

Thank you from Ethiopia to the People of Corpus Christi and Our Lady of Lourdes



Abba Solomon Beyene from the parish of Sebeya in Ethiopia sends you this message and blessing for Christmas, on behalf of the whole community you have supported through Connect2.

My dear brothers and sisters in England and UK,

I wish you all a very happy New Year and a Merry Christmas.

I would like to thank you very much for supporting the community of Sebeya. May the guidance of the Holy Spirit be with you in your good work and life.

May God bless you for your passion to help and save lives in our community. Thank you very much and don't forget us in your prayers.

May the grace of Jesus and the love of God be with you.

Abba Solomon

A life you helped change

"My life now is completely changed," exclaims Ma-aro, a mother from Sebeya who is learning new farming methods.

"When we got the irrigation structures, we could grow more crops and enclose land for fruit production," she explains. "Thanks to the project, I am busy with irrigation activities."

As part of the project you have helped fund, Ma-aro has learned to protect her cattle's pasture from overgrazing.

"Because of this I now have two to three litres of milk every day for my family," she says.

"Before the project, no-one was motivated to rear cows or oxen due to the scarcity of grass. Now we are seeing people starting to rear animals.

"My life now is completely changed, we eat well and I feel different today. I am very happy."

Thank you!





Water all year round

"In the past, when the rains would stop I suffered a lot." Mezgebe, 70, is a farmer in Sebeya and father of six children.

He used to rely on rain for his crops. When the rains failed he had no option but to irrigate by lugging heavy jerry cans from a nearby well.

If the well dried up, Mezgebe would face the impossible choice of rationing water between his family, animals and crops.

"I had to resort to buying water," he explains. "My income from selling any surplus cereals would diminish to zero. I had to rely on government handouts for three months every year."

Bringing life to arid land

With your help, Mezgebe and his community now have modern irrigation. Deep wells provide water all year round.

Land that was formerly arid is now irrigated and farmed by 221 families. In addition, local farmers were given fruit tree saplings to improve their diet.

"Today I produce more and am growing vegetables and fruits alongside my cereals," says Mezgebe. "I am grateful for the support provided to me."

From all of us in the team who work with the people of Sebeya, our warmest thanks for your generosity, compassion and prayers. Blessings for a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Connect2 closing prayer

Loving God, we thank you for the opportunities we have to forge strong and lasting bonds with our sisters and brothers around the globe.

Lord God, you are love, and in love we reach out, allowing ourselves to be touched by the joys and griefs of all your people.

Light within us the fire of hope, and a passion for change. May the stories we hear move us from indifference to care, from distance to deep connection,

So that together, we might all find the joy of living alongside each other as one human family in our common home.

Amen

Linda Jones

Next steps



Whilst our work in Ethiopia goes on, we will be inviting you to start a new journey with young people in Colombia. In January we will send you a welcome pack to introduce the community.

If you have farewell messages for our Ethiopian friends, please send them in: *Connect2 Team, CAFOD, Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7JB.*

