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Dear friends,

Generation after generation, children are born into a cycle of poverty in Ethiopia. Education, a good education, can break this cycle of continuing as their parents and grandparents have. It opens a child's eyes to possibilities and brings hope for them and the generations that follow.

This is the impact of the BCI Academy – a first world school in a third world country. More than educating children, we are providing hope and challenging students to a higher standard of excellence. A steady flow of teams and interns are constantly influencing, challenging, and training our local Ethiopian teachers and staff.

Our single greatest need right now is transporting children daily to and from school. We are spending almost \$1,000 per month to rent a local bus. This is money that is desperately needed to operate the school, but instead we have to spend it to get the children to and from school.

At the same time, it costs \$175 per team member for rented vehicles for transport to and from the airport and the local transport during their mission trip. With our own vehicles, this cost would be closer to \$75 per person, adding \$100 per team member to the project money supporting the children in Ethiopia!

The two vehicles that would be ideally suited for transporting school children and transporting teams are:

1. A late model thirteen-passenger minivan – costing \$24,000 if bought in Ethiopia.
2. A late model twenty-four passenger minibus – costing \$30,000 if bought in Ethiopia.



Minibus we currently rent for \$1,000/month.

The reason the cost is so high to purchase vehicles in Ethiopia is due to the fact of Ethiopia charging 100% duty on vehicles. Buying a vehicle outside of Ethiopia, like in Dubai, the cost is literally half that of prices in Ethiopia. But as soon as you import the vehicle, the Ethiopia government requires payment of the 100% import tax before customs will release the vehicle.

The good news friends, is that the Ethiopian government permits organizations that have started a new school to import two vehicles Duty Free! This is a one time opportunity good for only one year from the start of the school project.

This means we have until the beginning of May 2010 (only 6 weeks) to act on this fantastic opportunity to get two vehicles at literally half price. We have to act fast.



*A world-wide outreach blessing needy children.*

If we act now, we can purchase the same 13-passenger minivan for \$12,000 in Dubai and bring it into Ethiopia completely duty-free – a \$12,000 savings to the ministry. And we can purchase the 24-passenger minibus for \$15,000 in Dubai as well – a \$15,000 savings. Between the two vehicles, this is a \$27,000 savings over what these two vehicles would cost if we don't seize the duty-free opportunity in the next six weeks.

Friend, would you please consider what the Lord might have you do to help us seize this opportunity?

Regardless of how many schools an organization opens, they are only given one chance from the time they open their first school, to take advantage of importing two duty-free vehicles. Once the time is expired, there are no second chances.

This investment in the ministry would pay for itself in just over a year with the \$1,000 a month we are spending to rent the minibus and with 150 team members at \$100 each. It really is a no-brainer and we just have to find a way to do it.

If Blessing the Children had the financial reserves, we would use them to purchase these vehicles; but after a tough year in a struggling economy, we simply do not have any reserves. So we humbly seek your help to make this happen. If we work together, each doing what we can, could it be that God will do a miracle?

I pray God's richest blessings on you and your family,



Keith V. Strawn  
President/Founder

PS: We need \$12,000 to purchase one minivan and \$15,000 to purchase one minibus, totaling \$27,000. I know this seems impossible, but with God... aren't all things possible? Please give as generously as you can, right away, so we don't lose out on our one chance.



**Education: Breaking  
the cycle of poverty!**