

MICHAEL'S HOUSE, INC.

Empowering each other to serve the poor in the third world

June 2006

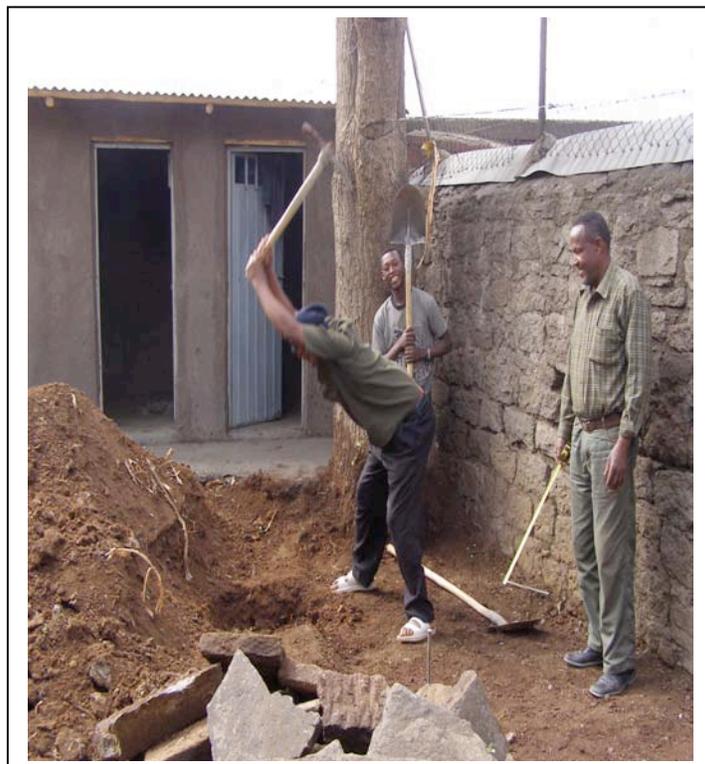
On June 2, I returned from 2 weeks in Addis Ababa at Michael's House. As one of the trustees, I was eager to gain first hand experience at our project and to help implement a number of exciting improvements to our facility. You, our donors, are the ones who make it all possible and our guests are sincerely grateful for your continued generosity.

Our program is much more than a feeding center. It is becoming a refuge, a place to gather and share conversation and a meal, take care of personal hygiene, create handicrafts, and develop a real sense of community.

In 2 years we have gone from feeding 15 people once a week, to feeding 85 people 5 days a week and visiting the homebound to provide goods and services! Our volunteers and staff are dedicated to serving our guests with dignity. And although these guests are homeless, destitute and elderly, there is a pervasive sense of hope, gratitude and joy that abounds at Michael's House!



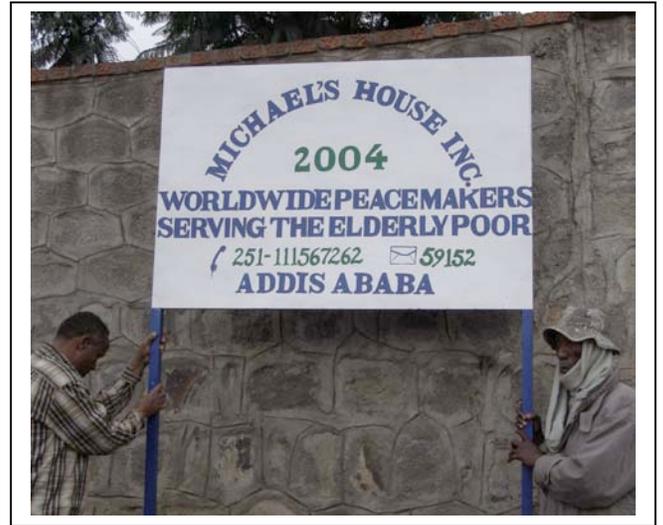
"Inasmuch as you do to one of the least of my brethren, that you do unto me"
Mt 26:40



Work has just been completed on 2 enclosed toilets for our guests. Imagine thinking of having privacy for toileting as a luxury! After the toilets were completed, we began construction on 2 showers and 2 washtubs where our guests could do their laundry, hang it to dry and pick it up the next day when they come for their daily meal. These simple conveniences that we take for granted, make a huge difference in the daily lives of our guests who live on the street.



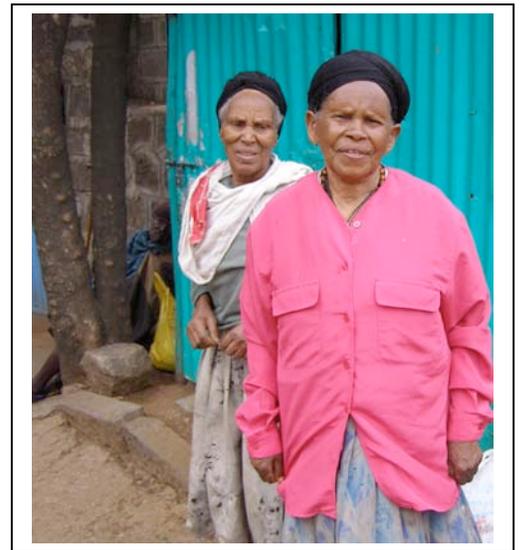
Completed showers awaiting installation of doors. Washtubs are on the right.



