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Cover Photo (J. Klein): Stick game students Sandhausen / GCS

Evangelical Church of German Speaking in Ethiopia

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Partnership and Networking ...

... these are words that profoundly shape our work – especially in the last half-year. There are partnerships and partners, supporters, friends, who have stood reliably by our side for years and decades, supporting our work – particularly in uncertain times – and seeking new developments and creative ideas with us. Above all, our support association Melkam Edil e.V., with whom we celebrated our 10th anniversary in May.

By establishing and nurturing relationships – networking – we help and encourage each other, drawing strength and motivation for our work. It is remarkable what can sometimes grow and emerge from small beginnings.

We particularly experienced both partnership and networking during our tour in Germany, where we were unfortunately unable to visit all, but many of our connected partners, friends, and supporters. From April 25 to May 14, 2024, we spent a few days in Sandhausen (Friedrich-Ebert-Gymnasium), then at the Kirchentag in Hanover, in Grevenbroich (Pascal Gymnasium), and then with the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD). After that, we traveled from Loccum (Klosterstube) through Hermannsburg (Friends of Ethiopia, Evangelical Lutheran Mission in Lower Saxony, Christian School) and Oldenstadt (Congregation, Anne Schorling) to Bremen (Epiphany Congregation). Then we went to Braunschweig, where we had a large network of supporters, led by the Cathedral Congregation as our host. We also visited two schools and institutions in and around Braunschweig. There we celebrated the 10th anniversary of Melkam Edil e.V. in the Cathedral as a highlight. Our network is expanding! The Bible is full of stories about community, mutual help and support, partnership, and networking. In Jeremiah 29:11 it says: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper

you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." The greatest networker, who wonderfully connects people and situa-

tions and opportunities sometimes arise, of which we can only say afterward that God is behind them. Many of our school children also



Pastor Klein and Ato Teklu

tions, is the living God in whom we live and move, and who works through us. We believe and are convinced that God is the driving force in our network of relationships and projects in the church and school. Thus, through encounters, conversations, and all kinds of communication, unexpected new connec-

tions, is the living God in whom we live and move, and who works through us. We believe and are convinced that God is the driving force in our network of relationships and projects in the church and school. Thus, through encounters, conversations, and all kinds of communication, unexpected new connec-

understand this gratefully, often in hindsight, as God has led them through our school to a fulfilling life. Through the inclusive educational approach, both students and we as staff are enriched. We also see developments here, for example in the educational field or related to gardening, as this newsletter

shows.

Another example is the scholarship recipients of our school, who are being opened up promising pathways to the future through further education at the German Embassy School.

We trust in the triune God in the

land."

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks, on behalf of the church community and the school, to all who are connected with us in partnership, networking, and every form of support!
May God bless you.



Visit Program in Heidelberg

coming months, which present great challenges such as the registration of the church and school, but also new, beautiful projects like the construction of the school kitchen and other initiatives ahead of us.
"Trust in new paths ... God himself comes to meet us – the future is his

Yours sincerely,
Dr. Jürgen Klein,

Executive Pastor of Church and School

P.S. Detailed reports and photos can be found on our website:
<https://kreuzkirche-addis.de/home/blog/>

Incredible Blessings – Kirchentag 2025 in Hannover

The Kirchentag is the largest Christian gathering in Europe and took place from April 30 to May 4, 2025, in Hanover. With our trip, we continued the tradition of the school

and church participating in the Kirchentag.

The Kirchentag brought foster parents and donors, as well as old acquaintances and new interested



Von links: Pfr. Markus Wild, Pastor i.R. Hans-Joachim Krause, Pastor i.R. Martin Gossens, Ato Teklu, Pastor Matthias Rohlfing, Pastor Jürgen Klein

parties, together in person with representatives from our church and school.

We had a booth in a very well-positioned location where the work of the GCS and the church was presented.

