

## 1. WESTERN WOLLEGA BETHEL SYNOD

Western Wollega Bethel Synod (WWBS) is the first Bethel Evangelical Church in Ethiopia. The inception of WWBS was characterized by evangelical and medical work started in 1919 by Presbyterian missionaries in the western part of the country. WWBS joined the EECMY in 1974.

The operational area of WWBS includes 11 districts (woredas) in the new Qellem Wollega Zone, Oromia Region, with a population of about 1 million people of which more than 235,000 are members of Mekane Yesus. Its office is located in Dembi Dollo, about 650 km away from Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia.

Currently, the WWBS Development and Social Services Commission runs, among others, a high school with preparatory classes and a vocational training program, an elementary school, two hostels for orphanages, two integrated rural development projects, water development projects, microprojects and an HIV/AIDS prevention and control program.

### **I. Evangelism Work**

The following is an overview of activities accomplished by Western Wollega Bethel Synod (WWBS) Department for Missions and Theology during the period January 2006 to March 2007. WWBS currently consists in 410 congregations with total membership of 260,474.

#### **Gidada Bible School**

The Western Wollega Bethel Synod Department for Missions and Theology Gidada Bible School has been training ministers at certificate level for decades. Accordingly, 33 ministers including 5 ladies completed 1<sup>st</sup> year course in 2006. 25 new students including 3 girls have been enrolled in 2007. Those that completed their 1<sup>st</sup> year course last year will rejoin the school next year at the end of which they graduate.

Gidada Bible School currently has a total of 4 technical and 7 administrative staff members. The dream is to upgrade the school so that it can train ministers for Jesus at diploma level.



*Gidada Bible School Girls' Dormitory; ready for dedication.*

## **Manpower preparation**

As step to preparing God's people for their ministry, 3 people have upgraded their training to diploma while 2 ministers including one female graduated with bachelor of theology in 2006. Additional 3 are currently upgrading to bachelor level in theology.

Congregation elders are trained in stewardship, self-reliance and church management. As a step to self-reliance, congregations are nowadays covering their internal running costs by themselves. They also contribute funds to cover their respective presbyteries' running costs including staff salaries and related benefits. Moreover, they maintain and / or build new church buildings and furnish them with little external support.

Presbyteries also in turn contribute to satisfying synod (coordination office) running costs.

## **Women's Section**

With staff members of 2 ladies the Western Wollega Bethel Synod Department for Missions Women's Section is working harder than ever before to promote women's ministry in the church and in the world. In the synod we now have 1 female pastor and, of course, many female evangelists. We dream to have many female pastors in the future.

Our Women's Section has been giving women trainings and orientations on women's roles and responsibilities in the church, harmful traditions, gender issues, and HIV/AIDS prevention and control mechanisms. Such activities need be strengthened also in the future.

## **Youth and Children Ministry**

The Western Wollega Bethel Synod Department for Missions and Theology Youth and Children Ministry also gives trainings and orientations to the youth on roles and responsibilities of the youth in the church and in the world. Furthermore, sensitization on HIV/AIDS is also given to the youth.

As a step to preparing children for their purpose on earth, textbooks for training them in God's word has been prepared and published. Trainings are given according to age groups.

## **Outreach work**

The Western Wollega Bethel Synod Department for Missions and Theology does evangelism work among new Muslim settlers in Qellem Wollega Zone and also among indigenous people. There are 14 evangelists employed at 14 different sites just for this purpose of evangelism and saving of souls. These evangelists are given trainings in Christian-Muslim relations and evangelism approaches. In 2006 we have had 255 Muslim converts. In our operation area reaching the Muslims still demands a lot of energy and commitment of us all.

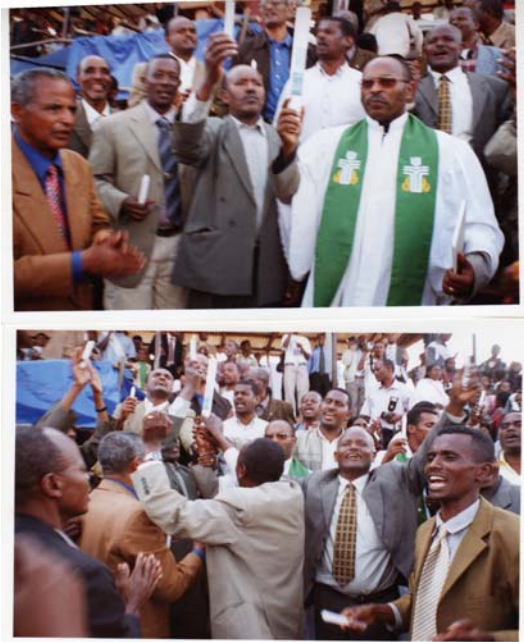
We also have evangelism ministry for prisoners working at two prisons in Dembi Dollo. Besides, limited development work like digging latrines is accomplished at the two prisons.

Evangelism work in Western Wollega Bethel Synod is partly contributed for by congregation members. Members annually contribute money for this purpose.

Crusades and conferences are held to save more souls for Christ as many people as possible. Conferences also help motivate congregation members for more effective work and Christian commitment.

## **Church Building**

In the year 2006, 39 church buildings were constructed with a total of Ethiopian birr 2,588,420.00. Ethiopian birr 250,291.88 of this was provided by the Alex Booth Outreach Foundation, while the rest Ethiopian birr 2,338,129 was contributed by congregations themselves. Similarly this year 34 church buildings are under construction.



*Neighboring congregations holding worshiping together at community stadium in Danbi Dollo.*

## **Tent-making Ministry**

The synod received Etb 166.657 from the Outreach foundation, through BSCO. The project was launched in November 2006, after having conducted a training workshop for the selected beneficiaries. The workshop was facilitated but professionals from government agricultural bureau collaborated in providing teaching on technical aspects of the project.

