

FALL UPDATE FROM YOUTH IMPACT - SEPTEMBER 2021**Hero Highlight - Efreem Tesfaye Ashebir****How Broken Glass Can Heal a Heart**

Fifteen-year-old Efreem Tesfaye Ashebir joined Youth Impact's Hope Center after living on the streets of Addis Ababa for more than three months in 2015. Efreem left his home in Zeway, traveling over 150km to reach the streets of Addis because some of his school friends convinced him that living on the streets was exciting, and they were like "one big, happy family." Prior to living on the streets, Efreem lived in two places with his parents and grandparents with no accountability or structure, and his rebellious ways made it easy for him to run away.

After three months of living on the streets and begging for food, Efreem was introduced to the Hope Center program playing soccer at a nearby church yard near Bole. Lots of street youths show up to play soccer and get to know the Youth Impact leaders. The leaders are faithful to play soccer every Wednesday, feeding the youth and providing showers if needed. Efreem was a frequent participant.

One day, Efreem stepped onto broken glass with his bare feet. He suffered incredible pain and dealt with infection for over two weeks, when he remembered the Wednesday soccer matches and returned asking for help. Ermias and Dereje, the Youth Impact leaders at the time, took him to the hospital for medical treatment.

That day, Efreem joined the Hope Center as a permanent resident. He was so happy to have a home that he symbolically changed his birthdate to the day he joined the center, January 6, 2016.

While at Hope Center, Efreem attended Bible-based character development classes, as well as night school vocational training in leatherworks. Day by day, Efreem grew stronger in his faith and developed honorable character traits, which ultimately, changed his outlook and personality. Efreem could now dream and envision a better future for himself and others around him. As he excelled in the leatherwork, he was offered a full-time job making a salary. He completed the 11th grade and graduated from a theology program at a local Bible college.

Today, along with his leatherworks position, Efreem serves the needs of others around him in several ways. He teaches youth Sunday school at his church, he visits street children regularly – being a "big Brother" to many -- and he mentors current Hope Center boys as they learn and grow. He also reunited a teenage mother with her family after helping her with housing and basic needs.

Youth Impact leaders shared God's love with Efreem, which helped heal a glass-cut foot and a rebellious broken heart. God's love continues to reach others through Efreem, as he serves and loves other broken, hurting young people.

PRAYER FOR GETACHEW

Getachew, a recent graduate of the 13th batch of the Hope Center, just learned that he now needs a kidney transplant. When we met him during our Vision Trip 2020, he was starting dialysis and learning to live on his own with his brothers from the Hope Center. Getachew's sister has agreed to be his donor yet they will need to raise the money for the expensive procedure, approximately \$35,000. The boys and graduates at Hope Center are trying to raise money for Getachew's surgery and have raised about 10% so far. Getachew's faith is strong: "If it is God's will that I get the transplant, I will live for Him. If it is not, I am ok because I know where I am going." Please watch for information in future emails on how to donate to his medical fund. Getachew is pictured below with Ethiopian Impact board member, Terri Richer.

Building Knowledge of Ethiopia



The Ethiopian New Year, or Enkutatash, as it is known in Amharic, the country's official language, is usually celebrated on September 11 or 12, depending on the year. The holiday is celebrated on the first of Meskerem, which is day one on the Ethiopian calendar. It is currently 2014 in Ethiopia based on its calendar, which is called the Ge'ez calendar and comprises 13 months.

Enkutatash means "gift of jewels" and represents the end of the rainy season when bright yellow flowers, called Adey Abeba, are in bloom. The celebration dates back to the time when the Queen of Sheba returned from her visit to King Solomon in Jerusalem in 980 BC. The Queen was welcomed back in her country with plenty of jewels, also known as "enku" in Amharic.

UPDATE FROM ETHIOPIAN IMPACT

Pray for Ethiopia

Please continue to pray for the conflict in Ethiopia to come to an end. Fighting and atrocities continue, while humanitarian aid is being blocked from hundreds of thousands of Ethiopians facing famine-like conditions. They need immediate relief. We feel as though there is little we can do to help, but let us remember that there is great power in praying for our brothers and sisters who are suffering.



Happy Anniversary to Ab and Salem



Ethiopian Impact founder, Abraham Fiseha, and his wife, Salem Kassahun, celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary on August 2. We are so proud of them and wish them many more years of marriage to come! They covet your prayers. Ab and Salem are currently in Vancouver, visiting their sons.

When considering your giving during this unusual time of worldwide upheaval, please remember Ethiopian Impact. Your support, no matter the amount, makes a difference in the lives of young people in Ethiopia, and is needed now more than ever.

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