

HOPE FOR THE HOPELESS

Rescue • Rehabilitate • Reconnect • Restoring A Child's Hope

December 2023

Hope for the Hopeless Newsletter:

What does it mean when you are hope for those whose lives seem to be without any? You can be the hope of an orphan or a vulnerable child of the streets receiving an unexpected meal or finding an advocate to care for their daily needs while helping to place them into a family. You can be the hope of a child to find a place of safety and security and even a few hugs. The primary goal of Hope's ministry is to place abandoned children into an intimate and compassionate environment where they are nurtured and loved. This is and has been the work and mission of Hope for the Hopeless for the past 30 years in Ethiopia. The ministry presently supports about 250 children and families, but there are hundreds just waiting to be received into the Hope family.

The heart and soul of this ministry is its founder Pastor Surafel Gebretsadik. Through his vision, hard work and caring heart, Hope has received hundreds of children over the years from the streets and nurtured many of them through high school and a college education. Hope has supported children who may not have survived on their own and raised them to be contributing adults in their communities. Hope has nurtured their bodies and their souls as their faith is a central component of this ministry.



Pastor Surafel at the Drop-in Center



A Foster Family

The primary goal is to place children into foster families, where they can once again receive the love of a parent, but also learn the relational skills for their own lives. The added joy is Hope continues to support the child which also provides food for the foster family as a whole. Entry into Hope is through its drop-in-center, located in the heart of Addis Ababa. The center houses 16 children who are waiting to enter the program. While they are here, they are assessed to see if they are ready to be a part of a family or need some counselling and remedial relational skill development. The center also provides food and showers to children on the street when finances permit.

For those who are not ready to be placed in a family, there are two additional sites to care for the children. One is a home in Addis which can house about 30 children and youth, and another is a 5-acre campus south of the city. Here, Hope built a school where it can educate not only the children under its care, but also provide an education to the children in the community. Hope has built dorms adjacent to the school that can house up to 90 children. The campus also has a clinic and a large multi-purpose building.



Boarding School, Dorms, Clinic



Preparing for 1,012 Children

This had been the ongoing ministry of Hope, UNTIL civil war broke out in 2018 in the northern reaches of the country. The war continues to orphan children and displace thousands of families into refugee camps. Surafel visited one of the camps finding many widowed women who escaped the war zone bringing not only their children but also the children of neighbors who were killed in the fighting. There are not the resources to provide the basic needs for these women and children and many are sick and starving.

Pastor Surafel received a call from the government asking him to help by accepting some of the orphans into Hope's care. With a compassionate heart Surafel received 1,012 children to be served by their staff. Surafel raised over \$30,000 to purchase several large tents and move the children from the war zone to a community just outside Addis. He hired five new staff workers to feed and care for the children while searching for families to foster the orphans. Presently, approximately 800 children have been placed into families, while Hope continues to house and support just over 200 children. The hope is these remaining children will soon be placed into families. But as the war continues; women, children, and families continue to face the ongoing ravages of the war. Pastor Surafel may receive another call.



Surafel greeting the refugee children.

Hope is presently in the midst of a special fundraising campaign. We have received a \$10,000 matching grant. Please consider a year-end gift to Hope for the Hopeless and have it doubled. You can give your gift at www.hope4hopeless.org.

What does it mean when you are hope for those whose lives seem to be without any? It means that you have done some of the most meaningful work a person can do. You have saved lives, you have provided love and compassion, you have given hope where there once was none.

Who Are These Frontline Caregivers?

Who are these people on the frontlines caring for the widows, orphans, and displaced families from the civil war in Ethiopia? The staff of Hope for the Hopeless is not only caring and compassionate, but also strong and courageous in their work.

Ethiopia has become a very dangerous place to live. A civil war means that tribes are fighting tribes. Hope has broadened its ministry to help meet the needs of families and children displaced by the war. The staff faces challenges in trying to move children from one tribal area to another for their safety. It can be a challenge to find an area that is away from the fighting, but also friendly to those who are being relocated. Their campus houses children from different tribes, which means that the staff must provide protection for the children who are not part of the tribe where the campus is located.



*Henok, Ethiopian Ministry
Director*



Seifu (center) Sululta Campus Director

Along with its civil war, crime has escalated. Today, it can be unsafe to travel the roads, as people are kidnapped and held for ransom, trafficked, and robbed. Several of Hope's staff travel a long stretch of highway between Addis Ababa and the campus outside the city where these crimes are often committed. Yet, they do it anyway in their love for the kids and teens under the care of Hope.

Hope is blessed and proud to have a staff who risk their own safety for the wellbeing of our children. When you donate to Hope for the Hopeless, this is who you support as well as the children they care for.



Hope for the Hopeless Staff