The workshop was attended by 146 congregation ministers who were selected according to the level of their needs. Each participant received an initial fund to engage in animal fattening project. Many of the pastors used the money efficiently—some launched sheep rearing and others concentrated on fattening. Recently the synod did a brief evaluation and it was found out that the life of many pastors and their families is significantly changing because of this project. On behalf of each beneficiary, our thanks go to the Outreach foundation for assisting us carryout this scheme.



*Sample pictures of the Tent-making project activities—beneficiaries are attending a workshop.*



## II. Development and Social Services

### A. Education

#### 1. BERHANE YESUS SCHOOL

Berhane Yesus School (BYS), in Dembi Dollo, provides elementary education for students in grades 1-8. The following provides an overview of the activities and challenges at BYS in 2006.

##### *Funding*

Approximately 75% of the budget for operating BYS is funded by outside donors, including the Presbyterian Church USA, the Ethiopia Education Endowment Fund (a fund established under the Presbyterian Foundation for the support of BESS, BYS, and Gidada Bible School), and other private donors. The remaining 15% comes from the tuition from the students. In addition, the government provides 4 teachers to the school, together with their salaries, which offsets the need to fund these positions.

The principal challenge facing BYS this year is a serious funding shortfall for operation of the school. Although a slightly greater percentage of the funds from the Ethiopia Education Endowment Fund was directed to BYS in 2006 than what was provided previously, the operating budget for the school remains significantly short of need. Beginning from 2007, the school will no longer be able to meet its budget needs, in particular for paying the salaries to its teachers. A shortfall has continuously occurred at BYS, and a special one-time donation of \$18,000 was provided in 2004 from two individuals from the United States to assist in meeting that shortfall. However, those funds will be used up by the end of 2006, forcing the need to address a significant operating shortfall again, together with the need to provide increased teacher salaries.

In 2006, the school planted 3000 coffee plants through a donation from an individual from the United States, which will be used to support income-generation at the school to offset the operating expenses. There remains plenty of land on the BYS property, and the school plans to increase the number of coffee plants once additional capital is available. However, agricultural activities alone are insufficient to address the significant operating shortfall, and additional sources of funding will need to be secured.

##### *Enrollment*

For the 2006-2007 academic year, the school has a total enrollment of 622 students, including 345 males and 277 females. The school has a total of 19 staff, including 9 teachers and 6 support staff paid by the funding provided by donors to the EECMY-WWBS, and 4 teachers paid by the government. Compared to other schools in Sayo District the academic performance of this school is excellent. Demand for entrance into the school from the community is very high. As a result, class size has been high, limiting opportunities for individual teacher/student interaction. To reduce class size and ensure a quality education, the school began limiting 1<sup>st</sup> grade enrollment in the 2005-2006 school year to 60 students per class. This class size limit will carry on each year, and will reduce the overall school population as the 1<sup>st</sup> graders move up through the following grades. Beginning in the 2006-2007 school year, the school has also begun a no-repeat policy, by which students who fail a grade cannot repeat that grade the following year. This forces students to take their education more seriously and not waste their time or space in the school. In 2006, 93% of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students passed their national exam to continue on to 9<sup>th</sup> grade at BESS should they choose to do so.

##### *Instruction and Curriculum*

There is a strong need for a native-speaking English teacher at BYS. For the 2006-2007 school year, the school director is providing English teaching for grades 7 and 8. Two English teacher positions need to be filled, at least one preferably a native-English speaker on a multiple-year assignment. The funding shortfall for the school has reduced the ability of the school to maintain competitive teacher salaries. On average, BYS teachers now make about



150 birr per month less than government school teachers. A salary-scale adjustment is being prepared by the EECMY-WWBS for 2007, which will provide standardized salary levels for the teachers, competitive with equivalent government teaching salaries. However, the funding to provide these salaries remains to be worked out. Also because of a lack of available funds, BYS faces a lack of sufficient supplies for both staff and students, particularly with regard to textbooks and reference materials. Students have needed to share textbooks, limiting their ability for studying.

## **2. BETHEL EVANGELICAL SECONDARY SCHOOL**

Bethel Evangelical Secondary School (BESS), in Dembi Dollo, provides secondary education for grades 9-12, in addition to a vocational training program. The following provides an overview of the 2006-2006 school year activities, challenges, and budget.

### ***Funding***

Approximately 75% of BESS's annual income to cover operating expenses comes from outside funding sources, including the Presbyterian Church USA, the Church Development Service of the Protestant Churches in Germany (EED), the Ethiopian Education Endowment Fund, and additional private donations. The remaining 15% is funded by student tuition and the income-generating activities at BESS. (This income figure also does not include one English teacher position and one vocational program director position funded by foreign partner church organizations, without which contribution the school's operating costs would be significantly higher.)

### ***Enrollment and National Exams***

The 2006-2007 academic school year at BESS began on September 11, 2006. 484 students enrolled, including 332 boys and 152 girls. A total of 115 10<sup>th</sup> Grade students at BESS sat for their national examinations to allow them to pass onto 11<sup>th</sup> grade college preparatory classes (75 boys and 40 girls). Among these students, 91% scored grades that qualify them to continue on to the 11th grade. Sixty 12<sup>th</sup> grade students sat for college entrance exams (49 boys and 11 girls). All of the girls and all but two of the boys were able to score grades required to join higher educational institutions.

### ***Instructions and Curriculum***

For 2006, BESS has a total teaching staff of 19 (including 2 women). One of the women staff members is an English teacher from the United States, Janelle McCarty, who is serving at BESS now in her second year of a three-year term from the Presbyterian Church USA. New in the 2005-2006 school year was the purchase of 318 English dictionaries for the school through a grant from the PCUSA, and purchase of additional dictionaries through other private donations. This enabled the school to loan a dictionary to each student, making it easier for the students to learn their English.

