo/childsponsorship. Thanks for your support!

FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Dear family and friends,

I hope you are all doing well! Thank you so very much for your continual support and prayers. We are fighting the good fight for the cause of the gospel to transform the lives of people from the inside-out.

Here at Strong Hearts, we are so blessed to launch the microfinance and self-sustainability project. We are hoping to work with over 300 mothers and young people over the course of the first three years of the project. Our goal is to enable hands to work with new skills, and in doing so, to improve lives and create independence. We have started new hair styling, cloth designing, and sewing machine training schools. I believe all of this will bring glory to God.

Finally, I would like you to join me in prayer for God to help me as I am traveling throughout the United States to speak at different churches and hold mission meetings. I am also working to start up the Strong Hearts International Office in Arlington, Virginia. Please pray for guidance and success.

But certainly God has heard me; He has attended to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God, Who has not turned away my prayer, Nor His mercy from me!
Psalm 66:19-20 (NKJV)

Thank you and God bless!

-Getinet "Dundee" Teferi



A PRAYER REQUEST FROM THE FAMILY CARE CENTER: BRIHANU

A little over one month ago, a new family joined the family care center: parents Almaz and Abebe and their son, Brihanu. Brihanu is about 1 year and three months old. When he first arrived, we quickly noticed that he was small for his age (just 14 pounds). He is behind on some developmental milestones, with poor coordination and muscle strength, unable to sit up on his own. His father is blind. His mother walks with a cane since one leg is longer than the other. Both parents are beggars. Brihanu is carried almost everywhere, not often given the opportunity to use important muscles. We figured this was part of the problem, but a few weeks ago learned that something else was going on.

After some laboratory testing and a MRI, all evidence is pointing towards TB of the spine, also known as Pott's Disease. On Monday morning, March 31st, we will be taking Brihanu to a TB hospital in Addis. He will be admitted to begin 2-months of inpatient treatment with

daily injections. With the help of donated money, Strong Hearts is going to provide Brihanu's mother with everything she needs in order to stay at the hospital for those 2 months. (The hospital provides food and lodging for patients, but not their families.) Neighbors and volunteers will help care for his father while they are away, including transportation to the hospital at least once every two weeks for the whole family to visit with one another.

Here is how you can join us in prayer: 1) For peace and deep trust to be granted to this family, as Brihanu is in the hands of our Great Physician; 2) For wise and compassionate doctors and nurses; 3) For the treatment to be successful so that complete healing may occur; and 4) For courage and strength for little Brihanu, as hospitals can be scary places!

We are so thankful that this condition was found early. Praise be to God!