



From Eve and Matthea Pohl

A SEED WAS PLANTED IN FEBRUARY 2009 AND IT'S NOW BEGINNING TO SPROUT!

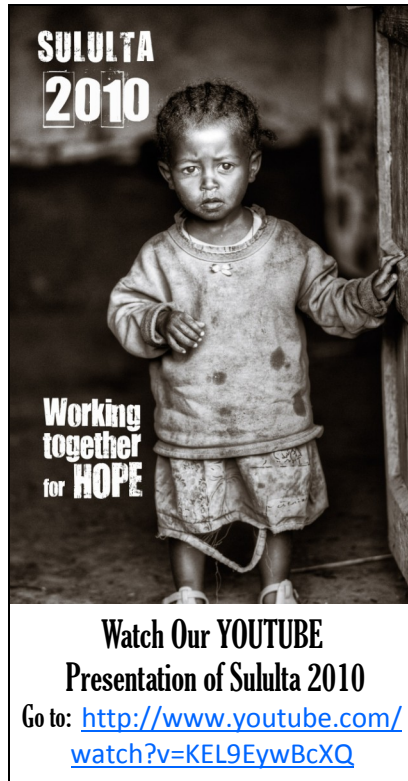
Last February in New Life GEMS Girls Club, Eve Pohl and her daughter, Matthea began to learn in a new way the impact that poverty has on children around the world. Did you know that every 3 seconds one child somewhere in the world dies because of poverty?

"This one fact had an incredible impact on all of the girls in our GEMS group. I could see the genuine compassion well-up in each girl's heart and their sincere desire to make a difference... I invited a friend of mine, Angie, to come to our small group to share about poverty in Ethiopia and the medical mission's trip she soon would be embarking on. The girls immediately saw this as an opportunity to touch the lives of the Ethiopian people and they began to organize a way to bring Angie back to educate all of the GEMS and to motivate others to help them fill an entire suitcase with medical supplies. God used them and they did it! It was a powerful experience for all of the GEMS to hear Angie's stories upon her return. Each item they put in that suitcase was used, each one was important. They had made a difference, one child at a time!

In light of this experience, when I heard that Angie was returning to Ethiopia in April 2010, I decided not to share this with anyone, but instead I began to pray quietly and ask God if this was a journey He was calling me to. A few weeks later, my daughter Matthea came home from school excited about a project she had recently been assigned - 'Fight for a Cause'. She had to choose a global problem, become an expert on it and come up with a plan of action as to how she could do something about it. How surprised I was when she told me that she had chosen Ethiopia and then came her words; "I want to make a difference there. I really want to go to Ethiopia one day!" I immediately began to feel a nudge inside my spirit and I sensed God telling me, *'Many years ago, I planted a seed in you and now you have a daughter whose heart is filled with compassion, who desires to go to Ethiopia and make a difference. You also have an opportunity....'* **This seed has been watered and it's time to grow!"** -- Eve

What will we be doing?

In April 2010, we will be traveling with a Medical Missions Team to work at a clinic in the small, impoverished rural village of Sululta. The goals of this trip are to establish a sustainable and mutual partnership with the staff of the Sululta Health Clinic. The trip will provide the staff with additional medical supplies, training and medication. While Matthea and I do not have medical training, we will be able to provide loving care in countless needed areas. Our team will be building on the previous 2009 trip, with the goal of bringing continued participation, education and improved healthcare to the area. Ultimately, the goal for Sululta 2010 is to establish strong educational partnerships with teaching universities and the local clinic, while looking for sustainable ways to assist the Sululta Clinic in its long term operation.



**Watch Our YOUTUBE
Presentation of Sululta 2010**

Go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KEL9EywBcXQ>

Where is Sululta?

