

The New Day Children's Centre Newsletter

February 2010



Welcome to the second NDCC newsletter. Since our last one in October, lots of exciting things have happened. This is just some of what the students have been doing...

Timket

This is a religious ceremony that celebrates the baptism of Christ. The students are very proud of their culture and the Timket celebration demonstrates this very well. It is difficult in this short space to describe the festival but all of the students attend the ceremony and some are representatives of their particular church. They participate in the religious singing and in the drumming and dancing that makes the celebration so spectacular. Below are two photographs of Timket:



Christmas Day

On Christmas Day students arrived at the centre ready to celebrate this special day. The major event of the day was dinner and the cooks spent the day preparing a treat for the children. They had Injera, wats, vegetables and mutton. They love their mealtimes which are wonderful social events. The children laugh and chatter and there is a real sense of friendship and community amongst the students. After the feasting there was lots of music, song and dance. They danced and entertained themselves for a couple of hours before they went to their homes in the community.



With the tree you can see Wobalem, one of the grade 10 students, with Teddy, our Mathematics teacher. Semachew, Gitay and Yetayal are the dancers. There were no presents under the tree but the students had such a wonderful happy day that that didn't matter at all.

NDCC provides opportunities for volunteers to visit the centre and work with the students here. Lin Mellor, a retired university lecturer from Derby, joined us on January 5th and has shared her first impressions below.

My Arrival

"When I arrived on January 5th I was given a really warm welcome. The students were all so polite. They all wanted to know my name and to know that I was fine. Every day they ask "are you fine". And every day I say "I am fine". Because it was close to Christmas the students spent time making decorations for the Christmas Tree and decorating and cleaning the centre ready for Christmas Day which is January 7th in Ethiopia."

"I have been helping the students with their English and Mathematics. They have two excellent teachers here who provide extra lessons in these subjects. The grade 10 students have very good English and it is interesting to see just how studious all of the children are. They spend a lot of their free time studying at the centre and they are all currently revising for their mid term examinations that take place at the end of January."

Message from the students

Hello, my name is Workantif. I am a grade 10 student and have been at the centre for 3 years.



I am 17 years old and I attend Tana Haik General Secondary School. Apart from going to school I also study at the centre. My favourite subject is civics. I also help to serve food at our Ethiopian Dinner evenings and I make crafts to sell to tourists at The Ghion Hotel in Bahir Dar. I have lots of friends here and am very happy.