The school and church were represented by Pastor Dr. Jürgen Klein,



Ato Teklu Tafesse (Director of the GCS), and Ato Merdassa Kassaye from the social department. Ms. Rahel Mosisa, our social worker, was also supposed to be part of the team but could not travel due to a visa denial.

In addition to the main goals of the trip, the participation in the Kirchentag and the anniversary of Melkam Edil, it was expanded through visits to partner schools. Our journey began in Sandhausen (Friedrich-Ebert Gymnasium), where we visited classes,

including students and teachers, some of whom are already looking forward to the next meeting at the GCS in Ethiopia in 2026 as part of the partnership exchange.

It was important to discuss the 20th anniversary of the partnership between both schools in 2026 and some concerns from the last meeting.

After that, we traveled to the Kirchentag in Hanover, where we had a booth where we not only presented our work but also met many former and current sponsors, former pastors of the church and their families, as well as many friends of the GCS.

It was truly heartwarming to see them all, especially given their dedicated service under often difficult conditions. Such memories of the past filled the atmosphere with intense emotions.

It was also very impressive that three students from Sandhausen, who were part of this year's meeting at the GCS, enthusiastically participated as helpers at the booth, along with the coordinator of this partnership, Mr. Pastor Markus Wild. Their presence expanded our team, making it more productive, active, and vibrant.

A big thank you goes to Pastor i.R. Martin Gossens for organizing the booth, as well as to everyone who helped in shifts!

The trip was also an opportunity to get to know the partnerships with schools such as Pascal Gymnasium in Grevenbroich, Klint Primary School, and the “Kleine Burg” Gymnasium in Braunschweig, as well as the Christian Gymnasium in Hermannsburg, and to establish contacts with them. This included productive discussions with the school leaders and teachers of the respective schools about future school-to-school cooperations.

However, the highlight of our trip was the 10th anniversary of Melkam Edil. This has special significance for the GCS, as Melkam Edil has organized the lion's share of donations for us and support for our school over the last decade.

The dignified celebration provided a great platform to remember, celebrate, and look ahead to the successes and challenges of the past decade.

The anniversary took place on May 13 in the Braunschweig Cathedral. This also marked the complemen-



The Students from Sandhausen with Ato Teklu, Pfr. Markus Wild and Ato Merdassa

tary partnership between the Cathedral Congregation, Melkam Edil, and our school and church.

The anniversary was celebrated in a colorful manner, in the presence of several former pastors, missionaries, and their families, who have served at various times in Ethiopia as well as in the church and school.

After several years, these memories of Ethiopia are still fresh in



their minds and hearts. It was deeply moving to have seen many friends and foster parents again in this context and to meet new interested parties.

In addition to Pastor Jürgen Klein serving as the organizer of the trip and the church council of Kreuzkirche, we are grateful that the EKD officially invited us, and we appreciate all the support from Melkam Edil and the other parties involved,

which made it possible for us to present the work of the school and the church.

Thus, we experienced the incredible blessings of the trip, the Kirchentag, visits to partner schools, and connections with donors, friends, and partners.

We are sincerely grateful to all who wish to strengthen existing partnerships and to those who show interest in establishing a lasting partnership with the school and church. We would like to affirm that we, as the leadership and staff, will do our best to fully commit to further developments.

May Almighty God bless you all! Best wishes for a blessed summer vacation!

**Teklu Tafesse, Director of the
German Church School**



Our Encounter and Anniversary Celebration at the Cathedral in Braunschweig

“Above all, it was a great time meeting all the friends of the GCS, donors, foster parents, former pastors and their families, and everyone else in one place at one time. This is a very rare opportunity, and we remain thankful to you and Melkam Edil once again for making this and the jubilee possible.”

We have read these lines from Ato Teklu, Director of the German Church School, several times since he wrote them to us shortly after our celebration on May 13, 2025, at the Cathedral in Braunschweig, and we carry them with us. We now pass them on to you in the summer newsletter of the GCS.

