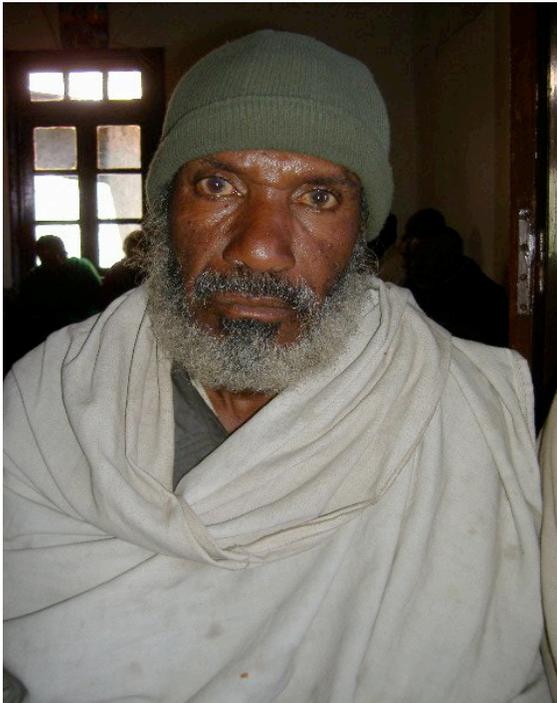


# MICHAEL'S HOUSE, INC.

EMPOWERING EACH OTHER TO SERVE THE POOR IN THE THIRD WORLD!

APRIL 2006 NEWSLETTER

We have had a very exciting beginning to our new year and look forward to more growth. We are now incorporated and continuing to work towards our non-profit status. Our project is becoming well known and respected in Addis Ababa and others are seeking information on our model of care as a matter of fact we now have 4 additional centers caring for the destitute elderly! In short we have lots of news to share that we hope you will enjoy!



*“I will bless God because I have found a welcome at Michael’s House”*

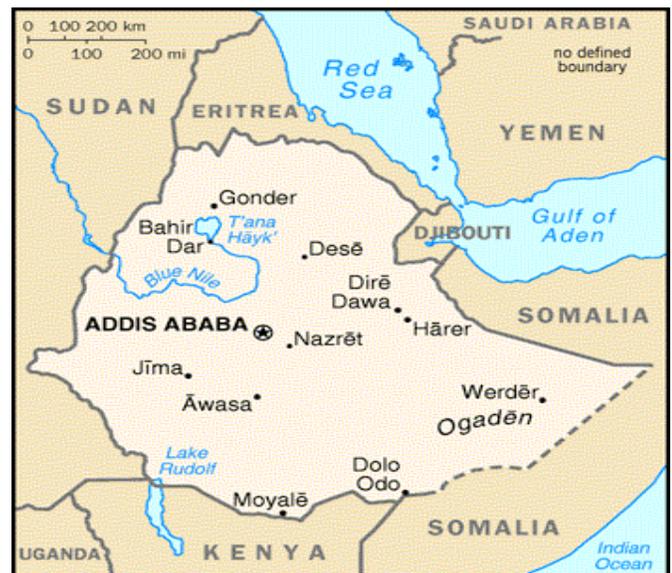
Mulnet Agu is an 84 year old man who in his young days was a soldier in the army of the Emperor Haille Selasie. He never married and has no living relatives. He lives on a soldier's pension of 14 birr a month, which is about \$1.50. Occasionally when he has the strength, he will carry 100 lbs bundles of firewood for sale in the city, earning 2 birr a day (less than US\$0.25). He eyesight is very bad and sometimes he gets lost and often mugged. Terfa found him living in a cardboard box on the street not far from Michael's House. He was desperate, frightened and barely had the strength to fight off the wild dogs that roam the streets. He now comes to Michael's House every day. He said recently "If I had died yesterday I would have cursed God but if I die today I will bless God because I have found a welcome at Michael's House"

## COUNTRY PROFILE

Ethiopia is a landlocked country located on the Horn of Africa, in the northeastern part of Africa. It is approximately the same size as Texas and California combined. The population is 74.2 million. The capital is Addis Ababa Ethiopia is the oldest independent country in the world with a history that dates back more than 3,000 years. It is known as the "Land of the Queen of Sheba," birthplace of the Nile " and " cradle of mankind."

Amharic, a Semitic language related to Hebrew and Arabic, is the official language of the country.

- **Area:** 1.13 million sq km (437,794 sq miles)
- **Major languages:** Amharic, Oromo, Tigrinya, Somali
- **Major religions:** Christianity, Islam
- **Life expectancy:** 46 years (men), 49 years (women)
- **Monetary unit:** 1 Birr = 100 cents
- **Main exports:** Coffee, hides, oilseeds, beeswax, sugar cane



**GNI per capita: US \$110 (World Bank, 2005)**

Bono from the Irish Band U2 said in his speech at the recent National Prayer Breakfast: "There is a continent " Africa being consumed by flames. When the history books are written, our age will be remembered for three things: the war on terror, the digital revolution, and what we did, or did not do to put the fire out in Africa." ... "We don't accept that Africans are equal: God will not let us get away with this."

