

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

For Projects Abroad Ethiopia



WHAT'S INSIDE?

- 01 2 Week Special Care and Community
- 02 Learning Amharic
- 03 2 Week Special Building Project
- 04 Editor's Note

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2 WEEK SPECIAL VOLUNTEER

Care and Community Project Group Volunteers

Volunteers from our 2 Week Special Project spent valuable time with abandoned children living in Selam Children's Village. Two groups came to this village at different times of the month. The first group of volunteers stayed from the 5th until the 17th of July 2014, while the other group started on the 27th and finished on the 9th of August. Both groups were involved in activities like arts and crafts, outdoor games, language teachings and cultural exchange with the children.

Apart from the projects, volunteers also had a chance to learn how to cook the typical Ethiopian cultural foods like 'Enjera' and 'Shiro-Wet'. The group also learned how to make coffee with the traditional ceremony.

They also went out of Addis towards the Rift valley for a weekend trip and had an interesting time kayaking, swimming and washing in the natural hot spring water. The short trip to Mount Entoto, the highest peak overlooking the city of Addis Ababa, was also another unforgettable experience.



MAYBE LEARNING AMHARIC ISN'T THAT DIFFICULT AFTER ALL

Article Written by journalism volunteer Johanna Rendle-Short (from Australia), Ph.D., published in local newsletter



They say that Amharic is a difficult language to learn. So I'm off to a Language School to have my first Amharic lesson.

As a linguist I feel as if:

I should be able to understand why learning Amharic is so challenging. I've had the Lonely Planet's Phrasebook; Ethiopian Amharic book for a few months now. My sister sent it to me. She found it on a remnants table in a Melbourne bookshop. The inscription reads, 'Wishing you a wonderful stay in Addis'.

I only gave it a brief glance when it first arrived. Too soon, too abstract. I wanted to hear what the language sounded like before even beginning to think about formulating words. Even important words like 'hello,' 'thank you' and 'goodbye.' Although maybe 'woraj alle' meaning 'I want to get off now', would have been very useful yesterday when the shared taxi sped past my destination.

The Ethiopian alphabet is a scary looking thing, full of squiggles, curls and lines.

The letters look like dancing, running people with very little relationship to the familiar sounds of the English language. It's clear that what seemed like ever so, slight shifts and modifications to the untrained eye have to be taken note of. A circle here, a horizontal line there, I bring my phrase book up to my eyes, playing Spot the Difference, trying to work out the system.

Maybe this is why Amharic is difficult to learn, even for a linguist.

Amharic, a Semitic language, is written from left to right. The alphabet (known as fidel) was adapted from Ge'ez. There are 33 basic characters. Each character combines with an additional stroke or symbol to produce one of seven possible consonant-vowel combinations.

Already this sounds quite complicated - so many different forms to learn. And, there is no standard way to transliterate Amharic to the Latin alphabet. So simply translating Amharic letters to the English alphabet won't help.

To read more, [Click here](#) !

2 Week special Building Project volunteers



The 2 Week Special Building Project volunteers were the other 2 Week Special group Projects Abroad Ethiopia hosted in 2014. These students from UVHS and Barrow College (UK) had successfully accomplished their project even before the time they were expected to finish. The dedication and energy they showed was really exceptional and inspiring. Their project was making murals on school walls and building a shelter and seats for eating lunch at Lemlem School.



Apart from their primary projects, these students also donated a heater to a public hospital which hosts more than 1000 patients per month as well as visited and donated playing and teaching materials to an orphanage called Selenat Maheber. The boys also had a short football match with children in the orphanage which was quite fun and interesting.



Acknowledging the hard work the students were doing, Projects Abroad organized a weekend trip to Hawassa, langano and the rift valley. The trip went very well, as the volunteers got the chance to see hippopotamus, bath in the natural spring water, relax at the beach of Langano Lake and see the traditional way of farming in the countryside.



At the end of their project, the school director gave a certificate and a souvenir for each student and their supervisors, acknowledging the hard work of the volunteers. At the same time, Mr Malcolm Halsey, the supervisor of the group said; "As a group, we feel that we have gained more than the school gained. It is a very small thing we have done here for you in the last couple of weeks, but we learnt a lot about your culture, your generosity and your kindness. We will go now but what we have experienced will live with us forever. The strength and kindness we have seen in this society will surely change the way we think about things.

Thank you very much for taking care of us so kindly."

Editor's Note:



Greetings! Welcome to July's newsletter. Despite the rainy season, we had quite an interesting time with the 2 Week Special volunteers and with the other regular volunteers as well. I hope you found something that would grab your attention as you go through the newsletter.

I would like to thank all volunteers from the past and present for sacrificing your valuable time, money and knowledge to make a difference at our projects. Big thanks to volunteers who have shared their stories and photos with us. We encourage everyone to join us in making the newsletter more interesting and exciting. You are welcome to send your own written articles and pictures. This will help others to understand and learn about Ethiopia more. If you have anything you'd like to contribute, suggest, or comment on, please contact: - berekettesema@projects-abroad.org

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