It is a short 25 km journey through the busy, smoke-filled streets of the capital city of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa. Imagine riding in a bright blue bus taxi, scurrying through the maze of chaos; donkeys, people, dogs, and vehicles that weave in and amongst each other in precarious form. The road gradually comes to an end where a trail meanders slowly up the mountain side. Tall, aromatic eucalyptus trees line the mountain trail and you arrive at a spectacular panoramic view of the valley of Sululta. Rolling hills and green pastures are the backdrop. Wandering animals and primitive mud and stick homes dot the country side. **The beauty of the valley is breath taking – yet the poverty that emanates from the village and its people grips your heart and is equally unbelievable.**

To Support Eve & Matthea go to HOPE International Development Agency www.hope-international.com and click on DONATE, then under 'Donate To' - scroll until you reach Projects; UNION Sululta 2010 (write Eve and Matthea Pohl in comment box)

THIS SEED WAS WATERED IN A CHILD'S LIFE - Matthea's thoughts on Ethiopia



In November, Matthea presented her “Fight For A Cause - Ethiopia” project to her 6th Grade Class.

“When I was younger, I always had thought that everyone lived in equality. But when I was old enough to understand the truth, it just pierced my soul and made me want to cry. It was a horrible thing for me to learn about poverty and suffering, but many things can't be perfect. When I was given this project for school, I told my mother right away that I wished to do it on Ethiopia and that I wanted to go to there, to make a difference one day. When my mom asked, “Matthea what if we could really go to Ethiopia? Would you want to go with me?” (I didn't even know that Angie was going or that my mom had been praying about it.) I was really surprised, but I said yes, I would love to go! At first I was so happy, until my mom told me what I'd smell, see and experience. If I go to Ethiopia, I would see and believe that all the poverty and suffering was true. Then I was not so sure if I still wanted to go, I thought it might hurt me too much and affect my soul. Even though in my heart I really wanted to go, I was afraid. I didn't decide that night, my mom and I wanted to give it some serious thought, pray about it and talk about it with my dad.

During the next few weeks as we were praying about it, I was researching for pictures of famines for my project. I came across a picture of an Ethiopian man who had reached a critical state, he was starving. It was a horrible picture. I was so worried I'd see someone like that; I couldn't help but feel scared. I prayed to God a lot about that picture and I asked him to take this burden off my hands. That picture changed my life. My Lord told me in my heart, that He'd always be with me and give me strength. I began to feel happy that I saw this picture, it gave me the confidence and strength I needed to go to Ethiopia. It also drew me closer to my Lord God. I said to God, “If You love them; then why can't I.” - Matthea

What I have learned about Ethiopia:


What is the Problem?

Ethiopia is one of the poorest countries on the planet. Their biggest problem is **extreme poverty**. Many people live there and there isn't enough food to go around. If they are lucky, a person will receive **one plate of food, once or twice a week**. This makes them vulnerable to sickness, disease and infections. Most of the water in Ethiopia is dirty. Think of a muddy river where animals drink from and go to the washroom, that's where most of the water comes from. This means they use the river water for cooking, washing clothes and bathing in. A lot of health problems and disease come from this water.

Poverty makes people and families fall apart. Most children in Ethiopia only have one parent or are orphaned. Many mothers die of AIDS or in childbirth. Single parents find it hard to feed themselves and their child; so sometimes the parents skip meals so their children have enough to eat. In Ethiopia 47% of the children are underweight. An average person in Ethiopia lives only up to 41 years of age and 80% of the people suffer from debilitating diseases; most commonly, malaria, AIDS and eye infections. But what's worse than that, is one in eight Ethiopian children die before their 5th birthday.

How Can I Make a Difference?

When I am in Ethiopia I will be helping the doctors and nurses where ever I am needed. I also want to bring my violin to play for the Ethiopian people. Last year there were hundreds of people waiting for hours, outside the clinic for their turn. It was so hot and boring and that is why I want to share my love of music with them. I am also hoping to bring another suitcase full of medical supplies or school supplies from my GEMS club or school class.

<p>Ethiopia has suffered for years from droughts. Ethiopia's population is 78 million people & 80% percent of their people make their living on agriculture but they can't farm because they have a lack of rain.</p>	<p>The lack of rain causes the overly dry land, making it crack and have rough surfaces.</p> 
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