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# BLESSING THE CHILDREN POST

## Caring for the Orphans & Widows

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## SOCCER TOURNAMENT

It's not all textbooks and tests at the BCI Academy. Fun and games ensue after school hours, and all the children and staff are entertained.

Soccer is the main sport of Ethiopia and rarely will you find a child, boy or girl, who doesn't enjoy it. It could easily be considered a favorite past time because all that is required to play is a ball. Rich, poor, young, old, all come together to enjoy this sport.

two boys took the lead and won 3:1.

Now it was the girls' turn! After several games and much excitement, spirits were high as grade three girls won out against grade four girls, 4:2.

Next came the awards ceremony. Each team member on the winning team received a medal, and the team received a trophy to proudly display in their classroom.



Tournament trophies & medals.

There was a third trophy, which was awarded for good conduct. This went to the grade four boys team.

Additionally, an exercise book and high end pen were awarded to the team member on each team, who scored the most goals.

All in all, the Soccer Tournament was a big success. Everyone had a wonderful time and is now eagerly anticipating the next chance to compete. We are thrilled that the children are able to enjoy being at the BCI Academy, and once Phase Three is completed, we look forward to holding more events and increasing our community outreach.



Winners - Grade three girls.

So it seemed only fitting that the BCI Academy hold a soccer tournament, showcasing this dearly loved sport and giving the children a chance at a little healthy, good natured competition. The children relished the opportunity to show off their talents to their friends and elders and to compete for a shiny medal and group trophy, to be displayed in their classroom.

On tournament day, the Academy was swarming with children and brimming with anticipation and excitement as the children were split up by grade and separated into boys and girls teams. Each team was given spiffy uniforms, which were graciously donated by a team that visited last summer.

Let the games begin! Once the teams were established, it was time to play. The boys began, and grade by grade, it was narrowed down to grade 2 versus grade 3. Eventually grade



Winners - Grade two boys.



**KEITH V. STRAWN**  
FOUNDER & PRESIDENT



Our newest little sweetheart,  
Joy Wondimu - age 1 1/2  
Read her story in July's newsletter.

Dear friends,

Please join us in this edition of the Post to get the scoop on Phase Three of the BCI Academy and to read a powerful story about one of our newest additions to the program, Netsanet.

On the front cover, we'll tell you about the BCI Academy Soccer Tournament and how the children enjoyed a little friendly competition and lots of smiles.

This edition's highlights feature children hard at work and equally hard at play.

Thank you for your support and continued prayers. Because of you, we are touching lives in Ethiopia.

Abundant blessings,

## LIGHT VS. DARKNESS by Sheila Lamb

Light. Have you ever thought about how powerful light can be? Think of the sun and how it warms the earth and causes plants and trees to become green, blossom and produce fruit. When you enter a darkened room and someone lights a solitary candle, it changes the atmosphere of the room. Jesus is our Light as believers and causes us to cast away the darkness that is in the lives of unbelievers.

While I was on my last visit to Debre Zeyit, I had the privilege of watching the Light of Jesus conquer the darkness of the devil. The day dawned as any other in Debre Zeyit, beautiful sunshine and group devotions on the horizon. Goldy had made arrangements for me to visit a small family that was in desperate need of help. The grandmother, mother and 1 ½ month old baby were very poor with no food in the house and very little furniture. The time was arranged for the afternoon and five missionaries and Social Workers along with a Misgana Church elder took off to see the family.

We arrived in a small rundown mud hut where these three called home. Grandmother was a believer but the mother was not. While we visited I held the bundle of joy in my arms, a precious baby boy. Asking what his name was, the reply came that he did not have a name. When asked why, I was told that the grandmother was afraid the baby would be harmed by the mother.

We visited for a while and shared the gospel with the mother. She was quite adamant she could not take Jesus as her Savior because she had promised this baby to Mother Mary who is quite prominent in the Orthodox Church. I told her that a promise made in darkness cannot be the truth and that by Jesus' shed blood this promise could be broken. Feeling an urgent call to pray for this woman, the five of us gathered

around her and began to pray. After a short period of time, she fell to the floor as a shriek pierced her lips, she began pulling on her hair and writhing on the floor. The white missionaries stepped back as the Ethiopian ladies knew exactly what to do. This was not their first exposure to someone being possessed by a demon. After a period of all of us praying, the woman was calmed and I was told the demon would not come out of her. The team then prayed protection over the little baby that Jesus would be his keeper.



**Netsanet Assefa Yimam.**

After talking to our National Director, Pastor Tadesse, instruction was given to the Misgana church to have the prayer team take over. I asked Pastor Tadesse what the Ethiopian name for 'freedom in Jesus' would be and he declared the name to be Netsanet. I told him that the name of this little boy would be Netsanet. The prayer team fasted and prayed for ten days and the mother was invited to church; the Pastor shared the gospel and the young mother cried through the whole service. When the altar call was made she went forward and received Jesus and the demon was able to be cast out by the prayer team. The light collided with the darkness and the darkness was no match for the light! We praise Jesus that Tekidan, the previously possessed had been released from the darkness.

A few days before I came home I took a big, round loaf of bread to the house with Social Workers and Misgana Church leaders. I declared the name of the baby to be Netsanet and everyone agreed. It was with great joy that we shared the bread and tea with the family. I asked Tekidan to tell me her story and she shared how she has lived like an animal for the past seven years. She pointed to a tree along the street where she slept and how in fits caused by the demon she would break her mother's furniture. They have little left because of the demon's fits. Tekidan is grateful to God for being with her and for protecting her little boy.

Please pray for Tekidan as she grows in her journey with Jesus. Her family is in dire need of support and we would ask you to prayerfully consider helping this family. Or perhaps the Lord would have you make a monthly commitment to sponsor Baby Netsanet for \$30 a month? Your support will make a life-changing difference for this sweet baby boy.



**Baby Netsanet with his mother and grandmother.**

## BCI ACADEMY PHASE III



Blessing the Children is so excited to announce plans to start construction for Phase Three of the BCI Academy this fall!

Dennis S. from Michigan, who laid the footings and began construction for Phase One and Two, is available to come mid-October and lay the footings for Phase Three. We are so grateful for him and his expertise and willingness to do this. He did an amazing job on the first two Phases and we are looking forward to having him guide us into Phase Three.

Phase Three will be the final section of the BCI Academy, and upon its completion, the school will contain grades 1 - 8, three administrative offices, a girls restroom, a boys restroom, a large rec room, a library and two smaller multi-purpose rooms for after-school use, ie., tutoring, activities and various programs.

Please join us in next month's special letter to read more

about the BCI Academy and its immense impact on the children and surrounding community.

While we are excited to begin this final step in completing the BCI Academy, we are also conscious of the fact that we will need to rely on our heavenly Father to provide the necessary funds to do this. Our faith is in the Lord, our leader and provider.

We would like to humbly urge you to pray about what you could do to contribute to Phase Three. Would you be able to make a donation, enabling us to start construction this fall? Perhaps you feel led not to make a monetary donation, but a donation of your time and labor? Helping hands are always a blessing! Would you consider taking a trip this fall?

Please contact Melissa for more details about signing up for a trip! [Melissa@BlessingtheChildren.org](mailto:Melissa@BlessingtheChildren.org)

## HIGHLIGHTS



### CONGRATULATIONS!

A group of boys congratulate each other After a win on the soccer field.



### HELPING HANDS

These two gentlemen assist in making dinner by doing the dirty work of cutting up the onions.



### THE PRESSURE'S ON

This young BCI Academy student is really feeling the pressure during a big test.