Ato Teklu, Merdassa Kasaye, social worker of the GCS, and Pastor Dr. Jürgen Klein from the German-speaking

congregation celebrated with us in the Cathedral. Ato Teklu's words summarize something fundamental that characterizes the decades-long collabo-



Members of Melkam Edil e.V. and the church council of the Braunschweig congregation.
Barbara Reske, Chairwoman of Melkam Edil e.V.

ration for the GCS under the auspices of the German-speaking congregation: Friends, donors, foster parents, former pastors, and their families—many people gathered in mid-May 2025 for the tenth anniversary of the support association of the GCS at the Cathedral in Braunschweig. Some of us reunited

after years, while others met for the first time. We re-knit the bonds between us, making them stronger to preserve the unity and joy we wish for our work in support of the GCS. This is how everything that the German Church School needs can be preserved and further developed.



Braunschweig Cathedral community (in the wheelchair, Ms. ... of Melkam Edil e.V.)

Pastor Dr. Jürgen Klein symbolically presented Melkam Edil e.V. with a cross during his speech in the Cathedral on behalf of the church council and the Kreuzkirche congregation, saying: "(...) for your tenth anniversary, we congratulate you from the bottom of our hearts and wish you much strength, creativity, and compassion for the times ahead, and above all, God's blessing!" We at Melkam Edil are very happy about these wishes and gladly share them with you.

Our hope: Our close and trusting collaboration for the German Church School will continue, weaving an even stronger network; fundraising, questions about organization, operations, and communication will continue to be nurtured kindly.



Pastor Dr. Klein Preaches in the Devotion

And we have heard: The Cathedral in Braunschweig and other supporter circles from the Braunschweig region want to intensify their help for the GCS.

Our anniversary celebration with devotion (by Jürgen Klein), a reception, conversations and food, speeches covering various aspects of the bonds to the GCS, moderated by the executive pastor of the Cathedral council and congrega-

tion, Henning Böger, concluded with evening songs, prayers, and blessings from Cathedral preacher Cornelia Götz was wonderful and resonates on.

Our vision: Perhaps we will all meet again in a few years, then in the courtyard of the German Church School and in the Kreuzkirche, celebrating what we have confirmed prospectively now in Braunschweig for the GCS: We move forward and invite you: Stay with us, get involved. Come!

“What you have done for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done for me.” (Matthew 25:40)

Barbara Reske,

**Chairperson of
Melkam Edil e.V.**



Inclusive Education and its Expansion at the German Church School

Thirty-five years ago (1990), the German Church School (GCS) launched an integration program for blind children. The goal of this initiative was to enable blind students to participate in social life and to bring them to school alongside their peers, including homeless children.

In the first phase, we focused on including children with various disabilities, including multiple disabilities and physical impairments. This initiative marked the beginning of our inclusive educational practices. As a result of this new approach, we improved the accessibility of the school.



This program successfully integrated many blind students into general life, turning them into competent individuals who positively impact their communities. Inspired by this experience, the GCS aimed to develop similar areas and promote inclusive education throughout the country.

The old school building was designed solely for blind students. However, with the inclusion of physically disabled students, it became clear that improvements were necessary to meet their needs. To achieve this, we modified the old building and installed an elevator for wheelchair users.

The efforts to improve accessibility extended across the entire school grounds. We modified toilets, resource rooms, playgrounds, sports fields, and other areas to ensure that every student, regardless of their abilities, could participate in all school activities without limitations.

The second phase focused on improving the quality of education at the GCS by adapting the curriculum to the interests of all students.

These modifications particularly benefited disadvantaged groups: those who could neither write in Braille nor with ink. Additionally, some students were unable to follow the regular curriculum.

Therefore, the school adjusted the curriculum to their abilities so that they could learn alongside their peers in a formal educational framework.

The GCS trained all teachers, members of the school community, and parents to effectively support children with disabilities in an inclusive educational environment, making the school a model for inclusion across the country.

