

July 2010 Newsletter



Enabling communities
to help themselves

Alemu's visit to Exeter

No visa troubles! No Icelandic dust disrupting flights! Egypt Air on time both ways! And even a good deal of Ethiopian sunshine in Devon! Alemu's visit was a great success and was much appreciated by our members and by pupils and teachers at the eight schools which he visited during his two week stay. Besides the whole day and half day visits to primary schools accompanied by our Education Officer, Penny Pullen (see article on page 3), Alemu was also able to visit the West of England Eye Hospital at the RD&E and talk to staff about the Nekemte Eye Clinic Project thanks to arrangements by made by ophthalmologist Dr Hirut Von Lany and Alex Taylor.



*Qes Alemu with members of the
Eye Project team*

He also went to see Rob Barrow's Spectacle workshop in Pinhoe where Rob gave a very rapid demonstration of some practical repair techniques and gave Alemu some useful advice and specialist

hand tools. Alemu was also able to visit Age Concern Exeter with Jill Grainger, as well as social events with members including a party on his birthday.



Alemu with some Link friends at Topsham

Alemu's stay was rounded off with a very full Saturday committee meeting at the St Sidwell's Centre (see page 2) and on the Sunday we took him, via Montacute House, to stay a couple of days with members Martin and Heather Skinner in Trowbridge on his way to Heathrow. Arriving back in Addis he was delayed by the customs for nearly three hours, but later e-mailed the following message on his way back home.

"It was a wonderful time, work and experience for me to come to UK and stay with some Link members in their homes and to share, discuss and socialize together. On behalf of the church and all my colleagues I would like to say 'THANK YOU ALL!' Especially my birthday party was unforgettable!"

The ideas we discussed at the review meeting will be thoroughly narrated by you. All of it will be good ground for the future as our partnership is growing.

I just passed Ambo and this email is from Ambo at 2pm local Ethiopian time. The customs troubled me a lot and I had to pay ETB2419 Birr in duty for the old second hand laptop. We arrived at 3am and I was at the airport until 6am and we then drove directly home to Nekemte."

Thanks to all involved in making sure that everything worked 'like clockwork'!

Richard King

Partnership Meeting

On Saturday 19th June, the committee held a meeting at the St. Sidwell's Centre to discuss the future of our partnership with EECMY. They were joined by our friend and partner, Qes Alemu Nega, the development worker with the EECMY and Mark Smith, an education consultant and past VSO volunteer previously working in Nekemte, who is now keen to support the link with future educational projects.

Apart from reviewing our partnership agreement, the discussion focused on debating potential new projects the link should involve itself in over the next 5 years. Qes Alemu's presence was invaluable in moving the discussion forward and proved to be a fitting culmination to his two week visit to Exeter.

Mark Howells

Ethiopian Evening

Saturday 17th July 2010, 6-8pm



Ethiopian Snacks and Coffee at the Plant Café followed by -

"Women of Power in Ethiopian Legend and History" a talk by Rita Pankhurst.



Rita has written extensively on matters related to women in Ethiopia.

"Highly placed Ethiopian women, who combined worldliness, politics and religion are seen again and again in Ethiopian history."

6-7pm Come and join us for traditional Ethiopian snacks and coffee at the Plant Café (Cathedral green), Exeter

7-8pm Talk, in the Lady Chapel (inside Exeter Cathedral)

Please pre-book tickets:

£9 to include, snacks, coffee and talk. Other drinks available to purchase at the café.

To book tickets please email Ella at ellahuffman@lycos.com or call on 07879 999 638. Tickets can be collected & payments made on the door.

And, please, if you're happy to help out on the evening, email Ella straight away (above).

Exciting times for Primary Schools

This June the eight Devon schools with links to schools in and around Nekemte in Ethiopia were able to welcome a very special visitor. Qes Alemu Nega was in Exeter at the invitation of Exeter Ethiopia Link. Qes Alemu is the main contact for the link with their partner in Ethiopia, the Ethiopian Evangelical Church of Mekane Yesus. He was born and grew up in a rural village about 8km west of Nekemte and now lives in Nekemte itself. He is still extremely involved in the area and therefore knows all the schools very well.

The school partnership links were initiated by Exeter Ethiopia Link, and the eight Devon schools involved are; Broadclyst Primary, Tedburn St. Mary Primary, Silverton Primary, Exminster Primary, Clyst St. Mary Primary, Blackawton Primary, St. Michael's C of E Primary Heavitree, and Exeter Cathedral School Pre-Prep.



Children at Broadclyst Primary School talking with Alemu

The Devon schools were very excited at the thought of a visitor from the very area of their partner schools in Ethiopia, and Qes Alemu was given a very warm welcome by them all. It was a wonderful experience and opportunity for both staff and pupils

of the Devon schools to learn at first hand about life in Ethiopia, both home life and school life, the differences between rural and town life, and the positives as well as the difficulties and struggle to provide educational opportunities.



Displaying their African art work at St. Michael's C of E Primary School in Heavitree, Exeter

Qes Alemu himself was touched by the friendliness and warmth of his reception at the schools. He was impressed with the interest and politeness of the children and the intelligent questions from even the youngest. He was fascinated to see the differences between schools. Although schools follow the same curriculum, their individuality was apparent in the differences in approach as each has a very different focus. The curriculum in Ethiopia is very rigid, and with extremely large classes and lack of resources the delivery follows suit.

All the Devon schools enjoyed this wonderful experience which has helped to bring Ethiopia closer: a big step toward understanding and respecting differences and an opportunity to explore ways of building on diversity to enhance their partnerships. Let's us hope that they may continue to grow in strength.

Penny Pullen

easyfundraising.org.uk

Shopping on the Internet? If so, you can raise money for the link at no extra cost.

1. Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk
2. Register choosing Exeter-Ethiopia Link as your chosen cause.
3. Before purchasing an item – log-in to easyfundraising and search for the retailer you wish to use (over 600 to choose from including Amazon, Boots, Next, Argos etc)
4. Make your purchase as normal and a percentage (varies from each retailer) will automatically be donated to the link: £143 has been raised in the last year. Use www.easysearch.org.uk as your search engine and even more money will go the link. Happy Shopping and Searching...

Ethiopian Fairtrade Coffee
- Roast and Ground
Now available from the Co-op.

Mild to Medium strength
Not cheap but very nice!!

Exeter-Ethiopia Link

The Exeter-Ethiopia Link was set up in 1987 to promote a Community Link between Exeter in Devon, England and Hareto in Wollega, Ethiopia. In 1994 the Link included the town of Nekemte.

The Link supports: Health, Water, Women's and Educational projects in Hareto and Nekemte and links between schools in Exeter and the communities in Ethiopia.

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