The non-formal vocational training program at BESS was recommended to be upgraded in upon evaluation by government officials, to become an accredited, formal vocational training program operating at the 10+2 level. The program is funded by EED. The program provides training in carpentry, metalwork, auto repair, and home economics for students that did not pass their test for continuing on to the 11<sup>th</sup> grade, as well as for other members of the community interested in learning such skills. The program will provide a supply of trained labor for local businesses in these trades, helping to strengthen the connections between BESS and the Dembi Dollo community. A total of 24 students (including 4 girls) enrolled in the course last year, all passing. 18 students have enrolled in the course for the 2006-2007 school year, including 6 girls.

### ***Agricultural Activities and Income Generation at BESS***

Agriculture is not encompassed as a subject in the government's curriculum for high schools, and is therefore not being taught formally at BESS. However, BESS students participated in farming activities through the labor education programs as a part of their tuition, providing both a practical experience in Agricultural practices for the students, and a source of labor for the income-generating agricultural activities of the school. Labor education occurs every third Friday at BESS.

In 2006, BESS acquired 10 hectares of new land from the government approximately 30 km south of Dembi Dollo, through an agreement with the Meshangir community there. Approximately 100 quintals of corn is expected from the harvest of that new land, bringing approximately 10,000 birr from the harvest. In addition, the school

planted 50,000 tree seedlings on BESS property in 2006 to support the growing need for lumber for the wood shop and the vocational training program

### ***Physical Improvements***

A large amount of construction occurred at BESS in 2006, all of which was funded by the EED. A new classroom building was completed, providing three additional classrooms. In addition, both the boys' and the girls' dormitory buildings were expanded, each by two rooms, to increase the number of students who can stay on campus as dorm-students. A tea-shop building was constructed out of an old shipping container, which provides a place to sell tea and cakes from the home economics students in the vocational training program. A building was constructed to house a new wood mizer machine, also funded by the EED, for making lumber for the wood shop and the vocational training program. Finally, re-construction on the pig barn has commenced, which will provide partial cement-block walls to increase sanitation and decrease the potential for rats inhabiting the building.



## **B. Child and Youth Care**

### **1. Dembi Dollo Hostel**

The objective of the Dembi Dollo Hostel is to support the foster children under the motto of holistic service, so as to make them self-supportive while nurturing them academically, spiritually, socially and physically. In 2006, the Hostel has been supporting 92 foster children (33 girls and 59 boys), supplying them with basic needs. A summary of the funding of the hostel and the major activities and challenges of 2006 follows.



There have been two important challenges this year. First, the hostel director has left for postgraduate study at Addis Ababa University. Second, there is currently very high inflation rate of food and other items.

#### ***Funding***

95% of the income for the operational budget of the Dembi Dollo Hostel comes from the, Kinder Nothilfe (KNH), with the remainder coming from self-generated income at the hostel. The hostel's self-generated income comes from a small coffee plantation and the sale of wood from Eucalyptus trees on the property. A good coffee harvest was obtained this year, with approximately 12 quintals of coffee, 2 quintals more than expected from the plantation.

#### ***Provision of Food and Health Care***

The foster children have been receiving adequate food. A resident nurse on staff for hostel, or for the entire Synod compound, would help to address medical need.

#### ***Clothing***

The foster children got their clothes for the year on due time. All foster children, who have been attending grade 1 to grade 6, were provided with uniform suit, an ordinary suit, underwear and shoes. The rest were paid an annual clothing allowance of Birr 240.00 in cash. The clothing budget for the students has proven to be insufficient for their needs for the duration of the year. Shoes alone that could be expected to last through the year cost approximately 120 birr, half of the total allowance.

#### ***Spiritual Nurturing***

As caring for our Hostel children is a holistic endeavor, caring for their spiritual needs goes parallel to their physical needs. To provide opportunities for spiritual nurturing and faith formation, the foster children participate, and lead in-turn with the staff, a weekly worship and fellowship meeting.

#### ***Education***

The foster children have demonstrated a very strong commitment to their own education. 27 of the 92 foster children represent the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th top students in the entire class of their respective schools, highly significant considering the number of students in each class. All of the 92 foster children were promoted from their respective class/grade to the next class/grade during the year. Thirteen of the students are in secondary school, with the rest of them being in elementary school, and one student engaged in vocational training for carpentry.

Two of former students are studying at university.

#### ***Hostel Management***

The Dembi Dollo Hostel employs 9 standing workers. Probably the hostel will decentralize the children to their respective originating communities from July 2007. Funds would then be distributed to the community according to

the number of foster children beneficiaries within the community. Such a decision would significantly curtail the operations of the Dembi Dollo Hostel.

## **2. Haro Sabu Hostel**

### ***Management***

The Haro Sebu Hostel employs seven staff, including the director, a warden, cashier, watchman, and 3 cooking staff. As with the Dembi Dollo Hostel, staff of the Haro Sebu Hostel are awaiting a decision by KNH regarding the future management strategy of the hostel, as to whether to bring the children from surrounding areas to the hostel, or decentralize operations to serve the orphans within the communities from which they originally came. If closed, the Haro Sebu Hostel would cease operations in 2009. Managed in the same manner as the Dembi Dollo Hostel, the Haro Sebu Hostel has been assisting in the physical, spiritual, and personal development of fifty boys since 1995.

### ***Funding***

As with the Dembi Dollo Hostel, the Haro Sebu Hostel is funded by the German orphans missions organization, Kinder Nothilfe (KNH).

### ***Education***

As with the Dembi Dollo Hostel, students at the Haro Sebu Hostel receive their education through attendance at local schools. 38 of the students at the hostel are attending elementary or high school. 9 students are attending higher education this year. At this compilation, 3 are prepared to join vocational training at the Mekane Yesus Multipurpose Training Centre. In addition to their formal schooling, hostel students attend a tutoring program by hostel staff, to assist them in their education.

