

“We achieved it together”

Monday, September 15, 2025 (2018 E.C.), marked the start of the new school year in Ethiopia, including at the German Church School, just a week after the official opening of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), under the motto “We achieved it together” (በህብረት ችለናል, in the Amharic language). The news of this lingered in the atmosphere, resonating in the thoughts and emotions of the children and all Ethiopians.

On Friday, September 19, 2025, we at GCS celebrated a vibrant and enjoyable official opening day, where we warmly welcomed the new first graders into the school community.

This event is further decorated with the gifts that we give them from the school, and these include a school bag, exercise books, pencils, erasers, and of course, a pencil bag. They of course got their school uniforms already on the first school day. These items were purchased by the donation that we get from the Braunschweig Dom, Germany, as it used to be during the past several years now. The GCS is grateful to the Board of the Braunschweig Dom and friends of the school that stayed determined to support our work.





Caption: Donation handover for the new first-grade students:

The official opening ceremony was begun with two songs presented by the school choir, one in Amharic and another in German (So ein schöner Tag). The event was decorated further by the presence of several guests and participants including members of the German Church Board, the GCS Board, the GCS Alumni of former students, and students of GCS that just obtained high scores in grade 12 university entrance examinations. It is a great privilege to see the alumni of former students and the very young children next to each other and sharing the childhood reminiscences and how high they value their stay at the German Church School with all it has been offering.

Moreover, parents of children of grade one, were a part of this big event, besides teachers and staff of the German Church School.

It was an added joy to have Dr. Angelika Eder, Director of the Goethe Institute, in Addis Ababa to be part of the event. This was a great encouragement for the GCS-PASCH and our two students Kalkidan Girma and Rediet Hagos, who were just back from Bamberg, Germany after participating on PASCH Schools Summer Camp. These are also the two students that Secured Scholarship with the German Embassy School in Addis Ababa (DBSAA) during this academic year. The opportunity has made their hope and future brighter provided they continue proving their competence in German language and their studies.



Caption: Dr. Angelika Eder's greeting and remark:

Pastor Dr. Jurgen Klein, also conveyed words of greetings, and made an announcement that the German Speaking Evangelical Church in Ethiopia (GSECE) has secured its registration certificate that makes it a legal entity, and declared that "it was achieved together by faith", after making rigorous efforts for years.



Caption: Pastor's greeting and sharing from the scripture:

This year's official opening ceremony was so different in the fact that we were honoured by the presence of the Head of District 6 Education office Mr. Tesfalem Aberra. He not only was a guest of honour and visitor but also acknowledged the exemplary work of the GCS and confirmed his commitment to support and enhance the works of the school, more so, its successful work as a model school of inclusion.



Caption: Speech by Head of District 6 Educational Office, Mr. Tesfalem Aberra:

Of course we in the meantime declared that the GCS has again moved a step towards being a fully inclusive school by hiring a deaf and an assistant teacher to help teach and include the hearing impaired children. This is going to be a remarkable step in the efforts we have been making to have hearing impaired children in the GCS inclusive education program. This is made possible as a project and part of the on-going CBM- MYP. The school remains grateful to the CBM for this initiative that has enabled the hearing impaired to benefit from the service that the school is rendering.



Caption: Introducing the new sign language teacher and interpreter:

Consequently, we feel that we've achieved a solid start and have finished half the work, although there are still about 190 school days ahead of us.

We express our gratitude to everyone who supported us in creating this wonderful beginning, our endeavours at the German Church School, and the achievements we've made.

Teklu Tafesse Barki
Director
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.