In the third phase, as the school increasingly met the needs of families with children with disabilities, it

faced space constraints. Therefore, with the help of donations and plans from the school administration, it sought to address this problem by implementing two strategies.

The first strategy involved supporting children at home.



After acquiring basic skills, these children were connected with a nearby school to receive further support. This rehabilitative initiative in the home environment benefited many families who had no access to services at the GCS.

As a result, several children with disabilities who had previously remained unsupported at home were able to enroll in nearby schools in inclusive environments.

This also provided relief for parents, allowing them to focus on their livelihoods.





Our school teaches using the Braille stencil as a writing system for the blind

Our school provided teaching materials to the so-called cluster schools that had children with disabilities.

Currently, the inclusive activities of the GCS are expanding to schools in Addis Ababa as well as regional schools through system strengthening.

This networking strategy aims to enable schools to effectively enroll students with disabilities.

Additionally, our multiplication work offers training for teachers, school leaders, members of the school community, and parents.

Resource centers for partner schools are equipped with the nec-

essary educational resources, and all partner schools adopt the inclusive program of the GCS to better support children with disabilities across the country.

We would like to especially thank the Christoffel Blindenmission for supporting this inclusive work, with whom we have been in partnership for 50 years, as well as all other donors —

God bless and keep you!

Teshome Assefa,
Vice-Director
of the German
Church School



Our New Project: The School Kitchen

So far, we have been able to provide our school children with a roll and a banana daily as part of a school meal program, and previously, we also offered some milk. Recently, the rolls have come from our own bakery, which has gradually been established.

created by Ato Ermias Gashu, our project manager, and me, the contract was signed on June 25. The German Ambassador, Mr. Jens Hanefeld, and his team came to us for this occasion. The signing took place in a ceremonial setting.



The German ambassador to Ethiopia, Mr. Jens Hanefeld, signs the contract

However, nutrition remains a precarious issue, and we are looking for ways to make it more balanced to improve the quality of life and learning for our school children. Thankfully, the German Embassy has agreed to support us in this area. After a project proposal was

A committee now meets regularly to consult and oversee the construction and procurement of equipment. A concept will be developed.

The school kitchen will be built between the dining hall and the bak-



A Student Presents a gift to the Ambassador

ery, where the pizza oven used to be. We have already received much support from our partner schools, and we are grateful for any further assistance to cover ongoing costs, procure food, and construct a storage facility.

Additionally, we want to further develop our gardening project (Urban Gardening) to grow vegetables, fruits, and herbs for our kitchen, as well as to show our children and their families that they can im-

prove their nutrition with the simplest means.

Pastor

Jürgen Klein



“Embracing the World with Open Arms” - a report from Sandhausen.

I. Partnership Encounter

From March 29 to April 15, 2025, the partnership encounter took place between Friedrich-Ebert Gymnasium (FEG) Sandhausen and the GCS Addis Ababa with eleventh graders in Addis Ababa. At the Evangelical Kirchentag in Hanover in early May, a delegation from FEG, together with representatives from the GCS, presented this encounter project.

During our time in Addis Ababa, we had the opportunity to connect with many people and form new acquaintances and friendships. We were particularly shocked by the clearly visible poverty in the city, but especially in the countryside. People live in makeshift wooden huts, and most city dwellers live in cramped conditions under metal roofs. The lives of the Ethiopians we got to know as very friendly people were restricted by so many conditions — yet you could still feel each individual’s joy for life.

We realized how grateful we can be for what we have at home and

how insignificant some of our everyday problems are compared to the real problems of someone who has to live under worse conditions.

“The experiences from Ethiopia are unforgettable. I became aware of how important cultural exchange and encounters on equal footing are. I learned that one can often be happier with less than with everything.”



Julian Drescher -

“This past weeks, I realized that friendship has no borders. Working side by side with our German partners showed me the power of collaboration and shared dreams.”

