

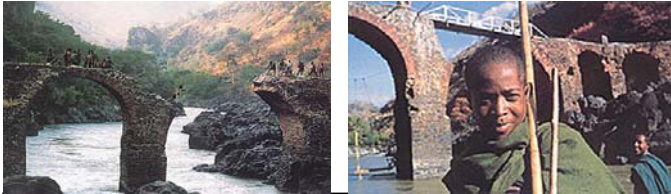
# BRIDGE NEWS



## BRIDGES TO PROSPERITY

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Sebara Dildiy Bridge, Blue Nile River, Ethiopia

## NGO status in Ethiopia

Zoe Keone, the Program Director, has done a great job of establishing Bridges to Prosperity as a successful and respected NGO in Ethiopia. She has also been instrumental in forming local partnerships to establish trust and acceptance by the rural communities. She qualified bridge sites and initiated

training programs in six communities, who in turn successfully completed construction of six bridges within one year of her arrival in the country. Zoe has effectively implemented the primary Bridges to Prosperity mission of enlisting local community participation and ownership in every step of the bridge building program.



Zoe and Addis with the village priests at a new bridge inauguration

## New access to schools, clinics and markets



These new footbridges, funded by individual bridge donors and Rotary Clubs, provide mothers and families access to rural health clinics, children access to schools, and fathers access to new markets to sell and trade their crops, goods and services. While new roads connect remote areas of the country, the new footbridges are a vital link connecting rural villages to the roads and other villages.



## The Year in Review

### 2004. A YEAR OF SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS

- Bridges to Prosperity obtained NGO (non-governmental organization) status in Ethiopia.
- Two Ethiopians, Addis and Mebratu, joined the bridge program staff.
- Bridge suspension cable arrived safely in Ethiopia after a perilous journey across the Indian Ocean from Bombay, India. The cable was finally released from customs, allowing bridge deck construction to commence.
- The Ethiopia bridge program will continue with Helvetas as the primary partner until 2008, with 20 more communities slated for training and construction of their own footbridges.
- Rotary International awards the bridge program \$75,000 grant.
- Vendors were selected and fabrication of bridge steel decking components began.
- Training and partnerships with six communities resulted in the completion of 6 bridges in the first year of the program in Ethiopia.
- Local partnerships were formed with the United Nations World Food Program, Helvetas of Switzerland, and the Oromia Rural Road Authority.
- Bridges to Prosperity has plans for expanding the program into South America.
- With the help from the Williamsburg Winery and Ron Mosocco in Virginia, \$50,000 was raised for the new South American program. Fundraising for the South America program starts with a goal of raising an additional \$150,000.

## Rotary International salutes Bridges to Prosperity

During his keynote address in Osaka Japan, the President of Rotary International, Glenn Estess Sr., cited the Bridges to Prosperity program as an example of "...the positive effect our actions will have... We do not always know exactly where our actions will lead, and we may never learn just how many lives we touched." To see the complete text of the speech, visit <http://www.rotary.org/president/estess/messages/osaka.html>

## New staff members



**Addis-Alem Ayele** was born in Ethiopia and then raised in London after her mother fled Ethiopia during the regime of the Derg. She visited Ethiopia

during her youth and was exposed to the harsh realities of social and economic issues relevant to developing countries. In London she earned a college degree in Third World Studies, and then at age 26 returned to Ethiopia. She now applies her unique perspective to educate villagers on how to successfully plan, organize, and complete such complex projects as bridge building.

**Mebratu** was born in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, and raised in a lifestyle of relative privilege. He was well aware and grateful for his own good fortune in his struggling country, and has dedicated his career to helping his fellow Ethiopians become more self-sufficient. Mebratu directs the survey, design, and construction activities, procures building materials, and organizes and trains the



local work crews, and keeps the work on schedule for the bridge building program.

## Construction in Ethiopia

As Director of Engineering and Construction, Chris Rollins completed 3 bridges during his tenure in Ethiopia. Chris continues to promote the bridge program through presentations and fund raising in the United States.



Chris singing goodbye



Hundreds of children in the vicinity of each new bridge now have access to schools and rural health clinics



Local villagers applying their newly acquired masonry skills on a new bridge tower



Participation by villagers in every stage of the bridge planning and building process

## Membership

Bridges to Prosperity currently has over 200 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 so much for your continued support.

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Photos by:  
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