



# Project Mercy

starts with the One



## Spring, 2015 - Project Update



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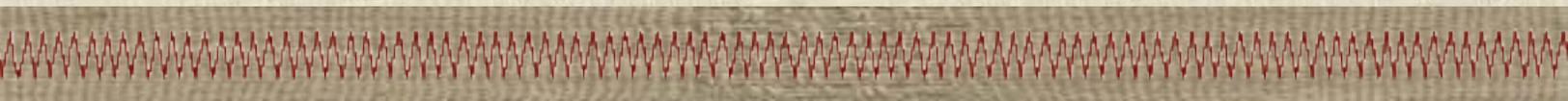
### Making A Difference In Mothers' Lives!

The "Lie in Wait" home served 45 expectant mothers in 2014. All had the blessing of successful births which accounts for 25% of the hospital's total births last year.

Since the "Lie in Wait" home opened a few years ago, a good number of expectant mothers have stayed there. In order to alleviate treacherous travel to the hospital, the laboring mother and a family member remain in the home during her last trimester. With the assistance of a mid-wife near to the home and hospital, the mothers receive round the clock care. Once a woman goes into labor, our ambulance is available to take her to the hospital.



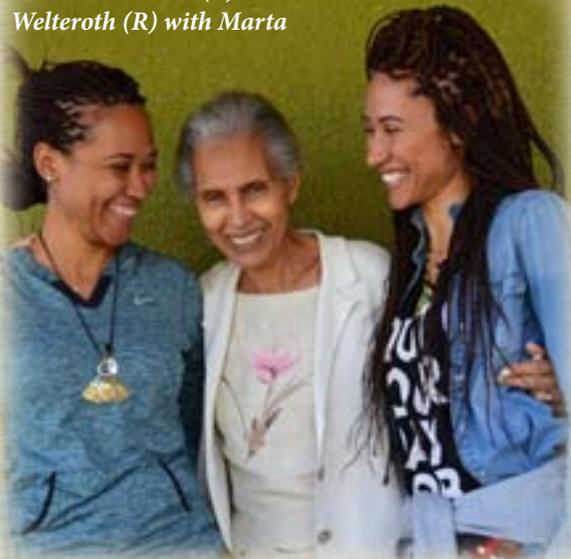
*The 40 yr. old mother (L) with a three month infant sits near her daughter (R) expecting her first child at our "Lie in Wait" home. Unfortunately, the 40 yr. old mother never had the option of medical assistance while delivering her ten children. The community is grateful for the special support the hospital and the "Lie in Wait" home provide in medical services and care for the expecting mothers and newborns.*



# IMPACT

## Volunteering With Project Mercy Was One Of The Most Rewarding Experiences Of My Life! Elaine Welteroth / *Teen Vogue*

*Chloe Louvouezo (L) and Elaine Welteroth (R) with Marta*



As the Beauty & Health Director at Teen Vogue, one of my greatest privileges is meeting young people with voracious dreams. I was introduced to 15-year-old Faith Brown because of her passion for fashion, but as a mentorship/friendship developed, it was her heart for philanthropy that bonded us. She told me about her grandparents' organization, Project Mercy, and shared a brilliant fundraising idea that fused her love of fashion with her family's philanthropic vision ("Project Purse"). I knew immediately that I wanted to help in any way that I could.

Then I had the opportunity to meet Marta during one of Faith's office visits. It's hard to describe the instant connection I felt as we spoke about her lifelong work with Project Mercy--her compassion, conviction, commitment, sincerity, and warmth left me with a bone-chilling knowing that I was being called to do more than just help Faith execute on her idea. I HAD to experience Project Mercy first-hand. It made sense to visit from a practical standpoint since I was helping Faith launch her Project

Purse fundraiser in the fashion community, but on a much more personal note, it served as an answer to prayer.

Like many people, I have always dreamed of volunteering in Africa. I spent countless hours researching organizations in various countries and spoke about it wistfully as one of my biggest bucket-list items for years before actually pulling the trigger. The task of securing a reputable, safe, and affordable host organization (not to mention finding the TIME to go) seemed daunting, especially as a young woman who had never traveled out of the country alone.

But when Marta invited me to visit Project Mercy in rural Yetebon, Ethiopia, a place I had never heard of, let alone planned to visit, suddenly my path became clear. My spirit answered 'yes' before my mind could even process what I had just signed up for. I was all in; there was no looking back.

