

## Children and Youth of Ethiopia Need You

Imagine that you are twenty years old and responsible for you and your four siblings because your parents have died from AIDS. You are unable to work because you have polio, and your twelve year old sibling stays at home with you. The others work each day on a coffee plantation for about 25 cents a day. You are afraid, hopeless and lonely. You and your siblings have had to drop out of school and may never be able to complete your education. None of you can afford to go to the hospital, clinic or dentist; you may never own a new dress or shoes. You learn to go to bed hungry many nights and settle for what you have and not expect more.

This is similar to the story of the one million children in Ethiopia who have been orphaned by the loss of one or both parents to HIV/AIDS. Each child has a story to tell about living in a family where the parents are HIV positive or have AIDS.

In Ethiopia, the church has taken the HIV/AIDS problem seriously, and The Illubabor Bethel Synod of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, Shenandoah Presbytery's partner, was the first religious organization to do so. The Synod has set up a community based program to sponsor orphans, including the supervision and training of foster families. The Synod and its local churches will supply organizational structure and control of the program. They have asked us, as their partner, to help in meeting some of the financial needs of these orphans, our brothers and sisters in Christ.



A gift of \$300.00 per year will provide the funding necessary to support living, medical, education and caretaker training for one child. The HEART (Helping Ethiopian orphans of AIDS Reach Tomorrow) Committee asks that you prayerfully consider if you, your family or a group within your church could contribute \$300.00 or any amount you choose to these children of God.

You may contact Bill Cox at (540)499-2585 or [cwmcox@cfw.com](mailto:cwmcox@cfw.com) for more information.