From grades 1-4 four students ranked less than 10<sup>th</sup> while from grades 5-6 three students ranked less than 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **C. AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES**

To assist in the income to the hostel, as well as to provide the students with practical agricultural experience, hostel staff and students manage a number of agricultural activities on hostel property. This year, the hostel harvested 35 quintals of sorghum and 6½ quintals of coffee. 3000 coffee seedlings were planted at the hostel coffee plantation, and 3000 fruit tree seedlings were planted. In addition, 2 hectares of sorghum and 2 hectares of sesame were ploughed and harvested.

### ***Infrastructure***

A four-room guest house, whose finishing is going on, has been built with income from the various income generating strategies.

## **D. Health Services**

### **TULLU GOPPO CLINIC**

Tullu Goppo clinic has been in operation since 1997, providing a broad range of health care services to large, spread-out surrounding rural population. Nearly all of the funding for the operation of the clinic has come from International Health Ministries Grants from the Presbyterian Church (USA), with a small amount of income from the sale of medicine at the clinic.

The principal problem this year, as in past years, is a lack of staffing of the clinic. Neither a doctor nor a nurse staff the clinic, requiring the Health Assistant to serve to their ability in these capacities. Funding for at least a nurse to the clinic needs to be secured. In 2006, this clinic accomplished the major tasks identified in Table 1, below.

**Table 1. Performance of Tullu Goppo Clinic**

Target population	No of peasant associations	Woreda
9094	3	Gawo Dale Woreda



**Staff**

Doctor	Nurse	Health assistant	Card room	Cashier	Cleaner	Guard
-	-	1	1	1 (same person as card room)	1	2

**New Patient Visits, 2006**

Total out patient treated in this year			Children under five years old		
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1369	1010		273	157	

**Follow-up Patient Visits, 2006**

Total out patient treated			Children under five years old		
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
362	275		343	246	

**Women's Care and Deliveries - 2006**

Women's Vaccinations			Maternal Care		Deliveries			
TT1	TT2	TT3	New	Follow-up	Normal	Live birth	Complications	Still Birth
444	415	630	291	308	61	9	2	1

**Child Care and Vaccination Program, 2006**

	BCG Vaccination	DPT 1 Vaccination	DPT 2 Vaccination	DPT 3 Vaccination	Measles Vaccination	Growth Monitoring
# Children	118	219	145	387	242	462

**Family Planning, 2006**

Contraceptive	O.C. Pills	O.C. Pills	I.U.D.	Depo. Shots	Condoms	Norplant
# Distributed	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Public Health Education Programs, 2006**

Topic	No. Sessions	No. Participants
HIV/AIDS	33	4,549
Malaria	10	1,558
Environmental Sanitation	3	1,151
Family Planning	2	100

**In Patients, 2006**

No. Of beds	No. of in patients	Lying days
2	9	9

**Treatment of Diseases, 2006**

No.	Ten Major diseases	No. of patients treated
1	Malaria	505
2	Rheumatism	302
3	Other pulmonary diseases	304
4	Intestinal parasites	207
5	Skin infection	22
6	Gastritis	111
7	Carries or gingivitis	204

8	Eye disease	60
9	Ear disease	40
10	Tonsillitis	0

## **E. HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROGRAM**

The HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Program implements programs and measures to provide awareness and education on HIV/AIDS, as well as providing support and services to People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) and AIDS orphans. Funding to the HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Program comes from a number of different sources, including the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus and Berliner Missionswerk. The 2006 activities of the HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Program are listed below.

Awareness raising and mass mobilization activities have been conducted in a number of locations and programs this year. A total of 385,060 people participated in awareness raising activities within the Synod's service area from January through November 2006. Awareness raising activities have occurred in all presbyteries within the Western Wollega Bethel Synod, at different schools and congregations in the synod's operational areas, at Kebele meetings, funeral places, clinics, and at congregations of different denominations and religions within the service area.

Anti AIDS Club (AAC) members this year took part in activities to raise awareness on HIV/AIDS, including speaking in schools and congregations, providing dramas, teaching through poetry, showing a video, and distributing materials. There was no budget this year for distributing incentive materials and providing training sessions to the AACs. Only IEC Materials were distributed to the AACs. Materials distributed in previous years included teaching materials and megaphones for the AAC members for the activities, as well as t-shirts, sports equipment, and money for purchasing coffee and tea for the participants as incentives to participate.

Approximately 400,000 Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials on AIDS awareness and prevention were distributed in 10 woredas in 2006. Materials were distributed to AAC members, community and religious leaders, and youth leaders at the kebele levels.

A total of 1,627 religious leaders were trained in 5 training sessions in 2006 in order to train those within their congregations and communities on AIDS prevention and awareness. The religious leaders in attendance represented all of the religious denominations in the service area, including EECMY, Full Gospel, Catholic, Muslim, and Orthodox congregations. The training sessions also provided an opportunity for the congregational leaders of different religions to come together to discuss what has been done and what needs to be done with regard to the prevention of the spread of HIV/AIDS, assisting with the needs of PLWHA and AIDS orphans, and decreasing the stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS. Those attending the training sessions were expected to provide specific trainings within their community, as well as encouraged to include HIV/AIDS education in the sermons/homilies at their respective congregations.

The activity of home to home to visits for PLWHA has continued, serving 3 patient families this year. Home visits include providing family education, spiritual counseling, and financial support. Home visitation also occurs for the AIDS Orphans, providing friendship, confidence building and counseling.

In 2006, the program provided care and support for 25 PLWHA and 84 AIDS orphans which is funded by the Berliner Missionswerk of Germany. PLWHA were given 100 birr per month for food or other personal needs. This is the last year that the Berliner Missionswerk will provide a monthly salary support to people within the program. In 2007, the program will provide a revolving fund for skills-training rather than direct support, in order to encourage self-sufficiency. In addition to the financial support, the PLWHA and AIDS orphans were provided with counseling services. 59 individuals took advantage of the counseling services, providing a venue for open sharing of their concerns and problems.

