



Adored by his nieces, Dawit gratefully drops them off at school everyday.

Selfless Love

Dawit Had Not Been to School in Four Years

Dawit and his older sister Tirhas grew up in a small town west of Addis Ababa where they were introduced early to the threat of struggle and death. Coming from a stable upbringing with the economic security of two working parents, it hit them hard when their brother died in a work-related incident. This was only the beginning of the unravelling of their once stable childhood.

Not long after, their father was injured in a car accident which eventually led to the breakdown of their family. With their parents separated, Tirhas lived with her father and took care of him until he died when she was fourteen. Two years later she moved to Addis by herself and began working as a maid.



Dawit and Tirhas (back) with her three children (front)

Tirhas shares this is where her brokenness began. She lived outside on the streets for four years sleeping under a plastic tarp. During this time, she met her husband, and together they raised three children while still living on the street.

Meanwhile Dawit was in the countryside living with their mother until she became ill. At eleven years old, Dawit quit school and brought her to Addis to seek medical help. Ethiopian hospitals only provide medical treatment, so he became the sole caregiver for his mother. For eight months, he slept on a hard chair at his mother's bedside. Diligently, he fed her, bathed her, and supported her as she slowly deteriorated. It was in their mother's hospital room that Tirhas and Dawit were unexpectedly reunited. It

had been so many years that they did not even recognize each other. Later his mother died and Dawit lived on the street. With nowhere to go, he searched out his sister, and found her in a small, dilapidated mud hut in Korah. Tragically, Tirhas had also just lost her husband due to a serious infection, but she gladly welcomed her brother and began caring for him as her own.

Months later, in the fall of 2021, this family was sponsored through HFK. We have seen how grief has robbed them of so much of their emotional and physical capacity. Being exposed to compounded insecurity, trauma, and death, both Tirhas and Dawit wrestle daily with fear and anxiety. They are strong, but weary, and require significant support and counselling.

We believe that God has brought this family to our program. Things are now changing as hope and confidence are being restored. Since joining, Dawit has been immersed in HFK's tutoring program and he is grateful to be learning again. Last month, when he began attending school for the first time in four years, Tirhas described feeling "like she had been born again". Witnessing him in school has brought her so much joy. What is most compelling about this sibling pair, beyond their incredible resilience, is their profoundly selfless and loving nature. They exude compassion and love for one another. A love like this makes them so easy to come alongside because their dedication to growth and to one another is so genuine and contagious.

Bigger, Better, Best!!

HFK's Baskets and Opportunities are Growing!

Our baskets keep getting bigger and so is the demand! HFK's Independent Basket Weavers' Cooperative is currently working on an order of 40 BIG baskets for the Moroccan Embassy. Other embassies and locals in Addis are also hearing about their work, visiting and making orders. This is huge for our women as they keep 100% of the sales to provide for their families.



Youth & Education Field Trip

Expanding Horizons at Lake Langanu

In April we brought forty teenagers on a day trip 250 km outside of Addis Ababa to beautiful Lake Langanu in Abijata-Shalla National Park. This was a real treat as most of our teens had never been outside the city. They were so excited, soaking in breath-taking views of vast savannah grasslands and cliffs, swimming at the Sabano Beach Resort and enjoying great food and friendship at their unique African hut-styled restaurant.



Our Korah Youth loving the water!

Two Memorable Days!

Meeting Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed

This Easter we had two special invitations to the Prime Minister's palace! Initially 6 of our women, and several staff attended an Easter program. It was an amazing day as the Prime Minister personally greeted each of our mothers and all 200 guests received gifts of groceries and a tour of the palace grounds. The next day, we received a second invitation and 16 of our basket weavers and elders attended a beautiful luncheon served by the Prime



Sosena Shiferaw, Jake Boner & HFK women outside palace.

Minister himself! Both times it was a big surprise, that wasn't revealed until we were on our way to the event. Watch HFK interviews by local news stations at hopeforkorah.org/blog/prime-minister

Expanding our Reach - Caring for the Vulnerable

Improving Elders' Care at Home and in the Community



Above: One of several gatherings with all our elders. Right: All rooms have had makeovers and new mattresses for all!

These last few months at the Elders' Home have been filled with a flurry of activity! In February we received a two-month grant from Oxfam International to improve the holistic wellbeing of impoverished elderly people in Korah. It included increasing access to organized social events and activities which restore dignity and support health and wellbeing. These changes are exciting and we are thrilled to be able to reach more elders in the community as well as improve the quality of care and services offered to our dear elders at home. This has been a dream of ours for a long time!

Our first step was to hire an Activity Coordinator to assist in developing meaningful programming for our 10 current elders, as well as the 17 new elderly men and women that we have since added. All the elders have disabilities mostly due to the impacts of leprosy. Throughout March, everyone was overjoyed to be welcomed to several luncheons and they all received new mattresses, bedding, groceries, and sanitary supplies. Those in need of beds also received them and in the months ahead, we will continue to have scheduled programming for everyone.

The Elders' Home itself also received a significant upgrade: all who live there received new hospital grade adjustable beds with matching wardrobes, lamps, and side-tables. In addition to new furniture, we were also able to purchase important equipment such as mobility aids, walker, portable toilet, water heater and tank, shower wand, washing machine, plumbing fixtures and more.

We are also grateful that the grant enabled us to partner with the Nordic Hospital who specialize in geriatric care. They have since conducted several trainings for all our nurses and elders' staff, teaching proper lifting techniques, geriatric caretaking and how to improve the overall health services for our elders.

However, a challenge that we are currently facing is finding a new Elders' Home compound as the landlord is soon moving back. This is always difficult in Korah! We have been careful that all recent upgrades are portable and can move with us. So, please join us in praying that we will find just the right home and with a big community room to host all our new elders and more. Thankyou!



Orphans Grow Together through Sponsorship Support

Moments of Celebration: Yesewlik's Children



The children love receiving mail from their sponsors.

Three years ago, we posted a sponsorship plea for five orphaned siblings. We shared how these kids were deeply affected by the loss of their mother Yesewlik, and how "it would take a village" to rally around them. In response, you came alongside this precious family and now we see the incredible youth they have become!

Recently, while our HFK team was in Ethiopia, it just so happened to be Eyerus' 17th birthday. *This was such a blessing to be able to celebrate with Eyerus.* It meant so much to her and to all of us to share cake together and speak words of affirmation over her during this special celebration.

In addition, the oldest sibling Ashenafi recently got married! The celebration took place outside of their house, which filled the entire width of the street. There were tents, couches, and beautiful décor set up for guests on this special day!

Ashenafi and his new wife are settling in well, their home only a few houses down from his siblings. Since Ashenafi has moved out of the house, Alembante the second oldest, is now the head of the household. Our staff are coming alongside to help him with this adjustment and extra responsibility. Please keep the family and our staff in your prayers as they work together to ensure a smooth transition for Alembante in his new role.

We want to express just how special the bond between these five siblings really is. All of us at HFK see the outstanding strength, resiliency and hard work displayed in these siblings lives in spite of their given circumstances. They are all working hard in school and striving to become their best selves. There is so much promise for their future despite the pain they have endured. We know their mom would be so proud of who they are becoming!

CURRENT NEED: Due to inflation and the rising costs of providing complete care, the children are needing an additional \$350 per month in sponsorship support. If you would like to help with any amount and become a part of their "village" please use the enclosed card, email or visit our website at hopeforkorah.org/sponsorship



Ashenafi and his new bride!

Thank you for Joining us in Working Together for Hope!

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