

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves"

A brief message from the Center Coordinator

The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus Center for Mentally Challenged Children was established in 1986 with eight mentally challenged children. Today the numbers of children getting service are over 350.

Types of services include from early intervention to youth skills training and rehabilitation. The number of staff increased from 12 to 38 and foreigner advisor. The increase of the target required time consuming and repetitive effort in the areas of awareness raising and communication with parents and the communities.

We are determined to help these children in early care intervention, daily living activities, Life and work Skills Training and Rehabilitation etc. at the two Centers- Kassanchis and Mekanissa. We should also be determined to "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves". On top of these we are performing self help activities which are helpful for training of children and support the center. This program is supported by partner organizations from abroad and in the country. All the activities are growing from time to time. This is because of the courageous staff with high commitment and love for the work.

I would like the parents of mentally challenged children to cooperate in every aspect with organizations like EECMY working on person with disabilities. Knowing that, mental challenge is not a cursed or a disease, but developmental delay. It can happen to anyone regardless of sex, race, religion, education or wealth, etc.

When you face such a problem, do not see its depth or greatness, but think who can solve this problem and how we can work together. That is the most important consideration. To talk about future of your mentally challenged child is very important if it leads to action today. If not, who else can improve the future of the child except the parents and the communities at large. If we work hand-in-hand with parents' we can bring difference in the life of children with disabilities and make their future brighter.

Finally I want to extend my gratitude for these courageous and committed staff that shows heart of love and compassion to these children. I also thank partner organizations, government and non governmental organizations and parents. Without their contributions these achievements would have not been realized.

Above all I thank our Almighty God who has enabled us to achieve all the activities.

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