Even as we are teaching /orienting about the AIDS pandemic, the spread of HIV/AIDS continues to increase, due to a number of factors including inadequate behavioral change of the community, continued practice of harmful traditions and a high rate of unemployment (particularly among the youth), and corresponding need for migration for work, which separates husbands and wives.

The increase in the spread of HIV/AIDS correlates to an increased need for AIDS care and support services, particularly in the case of AIDS orphans. To combat the increasing spread of HIV/AIDS, the Synod needs to continue its efforts at awareness raising, including the capacitating of influential people, training of community leaders, networking with NGOs and GOs, and establishing AACs where they do not yet exist, and strengthening existing AACs and programs.

*Ade Bashatu at wareness-raising and community mobilization against HIV/AIDS*

## **F. INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (IRDP)**

### ***1. DALE WABERA IRDP***

The Dale Wabera Integrated Rural Development Project (DWIRDP) was initiated by the Western Wollega Bethel Synod on the request of the community and local government in 1995. Bread for the World (BftW) Germany, is the funding agency of the project.

The initiation of the project was aimed to alleviate the food shortage that had been prevailing in the project area through undertaking integrated sustainable project, within 12 PAs of Gawo Dale Woreda, which benefits about 24,650 people. The project entered its implementation phase in late 1995 with the main components like construction of infrastructures (human health clinic, bridge), agricultural extension, irrigation/horticulture, veterinary service, termite control, soil and water conservation, re-forestation, credit schemes, women's development, water development and community capacity building.

The project included three phases, each phase taking approximately three years, including bridging phases. The third phase of the project formally terminated at the end of December 2004. However, the final evaluation of this phase recommended that a few project components be continued, to allow for their sufficient maturation, including irrigation, rural credit, water development, and the agricultural extension. This report describes the most important activities within these remaining components.

Through this project, more than 2000 fruit tree seedlings were raised and distributed. Chando catchment was terraced. Selected potato seeds were supplied to farmers.

The project center has continued to provide demonstrations of agricultural technologies to the local farmers, including preservation of potato seeds, soil fertility improvement practices, intercropping, crop rotation, crop diversification, compost preparation, green manuring, appropriate seedling spacing, terrace maintenance and the like.

#### ***Rural Credit***

The project also involved capacitation of Saving and Credit Cooperatives (SACCs) continued intensively. Capacitation includes cooperatives formation, trainings, construction of offices and provision of office facilities. Moreover, loan was provided for cooperatives union.



### ***2. LALO KILE INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT - PHASE I***

The Lalo Kile Integrated Rural Development Project (LKIRDP) was initiated by the Western Wollega Bethel Synod on the request of the community and local government with a baseline study in 2001, and project commencement in 2003. Bread for the World (BftW), Germany funded the pilot phase of this project, from August

2003 to July 2004. In August 2004, Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst (Church Development Service of the Protestant Churches in Germany, or EED) took over the responsibility as the primary donor of the project.

The project is intended to alleviate the food shortage that has been prevailing in the project area resulting from a long-term decline in agricultural production, stemming from degradation of natural resources, severe termite infestation, prevalence of crop and livestock diseases and pests, and inadequate agricultural services and infrastructure. The project area contains 8 kebeles within the Lalo Kile Woreda, with a total population of 18,893 people within these kebeles.

The project implementation phase (phase I) began in August 2004, establishing the primary project components such as construction of the demonstration center and primary project infrastructure, purchase of supplies and equipment, and establishing the principal project programs, including the agricultural extension, soil and water conservation, termite control, forestry extension, gender development, water development, bridge construction, capacity building, and veterinary service.

As a step to sustainability the project was reviewed last September by Martin Müller and Angela Müller, relatively external people because their input as advisors in the first phase was limited. The review generally suggested that the project progress was very good.

Depending on the findings of the review project proposal document for the second phase has also been prepared by same people, of course, with intensive discussion with the beneficiaries, project staff and coordination office.

#### Project Components and Achievements

List of activities by component	Unit	Annual			Total Project Period (TPP)		
		Plan (Qty.)	Accomplished		Plan (Qty.)	Accomplished	
			Qty	%		Qty	%
<b>1. Agriculture extension</b>							
• Main demonstration site		1	1	100	1	1	100
• Production of fruit tree seedlings	No.	8,000	6,000	75	18,000	17,600	98
• Root crop extension	qts.	20	50	250	60	81	135
• Horticulture (Vegetable seeds)	kg	20	40	200	60	48	80
• Other crop seed supply	kgs	230	310	135	300	310	103
• Materials and farm tools	pcs	100	71	71	2,000	1,869	93
• Fungicides for vegetables and crops	lit	5	10	200	150	20	13
<b>2. Soil and water conservation</b>							
<b>Terraces and soil bunds</b>							
• On communal land-establishment	km	64	54	84	96	85	89
• On communal land-maintenance	km	64	72	113	96	40	42
<b>Check-dams</b>							
• Establishment	m3	850	1,014	119	850	1,910	225
• Maintenance	m3	120	130	108	790	650	82
• With school-establishment	km	12	10	83	24	16	67
<b>Cut-off drains</b>							
• Establishment	km	8	8	100	16	8	50
• Maintenance	km	2	2	100	5	2	40
<b>3. Termite control</b>							
• Research programme	bulk	X	X	x	X	X	
• Workshop on termite controls	partic.	4	5	125	4	5	125
<b>4. Forestry extension</b>							
• Seedling production	No.	160,000	200,000	125	600,000	528,000	88
• Vetiver multiplicaton (Project nurseries)	splits	200,000	220,000	110	600,000	880,000	147
• Vetiver multiplicaton (Private nurseries)	splits	120,000	168,000	140	720,000	720,000	100