Fuad Abrar -

It was precisely these friendships that we formed with our Ethiopian partners at the German Church School.

Together with them, we used our time there to exchange cultures and learn a lot about each other. Among other things, we accompanied our partners home and spent the afternoon with their families. We shared meals, talked, and especially showcased the everyday life of our peers. This day is considered the highlight of the trip for many of us students.

“The living conditions of my partner in her home showed me how fortunate I am in my own situation, but also that one can manage with much less and still live a fulfilling life.”

Moritz Vogel -

Another activity that opened our eyes was the internship placement at “Kechene Girls,” a home

for girls with disabilities or difficult living conditions. The girls in this home live there for a long time and learn to stand on their own two feet. They have much less compared to each individual from our German group, yet they



The students from Sandhausen and the GCS play

made us feel immediately welcomed and integrated. The children were not particularly sad about their situation but rather grateful for what they receive and enjoy each new day with the moments it brings. Just our presence was enough to bring a smile to

the girls' faces, and that feeling can never be taken from us.

II. Kirchentag

Another part of the project this year was the presentation of the GCS at the Kirchentag in Hanover



Students play icebreaker games, guided by Ato Merdassa

in early May. Under the motto "Brave, Strong, Committed," a student delegation from FEG Sandhausen, led by Mr. Pastor Wild, and a delegation from Addis Ababa, consisting of Pastor Jürgen Klein, Ato Teklu, and Ato

Merdassa, as well as numerous representatives from the Melkam Edil association, represented the Kreuzkirchengemeinde and the GCS at the Kirchentag. At the Kirchentag, important politicians, artists, theologians from the Protestant Church, and, at a booth on the "Market of Opportunities," of course, exhibitors like us convened.

One thing that surprised us as a representative group consisting of Laurenz Gutzeit, Julian Drescher, and Moritz Vogel the most was how many people approached us and shared their own experiences. It was incredible how many people had been to Ethiopia or were connected to it in some way. Additionally, remarkably many visitors at the Kirchentag had memories and experiences with the GCS. Most of them reported wonderful experiences, incredibly beautiful encounters with Ethiopian students, and simply a rewarding time that has profoundly shaped their lives.

This allowed us to exchange our own wonderful experiences and discover many commonalities.

It was also great to see how open-minded people can be, caring not only about their own concerns but

also wanting to make the world a better place. This sense of belonging and connection was strongly felt at the Kirchentag. Moreover, we were once again shown that one should meet the world and every person with open arms. This applies to all situations in life and all places in the world, whether at the Kirchentag in Hanover or in Addis Ababa. When you engage in con-

share their own experiences and to pick up new aspects from other visitors that they might not have thought of before.

All in all, it can be said that everyone involved is incredibly grateful for the experiences made: A heartfelt thank you to the GCS and the German-speaking expatriate community with Pastor Jürgen Klein and all the other pastors.



versation with people, you often hear many interesting stories that can even help you in your own life. Additionally, it was valuable for the participants of the Kirchentag to

Laurenz Gutzeit and Moritz Vogel
Students of Friedrich-Ebert-
Gymnasium in Sandhausen

A Note of Gratitude and Stewardship

As we close another school year and welcome the summer break, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all our generous donors, foster parents, and partners who make our mission possible.

Your support has enabled us not only to provide a high-quality education at the GCS but also to offer improved and nutritious meals (through the bakery, and soon through the garden and school kitchen), learning materials, and safe spaces for our students from vulnerable backgrounds. Every contribution, regardless of its size, helps us maintain and expand these important programs.



Helen Awoke, Head of Administration

We are aware that in the future, we will need to find more ways to develop our own resources to sustain our facilities. We hope that the registrations of the church and the school will bring us a step closer in this direction.

In the administration and finance department, we strive to use every resource wisely and transparently. Over the past year, we have expanded our systems to ensure that your donations reach those who need them most urgently, and we continue to look for new ways to better serve our stu-



Sara Aberra, Finance Officer



dents.