Fast forward to January 2015, New Year's Day, at Project Mercy. Marta had just taken me on a mind-blowing tour of the compound, complete with an insider's view of the on-site hospital, test garden, K-12 school, newly-built college, etc. I even got to teach three junior high classes. (My lesson plan centered on the American tradition of New Year's Resolutions, nurturing dialogue about their dreams.) The next day I read books in the library with a small group of the most adorable and loving children. Throughout my trip I shared meals and swapped life stories with the staff of extraordinary volunteers, learned about Ethiopian culture and ultimately gained a sense of perspective that has changed me for the better.



*Elaine enjoying the garden*

I feel forever blessed and grateful for the opportunity to be a witness to Marta and Deme's lifelong commitment to serving the people of Ethiopia. Their daily outpouring of service is done with a graciousness and humility I have never seen. They treat every guest with the utmost hospitality and kindness. And it's the same tenderness and love that they demonstrate in every interaction with the locals who work and dwell on the compound. Volunteering at Project Mercy was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I am forever grateful.

# Dairy Cattle Breeding Project

## Making A Positive Impact On A Community!

Deme visited Askale, a widow and mother of five and one of the fourteen farming families who already received a Project Mercy crossbred heifer. He asked how her new cow was doing. She said to him that if he had told her he was coming, she would have prepared a king's meal for him! Askale's life changed from one of struggling to feed her family to experience a great blessing when she received a crossbred heifer from Project Mercy. She was blessed again when her new heifer gave birth to a female calf.

*The lady who made butter with her excess milk*



12 liters of milk she gets per day, Askale figured out that she can get one kilo of butter from 12 liters of milk. So, rather than selling 12 liters of milk for 108 Birr, she is taking a kilo of butter to market and returning home with roughly 150 to 170 Birr. Most days, she keeps the fresh curds and whey from which the butter was extracted to serve to her family. But on days she chooses to take the cheese to the market, she adds another 30 to 40 Birr to her income so she could buy vegetables and fulfill other needs in her home. To contrast this, prior to receiving Project Mercy's cross-bred heifer, Askale and her family were getting one to two liters of milk a day worth 18 Birr from their local cow –not even enough to make a trip to the market!



*One of the 22 rural farming parents, with their daughter, that have received a Project Mercy heifer*

### “Telling The Story” by Pastor George Carey (Project Mercy Director of Church Development)



Recently my wife, Nita, and I had the opportunity to take a trip to Ethiopia for 13 days in order to experience close and personal relationships with the Project Mercy family, within which we found the warm anointing of God. While in Ethiopia, Nita and I traveled to Ytebon, Cha Cha, and Addis Ababa. We saw first-hand how the humanitarian ministry of Project Mercy takes into account the needs of the people to eat and drink, to be educated, to be treated medically, to grow crops and cattle, to work and earn a living, and at the same time, to be exposed to Christ-honoring and Christ-loving people who are able to meet spiritual needs.

We also saw up close the warmth and unity as well as hard work of the Demeke family. Deme and Marta and their two sons (Bete and Lali) and daughter-in-law (Wanda) carry on an unbelievable amount of labor, balancing stateside Project Mercy support with the business on the ground in

Ethiopia. Nita and I saw the hand of God displayed in the fruit of previous labors and the commitment of the current work of the Demeke family with no apparent letup in sight.

Part of Nita's and my stateside ministry with Project Mercy is to travel to churches and other venues to tell the story of Project Mercy. Having visited Ethiopia and Project Mercy's work on the ground has enabled Nita and me to experience a more complete and first-hand account of what God has wrought through Project Mercy in Ethiopia over the years. Let me say without reservation that of all the Christian work I have witnessed, Project Mercy is by far the most Biblically holistic, God-honoring, and effective in meeting both temporal humanitarian and eternal spiritual needs.

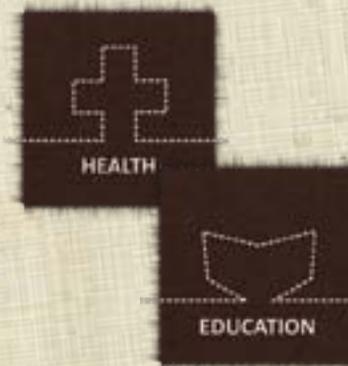
# Health Science College Is Open!

The Health Science College opened November, 2014. There are 17 female certified nurses enrolled in the very first class for a one year accelerated Midwifery Program. There are also seven professional staff including the Dean, Headmaster, and Instructors. There are plans in the near future to include courses in Anesthesiology and In-Service Training. The In-Service Training Course will be for nurses who are already operating and working in the field to upgrade and refresh their skills.