List of activities by component	Unit	Annual			Total Project Period (TPP)		
		Plan (Qty.)	Accomplished		Plan (Qty.)	Accomplished	
			Qty	%		Qty	%
• Afforestation	ha	40	36	90	120	114	95
• Closure area establishment	ha	60	54	90	200	116	58
<b>5. Gender development</b>							
• Introduction of mud-stoves	No.	50	26	52	100	96	96
• Vegetable gardening	kg	16	4	25	24	12	50
<b>6. Water development</b>							
• Spring development	No.	3	3	100	13	13	100
• Washing basins	No.	3	3	100	13	10	77
<b>7. Veterinary service</b>							
• Animals treated	No.	25,000	46,000	184	60,000	59,000	98
• Equipment for clinics	pcs	1,000	1,000	100	3,000	2,500	83
• Drugs	bulk	X	X	x	X	X	x
<b>8. Infrastructure construction</b>							
• Construction of pedestrian bridges	?	1	1	100	3	3	100
• Construction of training hall	?	1	1	100	1	1	100
<b>9. Capacity building</b>							
<b>Community capacitation</b>							
<b>Gender Development</b>							
• Family planning, HIV/AIDS	partic.	1,408	1,075	76	2,816	1,760	63
• Home economics, Sanitation	partic.	1,408	1,029	73	2,816	1,760	63
• Nutrition, medicinal plants	partic.	1,408	114	8	2,816	1,760	63
• Handcraft	partic.	64	47	73	128	96	75
• Gender training	partic.	64	64	100	128	96	75
• Harmful traditions training	partic.	64	64	100	128	96	75
• Training on d/t project components	partic.	80	80	100	250	200	80
• Farmers Orientation course	partic.	250	250	100	700	650	93
• Kebele leaders orientation meeting	partic.	80	80	100	320	240	75
<b>Capacitation of project staff</b>							
• Training of field technicians	partic.	8	8	100	8	8	100
• Short-term training on proj. comp.	partic.	1	4	400	4	4	100
• Computer training	partic.	8	0	0	8	0	0
• Project visits	partic.	8	0	0	8	0	0

## **G. WATER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

This year, the Synod Water Development Section has completed a total of 42 projects located in 10 different woredas (please see the table below). Approximately 21,851 people have benefited from the completion of these projects. The total fund invested on the project is ETB 85 8, 181.

As with previous years, a shortage of locally available materials for construction (sand and stone) has required that these materials be purchased and brought in by truck at a number of the sites. Because the Synod does not have a suitable truck for these materials, trucks have had to be hired, adding further to the cost of project implementation. This has been further exacerbated by the remoteness of many of the project sites, requiring in many cases that the supplies be carried in manually from the nearest road.

**Table 2: Water Development Schemes Accomplished in 2005.**



No.	Project Site/ Spring Name	Woreda	Type of Scheme	No. of Benef.	Fund Source	Donor's contribution	Community Contribution	Total
1	Waba Eba Dochi	Anfillo	SP, CW, S	300	GOH	20,377	2,240	22,617
2	Waba Eba Itanazur	Anfillo	SP	1,960	GOH	11,886	2,240	14,126
3	Waba Eba Arat Kilo	Anfillo	SP, CW	560	GOH	12,295	2,210	14,505
4	Waba Eba Konga	Anfillo	SP, CW	315	GOH	14,537.50	2,670	17,207.50
5	Waba Eba Secha	Anfillo	SP, CW, S	315	GOH	21,521	3,320	24,841
6	Waba Eba Boga	Anfillo	SP	490	GOH	12,322	1,255	13,577
7	Gobi Shari- Secha	Anfillo	SP, CW	280	GOH	14,828	4,359	19,187
8	Gobi Shari- Kuri	Anfillo	SP, CW	420	GOH	20,653	2,660	23,313
9	Gobi Mikael- Magale	Anfillo	SP, CW	301	GOH	16,433	3,477	19,910
10	Gobi Mikael- Dencha	Anfillo	SP, CW	455	GOH	14,426	5,948	20,374
11	Ubur Shol- Tiba	Anfillo	SP	175	GOH	18,106	4,230	22,336
12	Suddi-Galmo	Anfillo	SP, CW	350	GOH	23,422	2,760	26,182
13	Suddi-Dallo Dare	Anfillo	SP, CW	525	GOH	24,757	1,860	26,617
14	Suddi-Asuro	Anfillo	SP	224	GOH	18,790	4,030	22,820
15	Ubur Shola Loqi	Anfillo	SP, CW, S	184	GOH	26,381	3,598	29,979
16	Mugi Town Timikit	Anfillo	SP, CW, S	2,958	GOH	27,108.50	3,030	30,138
17	Tabor-Tebel	Sayo	SP, CW	287	GOH	19,020	3,078	22,098
18	Ganji Kebe	Gawo kebe	SP, CW	250	LAFIM	19,733	3,612	23,345
19	Lalisa Dibe	Ganji	SP	590	LAFIM	13,299.25	1,180	14,479.25
20	Chalia Getano	Yubdo	SP	182	LAFIM	2,691.25	789	13,480.25
21	Chelia Yemo (Bole)	Yubdo	SP	203	LAFIM	2,398.25	600	12,998.25
22	Chelia Yemo	Yubdo	SP	231	LAFIM	2180.25	754	12,934.25
23	Arere	Hawa Gelan	SP	275	GOH	13074.50	2,300	15,375
24	Lalo Koyi	Yemalogi Walal	SP	325	GOH	17136.80	1,400	18,537

