

VILLAGE OF HOPE

LOVE IS SPOKEN HERE



2008 Year End Report

www.villageofhope-ethiopia.org

Turge Village on the Move – Irrigation

Source of Irrigation Water to Improved (Lined) Distribution System

To the East of Kersa, on the hill where another of the villages VOH works with (Turge) is located, there is a reservoir (pictured) that provides irrigation water to irrigate about 100 acres of crops. Plastic lining for the ditches has reduced seepage, to such an extent, that it may be possible to water another 100 acres, without using any more water. Paul Morrell and his team are responsible for this improvement. Thanks Paul!



Bridge

Old Turge Bridge, Likeness of New Turge Bridge once Back Fill is Completed



Through the efforts of VOH and the villagers of Turge, the old bridge (left) has been replaced with a new bridge, like the one pictured above. The VOH funded construction is finished, but Turge village, responsible for the back fill around the



bridge, has a little work left to complete their part of the bridge project. This project will save many lives each year, due to elimination of the periodically collapsing bridge the new bridge replaces.

Green Famine



Late Harvest (The Rain Finally Came!)

The rainy season was late this year, so, even though there were many crops in the field when the villagers ran out of food, there was no food that was mature enough to eat. Village of Hope supporters responded to the emergency with funds sufficient to buy grain to stem the starvation and a good harvest was brought in. Thanks so much to all those who saved the lives of many, many children and families, over

\$18,700 in donations made by the supporters of VOH. As a result of this catastrophe, VOH has established an child feeding center in the VOH compound that will shortly be feeding 250 infants and children each day, who would otherwise not be well nourished due to the chronic poverty of the families they come from.

HRCC



New Back-up Generator House

The VOH High Risk Children Center has made substantial progress this year, with the addition of 4 new domes for children to live in. Additionally, the arrival of a new HRCC Director, Robdu, and Family Mother, Mabrat, is a major step forward for VOH. Finally, the construction and installation of a new diesel generator that will provide backup power for the HRCC, as well as providing emergency power to the village water system, in times when the commercial power fails. Power is often intermittent, or completely off, throughout the year, forcing the villagers to the polluted river to drink. Obviously, this is a dangerous situation, one which kills huge numbers of Ethiopians throughout the country each year.

Creating a Farming Revolution



Paul Morrell Explaining VOH Agricultural Goals and Objectives

Initiative 1 – Dry Farming and Other Agriculture Improvements

Above right, you will see one of the experiments occurring in Kersa, thanks to Paul Morrell, his American staff, Evan Maxfield (Agronomist) and Brent Keller (Animal Husbandry Expert), and his local staff. Tests are being done with fruit trees and crops, genetically drought resistant, to see if, once started, these plants can flourish without further watering. Also, dry farming of wheat, barley, chick peas, and special varieties of alfalfa have been planted to see if multiple harvests of profitable crops can be achieved to replace the low productivity of one harvest per year, the farmers have relied upon since time began.

Initiative 2 – Livestock Forage and Health Improvements

Dairy cattle require high protein feed to produce large quantities of milk. The alfalfa part of the experiment described above is a potential source of this high protein feed. Milk is an excellent source of protein and calcium, and is important because its adequate consumption insures children will grow up with strong bones and muscles.

Initiative 3 – Vegetables, Fruit and Vineyards

The purpose of this project is to increase the vitamin, mineral and antioxidant intake in the population. It will also provide new cash-crops and income sources for villagers trying to increase their family income and the productivity of their land.

Initiative 4 – Manage, Maintain and Maximize the Modern Irrigation System

One of the main infrastructure requirements that has never been fully addressed in Ethiopia is the need for extensive irrigation projects (damns, canals, reservoirs), throughout the country. Without irrigation infrastructure it is impossible to achieve the potential productivity of Ethiopia's very fertile land.

Health Center Out-reach Efforts



Staff and Visitors with HRCC Kids

The VOH Health Center is forging a closer relationship with the High Risk Children Center. The primary mission of the health center is to care for the health and welfare of the children in the compound. It is now helping to plan and approve the menus and insure that all of the nutritional components are included in the meals fed to the children. In addition, 10 new village health workers are being recruited, and trained by our health center RN, Bonso, to go monthly into the homes of the villagers in the 4 village cluster and teach topics designed to improve the health of the families they have responsibility for. Also, Bonso will be responding to emergencies in the compound 24/7. Thanks to our new health care workers and Bonso, our outstanding RN.

Foresight Fathers

Hat's off to our Foresight Fathers. We have more children in the 4 village cluster being educated than ever before. The public service that is being provided by the fathers is really amazing and the results are noticed by the villagers themselves, as well as all of the visitors that come to the village, or drive by on the highway bisecting the village. Kersa and its sister villages, are definitely "on the rise" and are developing the reputation as one of the most forward thinking and achieving groups of villages in Ethiopia. Thank you Dan and Lita.

