

DIR BIYABIR QUARTERLY UPDATE

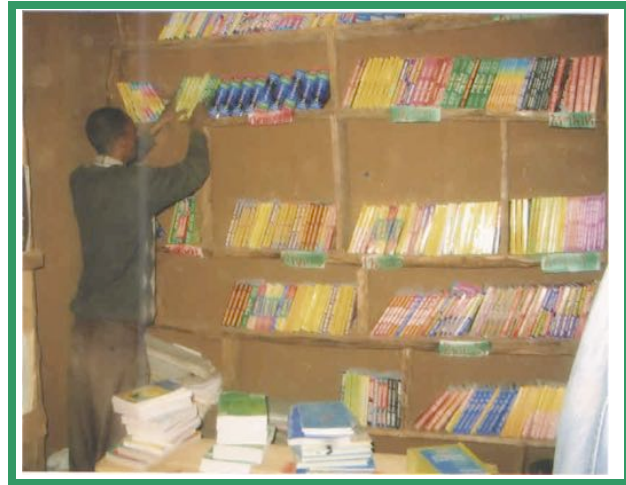
2ND QUARTER 2015

WWW.DIRBIYABIR.ORG

MAY 12, 2015

DEAR MEMBERS

On May 11 we won a grant of \$80,000 USD from The Christensen Fund, and we are super-excited!! Read all about it below. In Q2 we also wrapped up Phase 2 of a book project in the Gurage zone. In addition we invested great effort in significant updates to our website especially in the Projects section as well as the Photo albums for the “TCF Environmental Project” and “The People and Landscape of Amoragedel, Kasset and Moy”. Do check out these updates on www.dirbiyabir.org. A picture is worth a thousand words and there are lots of great pictures to illustrate our impact on the ground in Ethiopia.



CHRISTENSEN FUND GRANT

Dir Biyabir has had a long and constructive relationship with The Christensen Fund (TCF) since our first grant of \$24,500 in October 2008. Our partnership with TCF focuses on implementing Integrated Environmental Rehabilitation and Economic Empowerment projects in Northern Shewa via our local partner ADHENO. Thus far over 300,000 trees have been planted over the 3 phases of this project, with a focus on indigenous trees. 3 clean water springs have been constructed, and micro-enterprises have been setup by villagers in pottery, traditional textiles, bee-keeping, traditional spices, blacksmithery, etc. In addition traditional medicinal plants that had been disappearing from the area (including Kosso) have successfully been re-introduced. This latest grant of \$80,000 will be used to expand this environmental project into the neighboring village of Weyniye. In August 2014 we had funded the construction of a bridge connecting the villages of Weyniye and Moy at the specific request of the villagers. This bridge will now also facilitate this project. We are super excited about what we can accomplish in Weyniye, working with ADHENO and the villagers. Thank you TCF!

ADDITIONAL BOOKS IN GURAGE ZONE

In January 2015 Dir Biyabir had funded the purchase of school books for 3 Elementary schools : Anano, Bojebar, and Negoder Elementary Schools. The project was to be implemented via our partner Journey to Light (JTL). All three schools are located in Edja Woreda in the Gurage Zone. Anano was established in 2002 and has a total enrollment of 1,225, with 50.53% being girls. Bojebar was established in 1991 and has a total enrollment of 1,198, with 47.6% being girls. Negoder was established in 1996 and has a total enrollment of 476, with 52.5% being girls (all enrollment numbers are from 2014).

We are happy to report that all books have now been purchased and handed over to the schools by the JTL local representative, and we have received all receipts and pictures. The purchase includes 362 books for Anano, 370 books for Bojebar, and 207 books for Negoder. In addition the JTL representative showed his commitment to the kids by finding free transportation and using \$200 allocated for book transportation to purchase 67 more books for Negoder bringing the total to 1,006 books purchased.

We wish these kids much success in their quest for knowledge and learning!