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Dan, Lita and Morgan Alger  
265 South Woodland Hills Drive  
Woodland Hills, UT. 84653



Dear Friends & Family~

As many of you know, Dan and I have "semi-retired" to Woodland Hills, Utah. I write "semi-retired" because we have kept very busy. We had the good fortune to join a humanitarian group in the fall of 2006 on a trip to rural Ethiopia. This was a life changing experience we shared with our daughters, Celina, Brooke & Morgan. Working with **Lon & DeAnna Kennard**, and the non-profit Village of Hope organization, has given us the opportunity to share our skills and time in the rural village of Kersa Illala, Ethiopia.

We loved that Lon and DeAnna are committed to help the village and working with the local leaders, and have a vision for its future. Many larger humanitarian groups focus on one aspect of work; immunizing children, building a home or school. They serve one remote area at a time for a small portion of time and move on. The Kennards are committed to serving the people of Kersa by providing fresh water, improving education, healthcare, family income and protection of high risk children. Their years of service, involving many expeditions and volunteers, have motivated others to return periodically to provide healthcare, adopt and even to start organizations of their own that benefit the children of Ethiopia.

We saw firsthand the despair and hopelessness in the faces of many men unable to provide for their families. A great number of the people live as they would have two thousand years ago. There is no running water; Most live without electricity and irrigation for crops is unheard of. Though much has been done in the thirteen years Lon and DeAnna have been working with the people of Kersa, there is so much more that can be done. We met some of the most loving and humble people on our first visit and vowed somehow to make a difference.

With the creative minds of the Alger Girls and their dad, the concept for a program that revolved around changing the cultural norms began. We wanted to focus on fathers, heads of households that could model a new behavior for the family. The program needed to include educational components and benefit not just individual families, but reach out to build up the community as well.

The Village of Hope's Foresight Program began with the very generous underwriting of the **Foresight Management Services, Inc.** This donation matching program employs the father of a household, provides educational opportunities, benefits the entire family, teaches the spirit of 'Dagoo' (roughly translated as good will) as the fathers work together in the community on projects that benefit others while learning valuable life skills.

Dan & I returned with Morgan this summer to work further on this program, meet with the local governing leaders and were pleased to hear the good reputation the village is gaining because of progress in healthcare and sanitation. The governing board would like to have the Village of Hope take charge of some acreage and develop it in a way to benefit the entire community. The leaders have caught this vision and it is very exciting. **Brookside/St. John's Volunteers** have generously donated funds that will help begin development of this land and other projects.

Hoping to meet with a few dozen families to start up the project, we were amazed that hundreds showed up for an opportunity to take part. This was especially noteworthy as families traveled miles on foot for the opportunity to be interviewed to take part in a program that offered just the possibility of sponsorship and the training to a better life.

We are so grateful to **Brookside/St. John's Volunteers, Foresight Management, Inc.**, and the many individual donors that have helped us to bring positive changes and hope to our friends in Kersa. We send this newsletter to you in hopes that you will want to learn more about this work in Ethiopia and that you might want to join us in some way to change lives.

I invite you to visit the website to learn more about the Village of Hope and the various opportunities to help. We were elated to start this school year with 48 sponsored families. You might want to consider helping us reach the goal of 100 families this year.

*Lita Alger*



Getting sized for a school uniform

# *How can you change the way you see the world?*

## *....open up and see*

## DAGOO

Dagoo is an Ethiopian word that is used to call people together to come to the aid and help of another. This included jobs such as plowing, planting, sowing, repairing and building. When dagoo was called, those who were invited were obligated to come and provide the manpower needed to complete the job and would only expect to receive a daily meal in return. More recently, it seems that this kind of dagoo and the unity and service it provided in the community has fallen away and become a lost word.

Dagoo Harawaa means "The New Dagoo". The goal of the Foresight Program is to rekindle the spirit of Dagoo in such a way that meets current needs.

One villager made the statement: "Since the word "dagoo" disappeared from the society they have seen poverty enter into the village. In the past, when people helped each other, no one knew whether they had an ox or not, everyone helped each other and there were no poor."

## SMALL DECISION, LARGE STEP

### Foresight Fathers Show Dagoo is Alive

Safawo Bekie is married and has five children. He and his family are sponsored through the Foresight program. This allows him to work a total of 8 hours per week and for two of his sons to attend the private school.

Shortly after the Foresight program started in Ethiopia, Safawo was struck seriously ill. He became unable to do any work and is unexpected to be able to participate for some time. Concerned about losing the benefits to their family by participation in the Foresight program (schooling, income, fresh water and bonus'), Safawo's wife; Markeb, offered to work in his place. She promised she could work as hard as the men.

The Foresight fathers met recently and discussed Safawo's situation. After a few minutes of discussion, they decided to take a different approach. The Foresight fathers decided they would all come to work one-half hour early each day and donate their additional half hour of work to take the place of Safawo's obligation; allowing Safawo's family to receive all of the benefits while he is unable to work on his own behalf.



Safawo Bekie with wife Markeb and one of their five children.

While this single act of kindness by these fathers may not seem monumental, it does represent a large and first step toward achieving a key goal of the foresight program to bring back the spirit of "Dagoo" (see definition above). Ethiopian culture is one of survival. Families work hard to provide the basics of food, water, shelter and clothing for their family.