Many thanks to our supporters for the funding and also volunteer expertise in enhancing training of our staff.



*The first Midwifery class with staff on stairway at the college*



*Midwifery students studying together in the library.*

## Medhane Alem School Update



Many of our Medhane-Alem students were given eye tests thanks to volunteer, Meghan Smith. While Meghan was

teaching with Project Mercy, she observed students in her class who appeared to have problems seeing the board. After noticing this, Meghan took the initiative and obtained

Meghan had raised funding and decided to use it towards those students needing glasses or additional help. The Eye Glass Program continues through the support of other incoming medical volunteers. Many thanks, Meghan!

With 1,400+ students this 2014/15 school year, we are grateful to all of our supporters whose giving is providing



*Meghan with some of the students tested and who received glasses*

an education, basic health care, and two nourishing meals each school day. These opportunities for the children are like gold nuggets ensuring them of a hopeful future. The cycle has come full circle....the Yetebon community is now being helped by some of their children who have graduated from school and universities! All of this is because of God's blessing and faithful donors partnering with Project Mercy.

# Volunteers Whose Lives Are Impacting Many!

## *How Volunteering With Project Mercy Helped To Define The Course Of My Life....*

**Dr. Colleen Kraft** first came to volunteer with Project Mercy accompanying a group from Taylor University in 1996. That trip helped Colleen to define the course her life would take.

Colleen shares, *"Twenty years ago, my first trip to Africa was with Project Mercy to the Ytebon community of Ethiopia. The experience solidified my desire to become a physician - although I did not participate in any healthcare activities while in Ytebon, I did observe at a fistula hospital in Addis. Also during that visit, I met a Centers for Disease Control (CDC) employee and received their contact information. Using that information when I returned, I made contacts in the Division of Parasitic Diseases branch, where I spent the following spring break and summer being an observer. I thought for sure that I would enter the Epidemic Intelligence Service at the CDC after being in medical school. During medical school, I was fortunate to spend an additional four months in East Africa observing and participating in medical care alongside physicians from Indiana University in Kenya and Ugandan physicians in the capital city, Kampala.*

*Having had such a rich observership in Atlanta, I pursued residency there at Emory University with hopes of also training at the CDC. I became passionate about patient care and decided to pursue two clinical fellowships in Infectious Diseases and Medical Microbiology instead of a CDC fellowship. The last five years as faculty at Emory have been an incredible experience. I was privileged to be a part of the care team that cared for the four patients with Ebola virus disease at the bio containment unit at Emory Hospital. The course that I pursued with my training started with my Project Mercy experience 20 years ago and I am very thankful for those seeds that were planted."*



*Dr. Colleen Kraft suited up to care for Ebola patients*

## *Many thanks to Zondra Tyre for five years of volunteer service with Project Mercy*



Zondra Tyre has volunteered with Project Mercy for five years as a teacher in our Medhane-Alem School. Zondra has been a blessing to our students, staff, and incoming volunteers and guests. When Zondra was asked how teaching these last five years with Project Mercy has changed her life or focus, Zondra replied, *"Certainly my perspectives and understandings have been broadened tremendously. To see the integrity and vision of Marta and Deme lived out "on the ground" has inspired and encouraged me. To see kids like Ashenafi and Tesfu and Bechernet and Lydia growing and becoming... brings enthusiasm and joy. My sense of God at work in the world and in people's lives... has gained greater insight, breadth, depth and more."*

Zondra's classroom teaching of five years will come to an end this Summer 2015. She has been such a wonderful support to Project Mercy's work in Ytebon that Zondra was asked to return in the Fall of 2015 in a different capacity - as support to our programs. Thankfully, she agreed and we are deeply grateful for her commitment to serve with us. Thank you Zondra on behalf of our staff, the students, and the multitudes your life has and will continue to impact.

# In This Issue, Read About:

# Learn About....Share....Get Involved!

- **Saving Mothers' and Infants' Lives in Ethiopia;**
- **Providing "Tools" To Impact Children and Families In Rural Ethiopian Communities;**
- **How Volunteers' Impact Is Providing A Double Blessing; and**
- **Personal Testimonies from:**
  - **Elaine Welteroth /Teen Vogue**
  - **Dr. Colleen Kraft / Emory Hospital**

In efforts to become more accessible, Project Mercy has taken great strides to improve upon our social networking presence. Each of the following can be found on our website: Find us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, or Google+ and start connecting.



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[www.projectmercy.org](http://www.projectmercy.org)  
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## Social Media

