

# BRIDGE NEWS



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Sabara Dildiy Bridge, Blue Nile River, Ethiopia

## The Year in Review

### What an incredible year!

- Bridges to Prosperity was featured in the October 2002 issue of National Geographic magazine for the Sebara Dildiy Bridge repair on the Blue Nile River in Ethiopia. This bridge repair was the initial inspiration for the entire Bridges to Prosperity program.
- Zoe Keone and Chris Rollins of Bridges to Prosperity trained for five months with a Swiss bridge building program in Nepal.
- Zoe and Chris arrived in Ethiopia and started the new Bridges to Prosperity bridge building program.
- The Rotary Club became a major sponsor of Bridges to Prosperity projects.
- Construction started on two new bridges in Ethiopia, and surveying began on three other bridge sites. Three additional bridge sites were identified for future construction.

## Return to the Blue Nile

Zoe Keone, the project manager for the rebuilding project, returned to the Sebara Dildiy Bridge to learn how the bridge restoration by Bridges to Prosperity had impacted the lives of the local people. She reported that “families have reunited, markets expanded, merchants gained new

trade and young men found opportunity..... Before the repair of the bridge, a death in the family across the river may have been unattended by those separated by the river. A man may never meet his grandchild, a mother never see her son marry. But now all this has changed.....”



Zoe is humbled by her reception back at the Sabara Dildiy Bridge

## Board of Directors Meeting

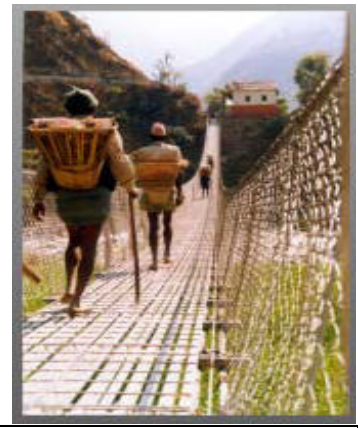
In July 2003, board members traveled from all over the country to a Bridges to Prosperity Board of Directors meeting at the Frantz residence on Cuba Island in Virginia. In attendance were Ken Frantz, Cheri Nice, Forrest Frantz, Marty Frantz, Ron Mosocco, Brian Lytle, Arun Gupta,

Chris Rollins, Zoe Keone, Randy Clarke, and Fred Grosser. The highlights of discussion were the completion of Zoe’s and Chris’ Helvetas training in Nepal and the implementation of the new Bridges to Prosperity program in Ethiopia.

## TRAINING IN NEPAL

Last year, Zoe Keone and Chris Rollins of Bridges to Prosperity completed five months of intensive bridge building training with Helvetas in Nepal. Helvetas is a Swiss government sponsored agency that has been building bridges in Nepal since 1989.

. Helvetas emphasizes that they do not build bridges, but rather “support communities in building their own bridges.” Zoe and Chris are now implementing a similar Bridges to Prosperity community based bridge building program in Ethiopia.



Helvetas model bridges in Nepal

## UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN ETHIOPIA

Masonry construction on bridge #1 is complete, and excavation on bridge #2 is underway. Zoe is supervising the Addis bridge construction, while Chris has completed the site surveys on bridges 3, 4, & 5 in the highlands of Ethiopia.

Ten to twenty villagers, women and men, will take about one month to dig the foundation excavations.

Fabrication of the steel decking is underway. The bridge suspension cable is still inside a container in the Port of Djibouti. The Rotary Club of Addis Ababa has been assisting in securing tax-exempt status for the imported

materials. Richard James, a new volunteer, will spend April and May in Ethiopia helping Chris with the supervision of multiple bridge construction sites.



Chris surveying with helpers



Mostly women digging the bridge foundations



Completed foundations for Bridge #1

### MEMBERSHIP

Bridges to Prosperity currently has over 100 active members. Through the generous donations and volunteer work of these members, the Bridges to Prosperity mission is being realized.

With each new accomplishment, the word spreads and the potential for more bridge projects expands, and the need for additional funding increases. Each member’s donations

are crucial to the ongoing success of the bridge building mission. Please join today or renew your membership if you are already a member. Thank you.

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