No.	Project Site/ Spring Name	Woreda	Type of Scheme	No. of Benef.	Fund Source	Donor's contribution	Community Contribution	Total
25	Lalo Koyi	Yemalogi Walal	SP	300	GOH	15565.50	1,050	16,616
26	Arabeshi	Yemalogi Walal	SP	835	GOH	12953.05	250	13,203
27	Arabeshi	Yemalogi Walal	SP	450	GOH	15368.50	1,400	16,769
28	Tirigni	Hawa Gelan	SP	600	GOH	18896.00	2,500	21,396
29	Lomicha Cabal	Yemalogi Walal	SP	400	GOH	17779.00	1,000	18,779
30	Dinbo	Yemalogi Walal	SP	350	GOH	18962.00	1,700	20,662
31	Geba Senbet- Dura	Hawa Gelan	SP	250	GOH	18672.80	2,000	20,673
32	Awusa Sasi	Yemalogi Walal	SP	450	GOH	18610.00	500	19,110
33	Awusa Sasi	Yemalogi Walal	SP	380	GOH	17234.50	500	17,735
34	Geba Senbet- Dura	Hawa Gelan	SP	1250	GOH	15177.00	1,517.70	16,695
35	Mojo	Hawa Gelan	SP	1000	GOH	20432.00	2,043.2	22,475
36	Tejo	Yemalogi Walal	Hand dug wells	1070	GOH	18040.00	300	18,340
37	Anfare	Hawa Gelan	Jemalo Spring	234	GOH	27061.25	1,500	28,561
38	Yengi	Seyo	SP	670	GOH	33486.35	3,600	37,086
39	Medale	Seyo	Hand dug wells	175	GOH	35345.00	3,500	38,845
40	Ifa Tokuma School	Seyo	Hand dug wells	650	GOH	32075.85	1,000	33,076
41	Soyma	Hawa Waalal	Spring	632	LAFIM	14,179	3,006	17,185
<b>Total</b>				<b>21,851</b>		<b>767,214</b>	<b>90,967</b>	<b>858,181</b>

## H. REHABILITATION OF MEJANGIR COMMUNITY

Since 1997 WWBS has been engaged in activities to assist this marginalized people group in transitioning from a hunter/gatherer lifestyle to that of a sedentary/agricultural lifestyle, at their request. A transition to a sedentary lifestyle has been necessary in response to disarmament of the people (making hunting more difficult), and the need to become sedentary due to the increasing number of people settling or being resettled to the area. The development program aims to improve their overall standard of living through education, the introduction of sustainable food production techniques, and by developing income-generating products based on their traditional skills and knowledge.

Two principal Meshangir communities are supported, the Meshangir Ula-Wata Community, located 33 kilometers south of Dembi Dollo in the Sayo Woreda, and the Meshangir Dale Sadi Community, located 90 kilometers north of Dembi Dollo in the Dale Sadi Woreda. Activities in support of these two communities are detailed below.

### 1. Mejangir Ula-Wata Community



Assistance to the Meshangir Community in Ula-Wata has been funded by a grant from the Presbyterian Hunger Program and funds from the Salem Presbytery of North Carolina, of the Presbyterian Church (USA), active through 2007. The program activities have served a total of 104 people within 31 families. Activities carried out in 2005 include the following:

### ***Agriculture***

Agricultural extension activities have continued successfully, with a good harvest which enabled the community to produce enough food for its needs for the year. The project is preparing to purchase 10 oxen for the community to utilize for plowing rather than relying on tractor plowing, as has been done in past years. The purpose is to increase self-reliance, as tractor-based plowing is not financially sustainable to the community.

The community has constructed stables for the oxen, and staff have provided oxen care instruction materials and training. Staff will work with the community during the first year of oxen plowing to train and ensure the oxen are managed properly and ensure oxen plowing techniques are learned. With regard to crops, the Meshangir Ula Wata Community was able to produce its own food without relief grain for the first time this year, demonstrating self reliance.

### ***Education***

Education for 60 students (1st through 4th grade) has continued, served by 2 teachers. While students are currently taught in Oromifa, the overall goal is to eventually teach them in their native language.



*Mejangir Woman carrying her pottery to market.*

Six Meshangir students are currently enrolled on scholarship at Berhane Yesus Elementary School (2 boys and 4 girls), with the hope that at least one of them will eventually return to be a teacher in the Meshangir community teaching in the Meshangir language.

### ***Health Service***

A first aid kit and basic instruction on its use was provided to the community to address their concerns about emergency health treatment. Followup work will continue with more formal first aid lessons.

## ***2. Mejangir Dale Sadi Community***

Development assistance to the Meshangir Community in the Dale Sadi Woreda has continued in its second year. These activities have been supported from a portion of a Presbyterian Hunger Program grant from the Presbyterian Church (USA), and assist a total of 72 individuals in 28 households.

Mejangir woman carrying

### ***Agriculture***

In 2006, 10 hectares of lands were plowed by tractor for planting crops, totaling 96 hours of tractor time (including transportation to and from the site). A number of different crops were planted, including maize, sorghum, oil seeds, millet, beans, and chick peas. However, due to a weak harvest, particularly from corn, 2000 berr of relief grain was purchased to supplement the community's food needs and keep them together as a community. In addition, a poultry disease killed many of the community's chickens this past year. To support the community's



transition to agriculture, a number of hand tools were provided to the community in 2006, including axes, sickles, shovels, and pitchforks.

### ***Evangelism***

Evangelism work has continued from its beginning last year through an outreach program by the Dale Sadi presbytery. This program has provided Sunday worship services and bible studies to the community. The community constructed a grass shelter this past year as a place for worship.

### ***Education***

A one-time literacy program funded by the Joint Functional Literacy Program provided weekly literacy education sessions in the community this last year. Exercise books and pens were purchased to support the needs of the literacy education program. In addition, to support education of the children, clothing was purchased for 11 students from the Meshangir community who are now attending school at the public school in Dali Sadi.

### ***Health***

The community was able to obtain a number of mosquito bed nets from a government program in 2006 which distributed these free of charge. In addition, the WWBS distributed one blanket to each family in the community based on a request for this from the community for keeping warm in the new community location higher up the mountain where the nights are colder.

