

Methodist University
Husein Nasiro-Sigo
Washingtonjennings@yahoo.com
February 15, 2007

Digging a Water Well Capable of Serving Thousands in the Oromia Region, Arsi Province

My name is Husein Nasiro-Sigo. I am a student at Methodist University (Fayetteville, North Carolina), studying Business Administration and Computer Science. I am from the Arsi province in the Oromia region of Ethiopia. When I heard of your 100 Projects for Peace, I was very happy because I have been thinking of ways I could make a difference in my home village as soon as possible. So I am submitting this project for your consideration and I hope you will agree that it is feasible and it has a potential for helping people and addressing the issue of promoting peace around the world.

The Project

One of the problems where I lived back home was the scarcity and questionable quality of drinkable water especially during the summer. People walk on foot for miles before they could get to what they consider a source of clean water. Of course, the water is not exactly clean because the source is a river and no one knows what happens upstream. Unlike the United States; people in Arsi where I am from, go to a river when they want to take showers. Animals drink water and drop their waste in this river as well. Sometimes the water turns really brownish, and people will have to venture further upstream to get cleaner water. There has never been a water-borne disease outbreak; as far as I remember, but I have every reason to believe it is only a matter of time. I really want to do something about it, but I never had the capability to finance such a project.

Thank you very much Mrs. Davis for your unwavering support of projects that change the lives of many for the better. I watched the movies made by students about you and I was really impressed with your accomplishments and your full desire to change the world for the better through peaceful understanding.

My project is to dig 30 meter (98 feet) deep bored well complete with a manual pump and a fence around it near the village where I was born and raised. The village itself has a population of 250, but it is a crossroads for people who come from different places usually with their livestock looking for clean water. The well will be able to serve about 1000 households and their livestock.

How the Project will be done

1. Choose a Site: During winter, the area enjoys lots of rain which is an indication that there is plenty of underground water. However, I will hire the right specialist to study the area and conclude what specific spot will be suitable. I have contacted two Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) that are working in the area of the provision of drinking water to poor people in Ethiopia and I am certain they either have specialists to work on water projects or they know where to find one.

2. Hire a Drill Contractor: Using a machine suitable for digging a 30 meter (98 feet) well, this task will be done.
3. Get Construction Materials: After the well is cleaned up and ready to be sealed except for an opening for the manual pump, we will get the other parts that will complete the project for example: the manual pump, construction materials for the concrete seal, stone slabs for covering the inner walls of the well, and the fence around the well.

How this Project Address the Issue of the Promotion of Peace

One of the reasons people fight is because there are unlimited wants, but limited things to satisfy those wants. For our village and the area around us, water is one of those scarce resources that people fight over. If there is a central well accessible and usable by all, no one can claim it as their property and so there will be no reason for fighting.

People get together a lot around such central areas. That means more chance to mingle and find new things about communities around my village which will make them more cooperative for the betterment of their future. The project will also show them that people far away from where they live (Mrs. Davis and people like her) care about them enough to do good things for them. That would teach them to be kind to those who are different from them.

In conclusion, let me say that I am very passionate about the project. I believe it will do a lot of good for the people who live in and near my village. I believe it is perfectly attainable and there is less potential for making mistakes compared to other projects. I will have the backing of several NGOs in Ethiopia. To mention some of these NGOs: The Rotary Club of Addis Ababa, Cheshire Foundation Ethiopia, Compassion of Ethiopia, Plan International Ethiopia, and many more. I will be very happy to take this challenge indeed and I believe I am capable of executing it with the help of your funding, NGOs in Ethiopia, and of course the locals who will be the main beneficiaries of the project.