*"What wonderful news (Fathers helping Safawo's family). I can't even explain how it makes me feel. I had a flash-back to the first time I was in the village, sitting under The Tree, looking at the hopeless faces. As we toured the village and talked with the needy people, it was so evident that although the entire village was suffering, they were each suffering alone. No one appeared to be helping someone else; it wasn't that they didn't care. They just didn't reach out to help each other. And now this has happened!"*

DeAnna Kennard

## TAJAJILLA DARGAGOOTTAA

### Youth Service Program Benefits Everyone!



Youth help weed land for a family that was not able to do this themselves

The student youth group, or Tajajilla Dargagoota as they call themselves, has performed a variety of services throughout the village of Kersa Illala.

The youth spent six weeks planning and preparing a festival for the community. Everything was done by the youth.

The dinner was planned, cooked, and prepared by a committee of young women within the group. The youth prepared cultural dances, poems, dramas or plays, and tumbling performances for the community to celebrate the new Ethiopian millennium. About 500 villagers showed up at the activity to see the youth perform. Now that the festival is over...the youth are back to the routine of performing service within the community.

The local Kebelle (the Village leaders) gave the youth group a list of names of people within the community the kabelle thought were needy. The first four people helped within the village were elderly or invalid and could not take care of their crops by themselves. One of the villagers was 96 years old and could not work the land himself. Others could not work their own land due to sickness. The youth used hoes and ploughed the land for the four individuals.

The program currently has 40 youth participating. They are seeking a sponsor to help create a second group of 40 students.

## HELP A FAMILY FOR ONLY \$150

Our corporate sponsor **Foresight Management Services'** generous matching donation program allows a village family to benefit for a \$150 per year donation. This donation provides education, employment, fresh water, bonuses (including chickens, goats, fertilizer, etc.) and service to benefit the village.

To learn how you can help in this effort, call Dan, Lita or Morgan Alger at (801) 423-1550 or go to the link shown below.

# CHANGE THE WAY YOU SEE THE WORLD

## Join Dan, Lita and Morgan on a Tax Deductable Humanitarian Expedition to Ethiopia

Join Dan, Lita and Morgan on a Humanitarian Expedition to Ethiopia from June 28<sup>th</sup> – July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008. In Ethiopia we will be joined by Lon Kennard, founder of the Village of Hope and spending most of our days working within the Village of Hope's five and one-half acre compound located in the village of Kersa Illala, Ethiopia. The Village of Hope compound includes a medical clinic, high risk children's center, fresh water as well as kitchen and bathroom facilities. Some expedition activities



The Lilly of the Valley Hotel provides a refuge from the day as well as breakfast and dinner.

will take place outside, but near the compound area.

While we are at the village, we will be staying at the Lilly of the Valley Hotel. These accommodations, located in the nearby town of Shashamene, are considered very luxurious by Ethiopian standards.

This hotel is about 24 km from the village and will provide you with a refuge from the stresses of the day, a decent bed, a hot shower and a flush toilet. The hotel staff will prepare breakfast and dinner for us each day from a limited menu, and will include bottled water and soft drinks.

### While in Kersa Illala we will;

- Work on community service project(s) with the Foresight father's work group.
- Work at the local public school
- Help develop the village's Education and Cultural center (see "improvement projects" below)
- Learn about the Village of Hope's variety of programs that benefit this village.
- Visit the local private school where our sponsored students are able to attend.
- Meet with Village leaders and review progress made and priorities for the upcoming year.
- Tour the Village of Kersa Illala.

## MASAI MARA SAFARI

While you are already in Africa extend your trip through July 11<sup>th</sup> and join us on Safari in the world famous Masai Mara game reserve in Kenya. Have you ever fantasized about a big game drive in Africa? If so, this is the chance of a lifetime. You will literally see all the animals, up close and personal. You will have a wonderful experience you will never forget.



If you have questions or would like more information about attending the June 2008 Expedition Call Dan or Lita at 801-423-1550 or e-mail; [Dan@guidingyouth.com](mailto:Dan@guidingyouth.com)

## IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Thanks to our corporate sponsor; **Brookside/St. John's Volunteers**, we have a capital improvement budget for this year. The needs are great and we have been trying to prioritize how best to use these limited funds. Initial plans include;

- **Chicken Coop.** This will be build by the Foresight Fathers group inside the Village of Hope (VOH) compound. It will house 50 hybrid (daily egg producing) chickens that will provide protein for the VOH high risk children and teach the fathers how to build and care for chickens of their own.
- **Education and Cultural Center.** Initially we will be providing the fencing and building a covered pavilion. This will be the beginning of a large, long term project to develop 4 acres of land that is being donated by the Village to the Village of Hope. It will become the education and gathering place for the village.

**Public School Improvements.** For each family sponsored in the Foresight program, funds are donated to improve the public school system. These funds will be used during the year to assist the public school in receiving high school certification. At present, high school students in the village of Kersa Illala have to walk to a neighboring village if they wish to attend high school.

## FORESIGHT FATHERS GET TO WORK

Each father of a sponsored family reports to work for four hours each week. This work commitment provides his family wages, opportunity to work for his child's education and family support. They work on projects that meet the following criteria;

- Helping those who cannot help themselves (widows, children, elderly, infirm, etc.).
- Improve community health and build community spirit.
- Support families and the community in becoming more self sufficient.

*"...people are amazed by our fastest pace and even they are asking me again and again if it is really true and they think as if it is a miracle to them to be sponsored this fast. I will work hard with you to make happen more miracles in Kersa Illala."*

Fayisa Miesa,  
Foresight Program Manager  
commenting on families  
reaction to being sponsored



TO SPONSOR A FAMILY GO TO: [www.villageofhope-ethiopia.org/foresight.html](http://www.villageofhope-ethiopia.org/foresight.html)