Another big milestone is the installation of our new sign. To date our guests have found us by word of mouth.... We anticipate an increase in request for services, as we are becoming well known in the community.



Our lead staff members Terfa and Teshome proudly point out the 4 new tires recently donated for our jeep that is used to transport supplies and elderly clients who require emergency medical care.



During the Holiday season and into early 2006, we had a clothing and infirmery supply drive. We were able to ship 11 boxes of men's and women's clothing to Michael's House along with a substantial supply of medications and first aid needs. Our guests are very thankful and proud of their new attire and were most eager to model for their benefactors to see.

ONE FOR ONE IN KINDNESS ...

INTRODUCING OUR 141K PENSION PLAN

There are old people in the third world who were born into squalor, poverty and powerlessness. They have lived every day of their lives in hopeless desperation in countries that have been devastated by war, famine, abuse and corruption. Their poverty is a sentence from which they can never escape and their only crime is that they were born in the wrong place at the wrong time. At Michael's House we want to give them a respite from their pain in the little time that is remaining for them. We want them to die in peace -even if they have never known it in their lives. We can give them a pension. We call it a 1-4-1 in Kindness Pension. The 141 K gives \$5 a month to each old man or woman on which they can subsist. Volunteers here can pay a small pension of \$5 a month. You can't begin to imagine what a predictable \$5 a month can mean to an old person living in desperation. They will now know where the next penny is coming from and when -what a relief for them.



Most poverty-reduction strategies do not target older people. We hear a lot about international agencies and the work they are doing in the third world. However, it might surprise some to realize that most of these agencies have a very market-oriented concept of human aid. The World Bank especially argues that good health and welfare is necessary for economic growth, and vice versa. The World Bank's 1993 publication, "Investing in Health," advances a master plan for making health and welfare care cost-effective. (In terms of keeping a country's workforce free enough from illnesses to contribute maximally to economic growth). In such schemes, the people of highest value are young adults, who are thought to work hardest. Infants, old people, and disabled persons have less value because they contribute little or nothing to the national economy; therefore they merit less, if any, public expenditure for their welfare and sustenance. Dehumanizing? Absolutely! In some countries, including Ethiopia pensions are paid to public-sector employees only, including military and police personnel and employees of government-owned enterprises. A few people who have worked for twenty years and made contributions receive social welfare pensions of roughly 4% of their salary, which averages out at 100 Birr or \$13 a month. Unfortunately our clients are not eligible for any of these.

At Michael's House we know that we cannot help everyone but we are committed to do our utmost to help some. We have identified the elderly in our service area who;

- are physically disabled resulting from a lifetime of struggling for survival.
- are in poor health or blind and/or experience severe neglect or mental distress.
- Must continuously beg to survive and are vulnerable to robbery and abuse.
- have absolutely no income or no family to support them.
- are unable to access basic services: health care, potable water, proper sanitation or shelter.
- live in physically demanding environments- cardboard boxes, makeshift shelters or on the streets.

THE PENSION PLAN WORKS AS FOLLOWS:

For just \$5 a month or if you prefer \$60 a year, sponsors receive a personal history and photograph of a 'grandparent'. To keep them informed about the work going on as a result of their support, sponsors also receive regular reports and newsletters.

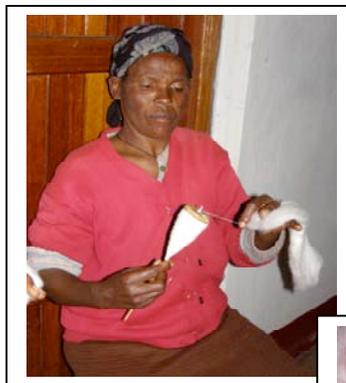
Since 2003 we have been reaching out to these people and giving them an average of \$2 a month (or 2 cents a day!) to help them survive. Under our new plan we give them \$5 a month.

Donations can be made to; Jim Coolahan, Pension Fund, Michael's House, Suite 205, 15779 Columbia Pike, Burtonsville MD 20866.

Michael Craig, President Board of Trustees

FUTURE WISH LIST AND UPCOMING PROJECTS

We would like to raise \$400 by September 1, 2006 to enable us to provide each of our guests with \$4 to purchase a pair of proper shoes.



Our women who are working to contribute to their own support and dignity would love to have 4 sewing machines and 2 tables to work at.



Presently our guests sit on benches in rows and eat with their plates on their laps. Consistent with our efforts to provide meals with dignity, we would like to obtain tables where they could dine more comfortably and easily engage in conversation.

Our jeep has served us well however it is extremely difficult for our elderly to climb up into it especially the infirm who are being rushed to a medical clinic. We hope to be able to replace it with a van that is more accessible and can carry more people.



Additional goals include: 6 standing fans, drugstore eyeglasses, 4 sick beds and 2 wheel chairs

Our progress has been outstanding and your continued support is invaluable... as we grow...so do the needs! There are many ways to help and you can be assured that every donation no matter what amount makes a huge difference in the quality of the daily lives of our destitute elderly! Thank you.

Please make checks out to Michael's House Inc. 15779 Columbia Pike, PO Box 250, Burtonsville, MD 20866