As we plan for the new school year, we invite you to stay in touch, visit us, learn more about us, and witness the impact of your support firsthand. Together, we plant seeds of hope and possibilities for every child in our care.

May your summer be restful and blessed!

**Helen Awoke,
GCS - Head of Administration and
Finance**



A Transformative Journey: Exploring Deaf Education

On June 5 and 6, 2025, a dedicated group from the German Church School embarked on a meaningful journey to the “Herberg Roses School” for special needs in Zeway and to the school for the deaf in Hossana, motivated by the common goal of improving the educational experiences of deaf students. This delegation, consisting of the school pastor, three administrators, a project staff member, five language teachers, and three specialists from the integration department — a total of 13 members — united in their mission to enhance educational experiences for the deaf.

First Day: Discovering the Herberg
Roses School

Upon arrival, participants were greeted by a warm atmosphere filled with the laughter and energy

of the students. This remarkable institution cares for children with various disabilities and provides specialized classrooms for deaf students.

The teachers were inspired by the innovative classroom arrangements that fostered an inclusive learning environment.

A highlight of the visit was witnessing students from a nearby inclusive primary school who come to Herberg Roses every Saturday to learn sign language.

This initiative aimed to integrate sign language into the school culture and promote understanding

and acceptance among all students. The delegation couldn't help but feel a sense of hope as they observed this powerful integration.

Second Day: Insights into the School for the Deaf in Hossana

The following day, the group traveled to Hossana to visit the school for the deaf, an established institution dedicated exclusively to the education of deaf students. With over 40 years of experience, it offers classes up to the 12th grade and even provides vocational training opportunities.

The principal shared inspiring sto-



A warm welcome by deaf students in Zeway

Visit to a classroom of the school for the deaf and mute in Hossana.



ries of graduates who successfully opened their own workshops, showcasing the potential within each student.

As we toured the facilities, we were impressed by the dedication of the staff and the vibrancy of the learning environment.

It was clear that this was not just a school; it was a community where dreams were nurtured and future prospects created.

Purpose and Reflection
The main goals of this visit were twofold: to exchange experiences and gain insights into how to effectively support children with hearing loss.

With a focus on inclusive education, the delegation from our school was eager to learn how to better meet the needs of children with hearing loss in our own school in the upcoming school year. During the trip,



the teachers engaged in constructive discussions and reflections. They established selection criteria for identifying suitable deaf students, explored strategies for structuring classrooms specifically for these learners, and developed ideas for creating an inviting and supportive environment. Additionally, they provided recommendations for teaching materials and resources that would enhance

learning for deaf students.

A Lasting Impact

This transformative visit deepened our understanding of inclusive educational practices and fostered collaboration and knowledge exchange among teachers committed to improving the quality of life and learning for all students.

As we returned home, we brought back not only insights but also a renewed sense of purpose and commitment to the rights and needs of deaf students. We found inspiration and hope in the realization that education is not just about teaching — it is about creating a community where every child can thrive.

For over 35 years, our school has been working on inclusive education, and the integration of deaf students into this concept will enrich our school culture and make it more inclusive for everyone.

Blen Nebiyu,
Teacher at the GCS,
Integration Department



A Heartfelt Journey: My Internship Experience at the German Church School

Hello dear readers,
My name is Magdalawit, and I completed an internship at the GCS in May 2025. Since I originally come from Ethiopia but grew up in Germany, the time after my Bachelor's degree in Educational Science was the perfect opportunity for me to learn more about the country and its culture.



At the same time, I was able to gain insight into everyday life and gather new practical experiences for my future career. I spent a total of four weeks in Addis, visiting the school from Monday to Friday. I spent my weekends sightseeing in the beautiful capital city with its millions of inhabitants.

