

Hello all,



It's been a year since my last update but 2015 has been another hugely positive year for the school at Debre Chiwa.

I left it in 2014 with three functional classrooms and building had commenced for the teacher's room and a fourth classroom.

At the end of 2015 the foundations had just been laid for the fifth and final classroom and the school has a total of 4 completed classrooms and an attendance of 270 children.

As a result of the extension and the ever growing number of children attending, the school is now supported by the state, meaning that eight teachers have been employed to teach there on a full time basis which is a fantastic result.



In addition, the locals built another enclosure, which is designated for elder people from the village to come and learn at the school.



Over the spring season, our local leader Messi supervised the building and transportation of a further 20 desks, 10 benches, shelves, cement and more metal sheeting for the roof.

We also bought solar rechargeable lanterns for the teachers and more stationery, manuals and construction materials. In total there were three shipments of materials.

In 2016 we hope to finalise the building of the last schoolroom, and then create an enclosure with a fence. This will make it easier to position a toilet block in the future. The toilet block will be the last major building project at Debre Chiwa.

This spring we intend to transport more shelves, lockers and cement, as well as blankets for the teachers.

2015 was a generous year for the school, with a total of £3876 donated by Exodus and our clients who visited the school and then decided to donate. Out of this total, £1375 was donated by the Rotary club of Dunfermline, specifically for the completion of the fifth classroom.

Jackie Taylor, who travelled on the Simien Mountains trek last November wrote about her experience:

*“In the days of the trek leading up to our visit to the school Alex was filling me with information about the project, his enthusiasm was palpable. I also run a charity and support several schools in Nepal so was keen to see this one in the middle of the Simien Mountains. I was not disappointed, the development facilitated by Exodus is admirable and in particular the involvement of the Exodus Ethiopian staff plus the input from the school and community ensures that these young people will receive a valuable education.”*



*Foundations now dug for the fifth classroom!*