Spreading the Love of Jesus

Through

Partnership with Onesimus

When we look at our name, we are looking at the name of a slave found in the Bible in the book of Philemon. There he is described as formerly useless, but now useful. When he was returned to Philemon by Paul, he was described this way. Since Paul described him as a brother, he had become an equal partner, and that is the part of the story that has such meaning for our ministry. Onesimus was useless, but now is useful, working together to continue that same work, to make the useless useful.

This paper is to show how you can share the love of Jesus through partnership with Onesimus, CDA (child development association).

#1. Pray to God: As followers of Christ, we trust in God because He is in control of everything, so we need to pray for everything to Him. It is good to pray to get guidance, opportunities, more partners and for God’s extraordinary intervention to bring kids, homeless kids, to Christ and to make them disciples of Jesus.

#2. Come and visit Onesimus: Onesimus welcomes mission teams from churches and other institutions to see what is happening, how we work. We want you to see our purpose in action.

And when you return home, we would be delighted if you would speak on behalf of us to others in order to get more partners who are willing to participate in the process of changing useless lives into useful ones.

#3. Commit your support to the poor children in Ethiopia: Prayer and coming to visit are the most important activities you can do, but when partnership comes with financial support, it creates “ACTION”, which allows us to take steps forward bringing about the necessary changes in kids lives to help them become useful.

#4. Drop-in Centers: Drop in centers are one of the most effective programs for reuniting kids with their families and for teaching them about Jesus. However, for a long time now the Drop in Center in Arbaminch has been suffering financially and is not currently able to function at near its full efficiency. And to make matters more difficult, there are 12 street children waiting to be reintegrated into their families. But in the end, we are hoping to add even more children to the reintegration program.

We also have several fund-raising operations, the goal of which is to make all of the Onesimus locations self-sustaining.

In Chencha, there is a farm project which is meant to produce income for the ministry. There is, in fact, an apple orchard there with many producing trees. The apples are large and very crisp. Their flavor is a bit tangy, but there is also an adequate sweetness. In short, they are wonderful.

At the farm is also a chicken hatchery, but it is not working now. It must have a constant flow of electricity to produce and raise baby chickens. And such a flow is impossible. Sometimes the electricity, for no seeming reason at all, goes off for as much as several days at a time. The hatchery equipment has been moved to the Arbaminch facility but is still inoperative for the same reason. There is a creek on the property with potable water, but it is at the extreme far end from the buildings and cannot currently be pumped to the buildings.

The solution to these problems at the Chencha farm is to add solar power. Then there will be enough power for pumping water, and it will also power the chicken hatchery. Another need there is complete fencing of the property. It is a valuable facility and needs to be protected.

In addition to these other projects there are two conferences for Christ each year, one at Easter and the other at Christmas. The purpose is to bring the message of Jesus saving grace to the street children. The conferences are conducted in cooperation with evangelical churches. Because of these conferences souls are being added to the Kingdom of God and the children are getting a new lease on life. Many of them have gone into ministry, and more than a few of the Onesimus staff members were street children at one time. For example, in 2018 at the Easter conference, 120 children accepted Jesus as their personal savior.

Currently Onesimus has a dream of finding sponsors for 100 non-sponsored kids. This is a special kind of sponsorship which will allow a giver to sponsor one child starting in Kindergarten and continuing with the same child to University. During that time, they will receive education support, health care, food, casual clothing, and any necessary counseling. Surprisingly all these services can be offered for $30.00 US.

Here is an Example for children who attend public school (USD):

A. Education $5.00

B. Health Care $5.50

C. Food $5.50

D. Casual Clothing $2.50

E. Counseling $2.00

F. Family empowerment $10.00

Note: Casual clothing will be purchased once a year for a total cost of $30.00 ($2.50x12=30). It includes shoes, 1pr. Trousers, and a t-shirt.

We must add $10.00 for students in private schools because of greater costs.

Program Sponsorship is also available. It focuses your donation on individual activities, like buying sewing machines of the women’s group (a group of women who are related to the kids).

Other activities which may be sponsored are family day luncheons, annual medical checkups, annual recreation fees, transportation costs for kids, and tutoring which is not available in the schools. This can be paid for by purchasing two to three sheep for families in rural areas and with grant money for others. Again, our whole idea is to help families become self-sustaining.

Here the costs again, figured as annual costs for all children who are supported by the program:

A. Annual medical checkup (for all) $910.00 USD/year

B. Annual recreation fees $2000.00

C. family day luncheon including transportation $1,000.00

D. Purchase of a sewing machine $740.00

Note: Each machine is used by several women for income producing activities. This also builds teamwork among them.

E. Tutoring costs per child when not available in their schools. $4,400.00 ($370.00 monthly).

F. Purchasing 3 sheep for rural families $100.00

G. Supporting families who wish to start a small business for sustainability purposes $300.00 (initial costs)

Here is a table of activities and their costs:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Number | Activity | Monthly | Number of Kids | Yearly | Remark  All figures are  In USD |
| 1 | Meal for the kids per month | 100 | 10 | 1000 | This is for 10 months |
| 2 | Casual clothing | 200 | 1 | 200 | Once a year |
| 3 | Health care per year | 200 | 1 | 200 | Once a year |
| 4 | Counseling and informal education | 50 | 10 | 500 |  |
| 5 | Income generating | 150 | 1 | 150 | Once a year |
| 6 | Total | 700 | 23 | 2050 |  |

H. Other needs include purchasing a newer car. Onesimus has three branch offices each distant from the others, necessitating this need. But picking up kids who need services is another important need for this newer vehicle.

The car they currently have is old and in need of frequent repair. A newer car would cost less to operate and would have fewer repairs.

Finally, the ministry building in Addis Ababa has a small balance on a loan still unpaid. The amount needed is $3000.00

The answer to all this is giving and going. Mission teams from everywhere need to see Onesimus in action and help with the ministry needs from a few days to as long as a month to see what actually happens here. Their prayers are the most important assets needed by Onesimus.

Beyond that people visiting will see the need for giving first hand and can give more freely. Both of their time and money.

Come and see Onesimus in action. Watch as the program continues to work with helpless children to see them change from useless to useful