The EECMY-WWBS has applied to the PCUSA for a 2007 Presbyterian Hunger Program grant for working with the Meshangir Dali-Sadi community, to continue more extensively with the literacy education, agricultural training, and evangelism work.

## **I. LITERACY EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Literacy Education has been an important activity of the Western Wollega Bethel Synod since the time of the founding of the Synod. Four principal programs make up the Literacy Education Program, those being the Joint Functional Literacy Program, the Let the Women Read the Bible Project, Rural Education and the Kindergarten Schools (Rishi Valley System).

### ***Joint Functional Literacy Program***

The Joint Functional Literacy Program (JFLP) is an earmarked program for the adults education. During the last ten years 15,000 men and women have learned reading and writing by the support of this project. In 2006 in 12 congregations 246 male and 268 female adults learnt reading and writing. A four-month long program was designed which was from May to August 2006. 12 teachers were assigned for teaching. Each of the teachers was paid 100 birr / month. Teaching material like blackboards and chalk were supplied to teaching centers. Workshop was given for congregation leaders and the 12 teachers by the JFLP experts from Addis Ababa. Supervision was made during teaching.

### ***Let the Women Read—the Bible Project***

The Let the Women Read the Bible Project has been supporting the literacy program for the last 11 years. This project was meant for the women only. At first it was encouraging women to participate in the learning by giving them the New Testament for those who could read *Afaan Oromoo* Latin script. Over 10,000 male and female learnt reading and writing thorough this project.

Hoping that we will get funds we have been working with prisoners women of the Seyo Woreda Prison. A woman teacher was employed to support prisoner women in reading, writing and handicrafts. A room was built for them to learn in and have devotion and do their handicraft.

This program is very useful for prisoner women who usually range from 30-40 in number.

### ***Rural Education Program (Funded by Outreach Foundation)***

The Rural Education Program has been operational since March 2006. The program is going on in Gebi Mucho Congregation (47 M + 59 F) (Dale Sedi Presbytery), Kore Biso (81 M +39 F) (Gerjeda Cabal Presbytery) and Burka Feyina (40 M + 49 F) (Daye Presbytery). Thus, a total of 309 children are attending school. Most of these children will be able to join regular school next academic year.

### ***The Alternative Rural School (Rishi Valley Model)***

The Alternative Rural Schools started in 2006. It is functioning in two presbyteries: Awu (59 M + 42 F) and Aleku (60 M + 50 F). This program is different from the others in that it gives alternative academic calendar, wholistic and student centered. Each presbytery has a building with two class rooms for teaching and administration. Two trained teachers have been hired for each presbytery. They started teaching in October 2006. The ages of children accepted are between 4 and 6. This also is a great help for the communities around the schools.

#### **Challenges**

- Shortage of trained teachers.
- Shortage of budget.
- Less contribution by the community.

### **VII. ASSESSMENT FOR HAWA GALAN WOREDA**

EECMY WWBS staff together with staff from the EECMY DASSC head office in Addis Ababa conducted a community needs assessment in the Hawa Galan Woreda. The assessment occurred in five peasant associations within the woreda, resulting from a request submitted from the Woreda to the EECMY-WWBS to address environmental degradation and social needs within the area. Staff met with community representatives from each of the five peasant associations over the course of a week, and identified primary community needs, as well as baseline information from the line ministries within the woreda. The core problems identified by the representatives included, in descending order: food insecurity, lack of clean water, lack of sufficient health care facilities, lack of sufficient education facilities, and gender inequality. The community needs assessment will serve to guide future work by the EECMY-WWBS in the area.

### **VIII. OVERALL CHALLENGES**

As with any organization, there exists a great capacity to do more if more funding were available. Funding deficiencies for meeting program goals and operations were the primary issue in particular for the Berhane Yesus School, BESS, and the Tulu Gopo Clinic. Relating primarily to the funding deficiencies, staffing deficiencies exist at the Berhane Yesus School and the Tulu Goppo Clinic. These positions will need to be funded and filled if these programs are to function at their desired and potential capacity.

In addition, the need for social and development services within the community relating to the HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Program are outstripping the financial, material, and human resource potentials of the Synod. The program will need to be expanded if it is to adequately address the growing AIDS pandemic within the service area of the Synod, with additional funding sources secured.

In pursuit of the overall goal of increasing self-sufficiency, additional funding sources will need to be developed or secured for a number of these programs. Agricultural activities need to be developed at Berhane Yesus School, and continually refined at BESS for greater profit making and greater self-sufficiency. Additional program partnerships should be sought, and existing partnerships strengthened, for programs that cannot be self-sufficient or must be heavily subsidized, such as the HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Program and the Tullu Gopo Clinic.

## CONCLUSION

As Christians, we are called to serve one another in love, witness and action. The Western Wollega Bethel Synod continues its efforts to reach out in love to those with pressing health, social service, and development needs. We are profoundly thankful to our many project partners, without whose help, these programs would not be possible in assisting thousands of people in Qellem Wollega to find a greater degree of health, peace, and love in their lives, and faith in God. Special thanks go out to the EECMY-DASSC Office in Addis Ababa, Bread for the World, the Church Development Service of the Protestant Churches in Germany (EED), Berliner Missionswerk, Kinder Nothilfe, LAFIM, Christian Aid, the Presbyterian Church USA, Susquahana Valley Presbytery of New York, the Lutheran World Federation, the line ministries, and all of the other stakeholders who have assisted us directly or indirectly this year. We can find no more appropriate words of thanks to all of you than to use those that Paul expressed in his second letter to the Corinthians, 9:12-15:

*Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.*

*This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people, but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the Gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you, their hearts will go out to you because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!*

And above all, we do give thanks to our Almighty God for his generous guidance, provision, and protection he has shown us this year, as in all years.