Four Cow Dairy Numbers in Kersa Village Cluster is about to Explode



Tokufu, pioneer of Kersa Cluster Four Cow Dairies

Our Director of "Four Cow Dairies," Dureti Hussen, is preparing a five year plan that will result 40 to 50 four cow family dairies. This will eventually result in income to each of the successful families of up to \$20,000 each year, That will make it possible for fathers to educate their own children, improve their family's housing situation, go to the doctor when they are ill, improve their diets and clothing, have indoor toilets, showers and kitchens, and eventually, enjoy some of amenities like T.V., telephones, and internet, that developed countries take for granted. We'll all be watching as this scenario unfolds.

Guest House to make Village Life Fun and More Productive for Expedition Members and Provide an Additional Income Source to Support the Children.



Guest House Under Construction

The last day of 2008 is a notable day for VOH and the children living in the High Risk Children Center. Why?

Because, a large, 6 dome structure is nearly finished, and once furnished and finished inside, it will make it possible for expedition members to stay in the compound/village during expeditions. They will have the same security and comfort as a hotel, and still enjoy the children, the village, and observe the life style of the people first hand. It is anticipated, when finished and furnished, expeditions as large as 30 or 40, will be able to be pampered with excellent food, comfortable beds, clean and modern bathroom and kitchen facilities, and an external environment that will be "Ethiopian," to the core. It should be a fun alternative to living in a hotel, with all the excitement of the village, but with of the primitive elements eliminated. Anyone willing to donate to help us get the Guest House ready for the April and June expeditions is invited to do so. The accommodations will cost about the same as a local hotel, but all proceeds will go directly to support the HRCC children.

New Projects in Omo Valley and Uganda



Possible Ugandan VOH Village, Robina Serwanga, American Ugandan desires to Help her Former Home Village



L – Murulle Lodge, R – View of Omo River, Center Omo Valley Girls hoping VOH will Help

We'll keep you posted as these new project develop.

Management Team Reaching for New Heights of Excellence



Fayisa Meisa, New Acting Project Director

With the resignation of two, long time VOH icons (Abu and Aman), we have selected Fayisa to hold everything together until we can select a permanent Project Director. This is a major undertaking for Fayisa, as he is also the Director of Dan and Lita Alger's Foresight Program. We thank them for being willing to lend us Fayisa temporarily, it is wonderful to have unselfish people involved in VOH like Dan and Lita and their family. Thanks Again!

The management team at VOH is officially implementing a new management and communication system that will improve responsiveness and make us a transparent organization, where everyone knows what is going on throughout the organization and everyone helps others to achieve VOH's mission, goals and objectives. We're very excited about this, and look forward to becoming more professional as we succeed in implementing this program.

In These Tough Financial Times, Please Don't Forget the VOH High Risk Children Still Desperately Need You!

2008 Major Donors Recognition

Paul Morrell Family Foundation, Dan and Lita Alger and Family, West Sands Adoptions, Nu Skin Force for Good Foundation

VOH in Ethiopia

- *Hagi Hamad Muhammad, Vice Chair, Kersa Illala Governing Council
- *Shemelis Yibssa, Ethiopian Liaison
- *Robdu, Director of Women's and Childrens Programs, Education and High Risk Children Center
- *Bonso Ami, R.N., Resident VOH Nurse and Clinic Manager, Kersa Illala
- *Fayisa Miesa, Acting Project Director, Manager of Foresight Program
- *Dureti, BS, Director of VOH Cooperative Dairy, Kersa Illala
- *Robdu, Director of VOH High Risk Children Center, Kersa Illala
- *Kedir Tuna, Facilities Manager, VOH Compound, Kersa Illala

VOH in the U.S.

Board of Advisors

*Paul Morrell, Chief, Ethiopian Agricultural Transition Team, Consultant to Board of

Directors

- *Dan and Lita Alger, Co-Chairs of the VOH Foresight Fathers Program, Ethiopia
- *Dan Alger, Chief Business and Organizational Consultant to the Board of Directors
- *Gary and Joyce Kennard, Co-directors of the Northern Utah Outreach Program
- *Jane Crump consultant for VOH Student Support and Education Programs
- *Naomi Harper, Chief In-house Grant Writer
- *Wes & Alyssa Haws, Dome Engineer and Public Health Advisor
- *Pirkko Gibb, R.N., Consultant Nursing and Family Nutrition
- *Gahambo Heben, Ethiopian Cultural and Translation Consultant

Officers of Village of Hope

- *Brian Barlow, Vice President of Operations
- *Steven Bangerter, Esquire, Legal Council
- *Bradley Graham, CPA
- *Lon H. Kennard, Jr., MBA, Vice President and Secretary Treasurer, Board Member
- *DeAnna B. Kennard, President and Co-Founder, Board Member,
- *Lon H. Kennard, Sr., Ph.D., Co-Founder ,Board Chairman

Chapter Heads

- Geri Beck, Northern California (Uganda Project)
- Camille Keller, Southern Idaho
- Michelle Walker, Salt Lake Valley
- Janet Merkley, Quatr