Living Arrangements

My sleeping quarters for these four weeks were located on the grounds of the GCS and the extended complex with the church, house, and bakery. I lived in a renovated container apartment situated directly above the bakery. It was only about 100 meters to the schoolyard from there. I had a small, equipped apartment and was allowed to use the pastor's house for cooking and eating. He also lived on the premises but

was traveling at that time. I paid a small daily fee for this.

Every morning, I first went to the bakers, with whom I had a good relationship, and we always had warm conversations.

They often took me along for small shopping trips, showed me the nearby area, or accompanied me to the hair salon. In general, I was in constant contact and exchange with the people working on the premises. I felt very comfortable there and greatly appreciated the interactions.

Daily School Life

I was allowed to participate in daily school life for four weeks, supporting the staff and even teaching.

In the mornings, I accompanied children aged 5 to 8 who were taught in the "Resource Room" or the "Integration Department." These children had visual impair-

ments or other disabilities. I primarily supported them with writing and arithmetic, as well as with other exercises planned for them. We communicated in English and



through body language. In the afternoons, I accompanied different classes and subjects to gain a varied insight into the school and the children.

In the afternoon, German lessons were held for grades five, six, sev-



relationships with them as well.

During these four weeks, I had so many beautiful experiences and met wonderful people who became very dear to me. The time went by far too quickly, and I would have loved to stay longer. I am sure that I will return and already look forward to a second and perhaps even a third reunion.

en, and eight. Here, I assisted and was allowed to lead the classes myself in the last weeks.

My initial uncertainty quickly faded, as the children welcomed me warmly and integrated me into the classes. I also appreciated the interaction between the teachers and students. Through enjoyable breaks in the teachers' lounge with breakfast or lunch, or the shared sports activities outside the school grounds, I was able to build good

Magdalawit Duschek

Impacts of the 'Corridor Project' on Education and Community

The “Corridor Project” is an ongoing government initiative for urban renewal that started last year. It brings benefits such as improved roads and transportation options, which are intended to shorten travel times and enhance safety. The resettlement into planned residential areas aims to lead to better living conditions, access to healthcare, and other services.

This is expected to increase the quality of life, support economic growth, and create a cleaner, better-organized environment for residents.

Our school is a place of hope, providing quality education and support for vulnerable families in the area. However, the ongoing corridor construction project has brought unexpected difficulties for many of these families. The resettlement has disrupted the education of students, with some being forced to live far from the



A Corridor Project process



school, leading to increased absenteeism, a higher risk of dropping out, and psychological stress.

In some cases, this situation jeopardizes the stability and access to education that the school has worked so hard to provide. Over the next three years, it is expected that 25.8% of students will be resettled, with 11.3% already affected.

Furthermore, we are witnessing disruptions in the sense of community, as former social networks are being torn apart and can only slowly be compensated for. The school is committed to its students and their families. It supports them by providing psychological assistance and helping with transportation costs so they can better cope with the challenges arising from the resettlement.

We sincerely thank you for any support for this important area of work!

Rahel Mosisa,

Social Worker - German Church School



On Biblical and Urban Gardening

We remember the creation story in which God created the heavens and the earth, prepared the garden, and placed humans in it to tend to it. As the story progressed, humans disregarded God's command, left the

uge for himself (Genesis 4:17). The concept of the city is presented in the Bible as a contrast to the Garden of Eden. Since then, the tension between a peaceful garden and the bustling city life has been clearly visi-



Garden of Eden, and began to wander. After that, humanity started killing one another (urban crime, war, etc.), which is explicitly mentioned in the story of the two brothers Cain and Abel. After the older brother committed a crime, he fled from God's presence and wanted to build a city as a ref-

ble in our daily lives.

I am very impressed by the many creative projects exhibited for the Kirchentag 2025 at the Messegelände in Hanover, addressing this deep tension in human life and restoring humanity to its original dignity. After the Kirchentag, we had the

opportunity to visit friends of our school at various locations in Germany — Sandhausen, Grevenbroich, Hanover, Locum, Hermannsburg, Oldenstadt, Bremen, and Braunschweig.

