



## CELEBRATING 25 ADOPTIONS IN ONE YEAR!

"We are delighted to report that 25 Grace Center children were adopted locally by Ethiopian families in the last year! We are thanking God for bringing loving families for our children. Grace Center provides free home studies, training and follow up for our adoptive families... We have 38 children waiting for loving families. Continue to pray for more Ethiopian families to come forward."

-Amy Minard - Grace Center's On-site Director

This is all because of your amazing partnership with Grace Center! You have provided for these abandoned children, but not just with clothing and food and the love of caregivers, but now they have a family forever. This would not have happened without you! When people come to Grace Center pursuing adoption, Grace Center has written all the adoption protocol including home studies and adoption follow-up visits. In addition, Grace Center covers all the costs associated with the adoption like our staff traveling to the potential family's home to do the home study. Sometimes the family lives hundreds of miles away.

Several months ago, we began having meetings with government and church leaders throughout our area. One day we met with about 150 church leaders. One of the things we shared was that these children need families and these leaders or people that they know can be a family for these children if they pray and seek God and see Him leading them. From these 150 leaders, two spoke about adoption in their churches the very next day. From these two churches, 25 families lined up to adopt children. At Grace Center, we are very diligent to make sure that people are fully understanding what adoption means. After meeting with these 25 families, 17 adoptions were finalized.

**Right:** Grace Center is once again awarded as being the top charity for Amhara region, population area of 31 million people. Worku Assab, Grace Center's dedicated Assistant Director, receives the award given by the person who is the federal head of charities for all of Ethiopia.



**Above:** This mother meets her child for the first time.



Adoption is also an amazing cultural change. Previously many people in Ethiopia thought adoption was not equal to birth children. Now they see it differently. One mother said it perfectly when she met her child for the first time, "Now I know why we were never able to conceive. This was the child we were always meant to have."

At Grace Center, it is always our goal to pray about what God's plan and purpose for each individual is and how we can reach that goal. I love seeing how God works in the details of each person's life. At Grace Center, we do everything, from medical care to day care, prison ministry for children growing up in prison to providing food and house rent. I imagine that if Jesus were walking the earth we would see Him not simply focusing on one program like only those in need of food, but focusing on the individual person and what He desires for him or her. There are many programs that focus on one thing, and if you need something else, then they can't help. I still remember being a young 19 year old during my first year in Ethiopia. We had visited a mission that helped people who were in need of prosthetics. It was a wonderful program, but Ethiopia was filled with desperation, and on that day, there was a woman standing outside the gate begging for food. She held her 6 year old son in her arms and he was dying from starvation. The mission told her, we don't feed people here. The next thing I knew, this mother and child were in our vehicle traveling for a few hours so they could receive the food they needed. Sadly, this boy died a few weeks later.

God is calling each of us everyday to be His hands and feet in this world that is often lost and lonely. When you support Grace Center, we are dedicated to doing our best to be His hands and feet, doing our best to operate in His love.

**This all happens because of your wonderful prayers and support! We need to raise \$46,000 to continue this work that God is doing through the Grace Center in Ethiopia.**

Thank you so much for saving and transforming lives!  
God bless you!



Marcie Erickson  
Executive Director and Co-founder of Grace Center in  
Bahir Dar, Ethiopia  
[marcie@gracecenterfoundation.org](mailto:marcie@gracecenterfoundation.org)



**Above:** This couple tried for 27 years to conceive a child. Then they learned of adoption and now have their child.



**Above:** I took this photo in the year 2000. This is the six-year old starving boy I refer to in this letter.