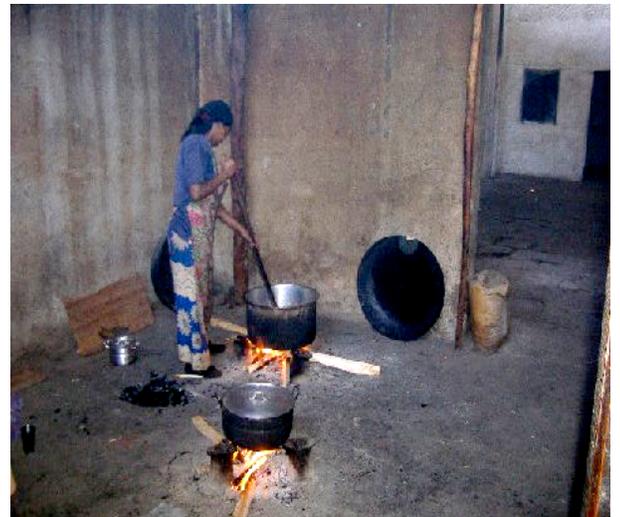
**Recently our founder Michael Craig returned from a visit to Addis Ababa. He shares his experiences with us in the interview below!**

**Question: On your recent trip to Ethiopia, you learned about/visited off shoot projects that have developed from Michael's House. What can you tell us about these?**

*We currently have four centers for the destitute elderly in Ethiopia and one center in Kampala, Uganda for children and the elderly. There is also the possibility of a new program opening up in Nairobi, Kenya. The original Michael's House in the center of Addis Ababa serves as the administrative headquarters as it were. Of course this rapid growth can only be attributed to the wonderful generosity of the members of our circle and to the untiring commitment of the volunteers at the sites. While I was in Addis representatives of each of the locations came, sometimes a three- day journey to Michael's House to discuss and plan for the future. Originally we were only serving meals three times a week but we decided in faith to go ahead and implement a daily program. We live in hope that the money will come. Currently we are feeding several hundred people. However, you must also remember that the volunteers go out to the home bound or street people and bring them a little money each month to live on. It's hard to imagine that sometimes it's only \$2 a month and yet they survive on it. Unfortunately they live in conditions that we would absolutely not even let a stray dog live in. Our oldest recipients are 104 and 106 years old.*

**Question: It must be rewarding for you to see how Michael's House has been sustained for the past 2 years. What would you hope to see happen on site over the next 6 months?**

*Yes, I was reminded by Terfa that this whole project started with \$30. For the first several months we were sending just that amount. I would like to be able to increase our monthly donation of \$1200 to \$2000. My wish list is to be able to do some structural work, such as building two new toilets and a shower. I also think that we need to buy a few sewing machines, a used television, a stove for the kitchen and maybe a used refrigerator. I would also like to be able to furnish two rooms as sick bays for immediate needs. I made arrangements for long term terminal care to be provided by Mother Theresa's nearby Missionaries of Charity. Of course I must not forget that we need a new jeep to replace the thirty year old one that is used as an ambulance.*



**Preparing a meal in the kitchen**



**The Existing Bathroom**

**Question: You mentioned the possibility of Michael's House purchasing a farm in Addis. Tell us about it and how you see it used to further our cause.**

*Yes. When I was in Ethiopia recently the bishop suggested that there were two parcels of land available for purchase. This was providential because we had been discussing the need to have a place where we could let some of the guests at Michael's House go to live so that they could make a small income with a view to becoming independent. We had discussed having some farm animals, including chickens and goats on which they could live and possibly even supply the house in Addis Ababa with the surplus. We looked at the two properties, both about 20 km's from the city. They both have water and electricity nearby. Each is about three or four acres and would cost about \$3000.*

*Interview continued...*

**Question: You spent some time with our guests at Michael's House. What are some of the details of their stories that you can share?**

*The guests are absolutely fantastic and are eternally grateful for the help they are receiving. I think that the most important thing I noticed was that the guests were treated with such dignity and respect by the volunteers. This is not just about feeding people. It is about providing a safe center where they feel at home. The house resounds with chatter, singing, dancing and above all joy. Tetra insists on the guests having input in the day to day running of the house. He also insists that the guests have variety in their nutritious meals. The stories of the guests are rich, frequently sad but increasingly tinged with a little hope as a result of our work.*

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Mora is an 83 year old woman who was a secretary at the Italian embassy in Addis for several years.

She is a dignified tall woman even in the rags she wears to keep her warm. In her fluent Italian she explained her spiral downwards to her present sad status. She had five children all of whom died as adults. Her husband got meningitis and as a result was brain damaged. She had to leave her job to take care of him. He lived for several years. When he died she took in her eldest granddaughter who later succumbed to HIV/AIDS. Mora inherited her three great grandchildren who are now aged 8, 5 and 4 years old. She lost the little room she lived in and now lives with the children under a piece of corrugated iron propped up against the wall of bus shelter. With no pension, health care or even relatives this still proud 83 woman finds a little support, sustenance and above all respect at Michael's House through your generosity.

The Ethiopia Elderly Project, which is operated by Michael's House, Inc., is in desperate need of used clothing for the destitute elderly we serve. These men and women are hungry, homeless, bewildered and frightened in their old age. We are searching for families, individuals and groups who will volunteer to make a package of used clothing and mail it to our project at Michael's House Inc. Post Office Box 59152, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The needs of the people we serve are dire. They are immediate. We suggest that in each package you include one package of over the counter medication, such as Tylenol (for our infirmary) Donations of money are always welcome and can be mailed to Michael's House Inc. PMB 250, 15779 Columbia Pike, Burtonsville, MD, 20866 email [MichaelHouseInc@AOL.com](mailto:MichaelHouseInc@AOL.com)

**NOTE: The Board of Trustees is in the final stages of changing Michael's House Inc. to an independent charitable foundation. The projects will still be staffed by I.V.Dei volunteers. Please make all checks out in the name of "Michael's House Inc.**

*Through our commitment to Michael's House Inc., we dedicate ourselves to make a better, kinder world for all, free from the terrorism and evil of poverty.*