During these visits, we were taken to several places: old castles, cathedrals and churches, monasteries, and schools.

This time, I observed a growing interest in biblical gardening, with biblical plants being cultivated amidst a garden. In our last days in Braunschweig, we were taken to several

beautiful social projects and schools. Such cozy garden spaces in busy urban schools bring enormous blessings through tranquility, relaxation, and focus.

We all know that children of the 21st century, living in large cities, are surrounded by many electronic devices



that distract them from concentration in all areas of life. Just like in Europe, Addis Ababa is not free from these tensions. Smartphones are seen as a symbol of modernity not only in large cities. As most parents

are busy securing their livelihoods, many years ago, supported by numerous individual and institutional access to electronics and televisions friends of the GCS in Sandhausen,



Braunschweig, Leipzig, and so on. We are grateful for all this great support; now we have a greener school environment.

Now, the school aims to advance to a more advanced level of urban gardening by introducing more garden concepts for our schoolchildren who live in small houses in the capital. It is expected that by 2050, about 75% of the world's population will live in cities.

in their daily lives. Amidst this digital environment, the idea of a biblical garden seems like a luxury. Nevertheless, many have managed to realize this. Our school started a school gardening initiative

If such a forecast exists for the next 30 years, we must pursue a strategic approach to create strong awareness among our children in Europe, Africa, and Addis Ababa so that more green-thumbed schoolchildren

grow up in our society. In this context, the GCS is seeking networking and partnership, cooperation, and support to advance this agenda in our school context. Our children should learn for their future how to grow their own food in the small spaces where they live. We need to think deeply about how to create an inclusive and sustainable urban culture in which everyone cares for their environment, as was originally intended in the Bible. It is inevitable that cities will grow quickly and densely; at the same time, they are expected to be smart and organic. Our schoolchildren should not come to school to learn how to produce more waste, but how to develop a harmonious relationship with their fellow human beings and the environment. Through this approach, good neighborly communities will thrive.

The GCS has received several inquiries for establishing school partnerships from many of our friends in Germany. The school has reached a consensus to systematically shape these partnerships to address the

current and future challenges of schools in cities, with the goal of bringing sustainable harmony between humanity and the environment amidst all unrest and hustle. In addition to producing their own food, this will also benefit the learning environment as a form of therapy — garden therapy, which utilizes plants and gardening activities to improve physical, mental, and social well-being. It can be used to reduce stress, improve mood, enhance cognitive function, and promote physical activity, with benefits for people of all ages and abilities.

Wishing many blessings, along with thanks for every support,

Yours,

**Merdassa Kassaye,
Social Worker - German Church
School**



New Scholarship Recipients of the GCS at the German Embassy School: Rediet and Kalkidan

For the new school year, two students from the German Church School have been selected to start as scholarship recipients in the 8th grade at the German Embassy School from September 1, 2025. In their first

an international context later on. Both have recently passed the A2 exam from the Goethe Institute and will participate in a three-week language course at the Goethe Institute in Germany during the summer.



year, they will repeat the 8th grade to catch up on language skills and subject content, and to acclimatize to the new environment.

The scholarship program is a collaboration between the GCS, the Embassy School, and Bildung4Kids, offering this further education to the two best students from our school's 8th grade every two years, enabling them to pursue higher education in

The scholarship program is supported by "Bildung 4 Kids." Here is the link to their website: www.bildung4kids.de.

Daniela Auer,
Scholarship Coordinator, German Embassy School
(edited by Pastor J. Klein)

We wish everyone a blessed summer







Our Support Association—Melkam Edil e.V.

Our support association, Melkam Edil e.V., was founded in Germany in 2015. Since early 2017, it has actively supported the German Church School, primarily through its contact with our donors in Germany and Europe. All contacts with European donors are organized by Melkam Edil e.V. If you have any inquiries regarding donation receipts, for example, please reach out to them directly.

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