



# wellwishers

*Saving and Enriching Lives in Ethiopia*



## **Final report for our 2015 program from our partner, REST**

Our 2015 program was successfully completed at the end of March this year.

Our local implementing partner, the Relief Society of Tigray (REST) have reported the successful construction of 55 new wells and the rehabilitation of 9 wells, as planned and agreed. The 9 wells were constructed by other agencies some time ago, and were not functioning for a variety of reasons - some because they were not deep enough in the current drought conditions, other wells had collapsing walls. An unusually large number of wells which REST attempted to construct did not yield sufficient water - 13 in total - and these were replaced by nearby new wells. All this was within our total budget for the year of EthBirr 6,342,498 (Aust 386,890). Independent monitoring of the entire program during the year was carried out by Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) based in Addis Ababa, and visits by an Australian WellWishers Trustee. We are thrilled with another year of fine work which has provided a permanent supply of clean water and a health and sanitation program to almost 18,000 Ethiopian villagers. For all these villagers, a close and clean water supply means opportunities for improved health. For the first time many girls can go to school rather than spend hours collecting water from outside their village. We receive no government funding, so the fabulous support of the Australian community, with help from friends in Singapore and the UK, made all this life-saving work a reality. Thank you!

### **A little help goes a long way**

**\$20** will ensure a permanent supply of clean domestic water for someone in northern Ethiopia

**\$120** supplies a whole family with water.

Behind these figures is a lot of voluntary support and goodwill both here and in Ethiopia.

Thank you for your continued support.



**Auctioneer Steve in full flight. \$4700 raised in the auction - a fabulous effort.**

### **Melbourne dinner a success!**

95 people attended our sellout WellWishers Dinner at Nyala Ethiopian Restaurant in Fitzroy on April 8. It was a crowded but convivial evening and supporters both new and old together raised over \$27700. Two donations each of \$6000 on the night - one from AACASA, the association of parents who have adopted children from Africa (mainly Ethiopia) and from representatives of Textor Textiles, Australia's leading firm in absorptive materials - were a great boost toward the total. There was either such eagerness to win a fabulous digital telescope in the raffle or straight out generosity that we ran out of raffle tickets in just 4 minutes! The necklace of beads from the Henry Morton Stanley collection raised another \$3000 in our auction.

There are lots of people to thank: Paul and Jenny Carney, Steve Arthurson our auctioneer, [ethiopia.com.au](http://ethiopia.com.au), all those who contributed to the raffles and auctions, and Ermias our restaurant host. Our biggest thanks go to the 95 people who so generously contributed.

The funds raised will go directly to our village well construction and community health program in Ethiopia - the dinner raised enough for four villages (new permanent water supply for over 1000 people!) A fabulous addition to our 2016 program of over 40 village wells.

If you feel you can hold a fundraising event - a dinner (perhaps at home with a group of friends, or in a restaurant), an afternoon tea or a meeting just to talk about our work, please make contact at [info@wellwisherethiopia.com](mailto:info@wellwisherethiopia.com), or 0419 559 138 and let's see how we can help. We would love to hear from you.

### **The drought**

UN and Ethiopian Government reports indicate that the drought in eastern and northern Ethiopia continues to be the most severe in 30 years and it is likely that up to 20 million of the Ethiopian population of 90 million will be affected. Our wells program will forge ahead providing long term water supply security. The Australian Government has announced a \$16 million food aid package. The bulk of response to the drought has come from the Ethiopian Government through the diversion of some of its development budget. 75% of Tigray's population of 5 million are directly dependent of rain-fed agriculture, so a comprehensive response is needed to keep farmers on their farms in anticipation of mid-year rains.

### **Our program for 2016**

Site selection and construction for our 2016 program is well underway. We have asked The Relief Society of Tigray (REST) to construct 41 wells, with possible extension of another 5. The document outlining the 2016 program is at [www.wellwisherethiopia.com/images/REST2016narrative.pdf](http://www.wellwisherethiopia.com/images/REST2016narrative.pdf) (copy this link to your browser) These wells are located in 6 woredas (districts) in north and central Tigray Region. The villages have been chosen in these woredas because they involve people walking between 1-2 hours each way to the current water source, and having to queue for up to one hour. The wells will reduce the walking time to an average of 15 minutes, and a waiting time of 10 minutes. The program will also oversee the construction of 1419 pit latrines around the houses as a strategy for the prevention of 'open defecation', together with an education program on health and sanitation.

### **End of the tax year approaches...**

All donations over \$2 to WellWishers are tax deductible. Please remember us before June 30 if you are thinking of donating. 97% of donations go directly to support our program work in Ethiopia. See the attached sheet for ways to donate.

### **Finally, the long ride for WellWishers...**

Levi and Megan have a life-long affiliation with Ethiopia after adopting their daughter, Hana, 13 years ago. They are riding the length of the UK to support WellWishers. To support them please follow this link:

<https://give.everydayhero.com/au/levi-and-megan-s-lejog>