

Education Ethiopia

Issue No. 7

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Registered Charity

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AYSANEW KASSA TRUST

Set up in memory of the late Aysanew Kassa

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING IN 2009

Through the generosity of two of our trustees and their families and Duncan Lawrie bank, a reception was held in London to thank the many donors that have supported our work since the registration of the charity in the UK. This successful evening, brought together for the first time, trustees and donors and was honored to have representatives of the Gondar/Azezo community who just so happened to be in the UK at this time. Following a warm welcome from the president of the bank, Mark Dawson, a short presentation by Jean, our chairman (pictured below) outlined the key achievements since the beginning of the charity and Dr Gashaw [medical director and surgeon at Gondar university hospital and an Azezonian] gave thanks on behalf of the people of Azezo.



AZEZO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The library has slowly got underway and the whole local community is striving to help to ensure that we get it done. This includes transporting the stones, cement etc [not an easy task] as well as providing much of the direct labour. Our challenge is to continue to raise **£60,000** whilst also continuing our core activities of directly helping students to complete their education. So far we have raised approximately **£15,000** specifically for the library project.



Those sponsors who currently support our core work can be assured that only additional resources will go towards the library project.

The key activity of the Aysanew Kassa Trust will always remain to help individual students to complete their education through sponsorship and education resources for the schools. This library will not only support the school's activities but will provide an out of school resource especially for girls where they have nowhere at home to study as well as for the community in general. New donors are being sought and some Azezonians in the USA have already offered support over the coming year. If you know anyone or an organization that might be interested in this exciting development then do please contact us. The chairman and secretary visited the back breaking work of preparing the library foundations in October 2009. They were amazed at the community support from the local keble chairman to the individual workers and the contractor.



SPONSORSHIP WILL ALWAYS REMAIN AT THE HEAT OF THE AYSANSW KASSA TRUST

- **£7** per month helps two students to complete their schooling we currently help 70 children in the high school and 72 in university including several who are blind
- **£16** per year ensures 4 children have a uniform
- **£30** pays for one blind child who has no family to live with a host family for the school holidays
- **£900** pays for blind children to have 5 classroom assistants to read for them for one year

We managed to find an IT teacher to specifically help the blind students to use their new PCs. But we still need **£600** for next year.

HIGHER EDUCATION SUCCESS!

This year 12 AKT sponsored students have graduated with a variety of degrees from university and 22 students have gained places at university this year. This is our highest ever number. We are really proud of the achievements of our high school teachers and students. However each one needs transport money to and from university once per year and this costs **£12 per student** in addition to **£4 per month** towards books and pens etc every month. **Total £56 per student per year**. So please help us. As we heard last year:

Without AKT's help I could not have finished my education and realised my dream of helping my family and working in tourism management' Melaku Gondar graduate

During 2009 Melaku helped a number of AKT friends and donors who have visited Ethiopia to see the great sights of Gondar, the **AKT projects** in Azezo and especially the stunning Simien mountains. So if you are planning a trip then Melaku will be really pleased to help you. The next page also tells about some of our new **AKT graduates** and how they have returned to Azezo to serve the people.



St Raphael Children's School 2009

St Raphael School for blind children

Your help meant a teacher was employed again for sports twice per week so please help once more. **£300** is all that is needed for one year.

Our new IT teacher, specifically to help the blind students to use their new PCs, will again cost **£600** for one year. Can you help?

Students who gain places at university need special **watches**. Can you help to buy one at **£28?** Or pay **£8 per month** for some- one to read to them. If you know of anyone interested in helping blind children please let us know as they require white can etc. which currently are not made in Ethiopia.

Atse Fasile elementary school

Locally purchased library books have been welcomed by teachers and children. If you wish to send any books or other educational materials direct to this school or any other we can supply you with the correct contact/address details. This year they are still seeking sports balls and library books. The library is being painted thanks to **AKT** as we go to press!

Azezo senior high school

In addition to the increased number of sponsored students we have again supplied additional library books and sports equipment including balls and tee shirts. Each ball costs **£10** so if you are travelling to Ethiopia and can carry one then they will be very happy.

Field trips again proved popular to supplement geography and history classes **£200** helps to pay for them

Last Year you may recall the appeal to help one of our 12th grade children to visit Addis Ababa to see a heart specialist with your help this was achieved. So thank you very much, he is now doing well.

Azezo circus and gymnastic group

This continues to benefit young people after school. **£100** helps a lot. Please help to keep it going.

WORK STILL TO BE DONE

We are working in collaboration where ever possible with the local community, education department and the American Ethiopians from Azezo.

High school

Fencing of the compound -Seeds and watering cans for the garden project

Atse Fasile school

More new classrooms and teacher's room

St Raphael's school for blind children

Levelling of football pitch and more Braille books and equipment such as talking books.

Azezo Community Library to be completed with your help.

Giving back to the community

Daniel our high school IT teacher has continued to provide extra IT classes at weekends for both students and teachers. You will recall Daniel was one of the very first students to be sponsored by the Aysanew Kassa Trust in the 1990's now he is helping to prepare our next students for higher education! This is a huge challenge with only 12 PCs and 80 plus students per class. We also have another Azezo graduate, who AKT sponsored, back teaching geography at the high school.



Jean, with our new geography teacher, Mulegeta

THANKS AGAIN!

The trustees, Nick, Mark, Mike Gina, Emilia, Abi and Jean give their special thanks on behalf of the children and community in Azezo to all our regular sponsors and friends; without you we could not even hope to succeed with sponsoring so many children and giving hope to so many families. We have been lucky this year to have some new donors and we hope that they will help in the coming years. But we need more. Can you help by becoming a regular donor? Other sponsors this year have again included the Marr Munning Trust who have provided a big spur to the library project also Holy Family School, Keighley, St Mary's Church, Wilshaw, St Barnabas' Church, Caversham and East Finchley Methodist Church.

In addition a huge thanks to Beverley Willie who has produced this newsletter within an impossible deadline!



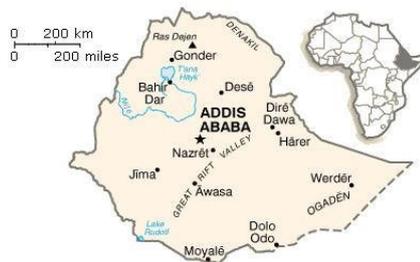
If you or someone you know can help please do so more information is available on www.linkethiopia.org.uk or email us at jean397@btinternet.com

If you can contribute regularly we can send you a banker's order form. Alternatively cheques made payable to 'Aysanew Kassa Trust' can be sent directly to Aysanew Kassa Trust, 72, Brackenbury Road, East Finchley, London N2 0ST UK

Please do also complete a gift aid form if you are a UK taxpayer.

The children and whole community of Azezo really do appreciate your generosity and thoughts.

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Where is Azezo?

Azezo is situated 10km from Gondar city in the north of Ethiopia. More than 50% of the population is aged 15 and under. This is a very poor community whose economic situation will not improve without a substantial expansion of education for its children. Since the beginning of the project more than 108 AKT sponsored children have now completed higher education, and are helping to improve the economy of the country but especially their own families and local community as teachers, nurses, doctors, lawyers, engineers, agriculturalists etc.