

Association Bourgeons

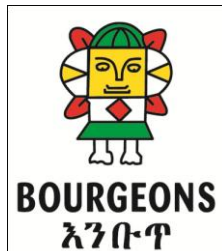
Established in France for Ethiopian School Children



BOURGEONS
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The 4 letters (Ethiopian language, "Amharic") framing this LOGO form word ENBUT. It means "BUD" and at the same time BOURGEONS in French. On the other hand, it is the symbol of; a CHILD, BLOSSOMING, PROMISE with a FUTURE.

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The office - (during the meeting)

Dear friends,

The Office:

We want to sum up you in brief way how the Association Bourgeons (Enbut) is created and how we and Adwa Ber School in Ethiopia communicate each other since now for 16 years.

If we go back to see in detail about the background of our little Association, we can write a book, so we try to go over the main points ...

Background:

In **1994** Mr. Dejen Yirgu, after 10 years out of his country, he passed his vacation with his wife Camille in Addis Abeba.

Before he left his country, the dream what he has was “to serve his people especially **finding hope among the hopeless** for school children to those who are unable to go to school due to economical problem ...”

After arriving Addis Abeba, (Camille and Dejen Yirgu), they passed for about a month to search a school which needs a real support.

Finally they met Mr. Abate Tegegn (the origin or the founder of Adwa Ber School) who showed them the terrible condition of the Adwa Ber elementary public school. (By that time the school was up to 6th grade)

During the visit time, they found; ex : More than 60 students in the first class with out books including teachers, during sport period there was no even one foot ball to play or any kind of entertainment like table tennis, and so on ...).

The ancient teachers, students and the people who live in this community especially the parents of the students, talk us even now the situation (image) of this school how it was before and now

First contact (October 1994):

Here are some of the few pictures; just for memory ...



These pictures were taken in October 1994 (students with their 1st entertainments)
It is true that these pictures are old like our age, but the small children are now adult !!

During this hard time, it was really impossible to be unconcerned for the two persons about what they have seen !

*** We have always the pictures and the films of this memorable day with us !! Of course 16 years is the age of a young person and we are so happy to keep our beautiful friendship still now. We hope this brotherhood stays again and again for a long time!!***

By that time the burning question for the couple was, how they can help these young school children for a long time ???

Since then for **two years (1994 – 1996)**, they continued to supply school materials and sport requirements, in a very **MODEST** way from their own personal month payment. And usually they collect a small amount of money by selling post cards.

Post card : The name of Bourgeons or ENBUT in Amharic and the concept of this post card is proposed by Camille and Dejen Yirgu and drawn by their friend artist Mr. Patrick Demouy ... Thanks to this talented young man.



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So, instead of doing this action alone, the best solution was to establish “human Association” with friends who had the same vocation.

“UNITY IS POWER!!!” (What our elders say is true!)

THE BIRTH OF ASSOCIATION BOURGEONS (ENBUT)

1996: They sensitized around them a group of friends

The Association BOURGEONS is born on July 18, 1996 in France

BOURGEONS (ENBUT) is established between French and Ethiopian friends according to the 1901 French law with an objective of supporting Ethiopians school students for those who don't have any means of income to continue their study.

According to the law, "BOURGEONS" is a non-profit making Association.

And according to this law, the whole board members are voluntary donors.

NOW, WE ARE HAPPY TO GO AHEAD ONE STEP TOGETHER!!

First of all as it is mentioned above, this small Association is founded between friends without having any financial support from any kind of governmental organization.

The group is created with heart full of love to Ethiopian students for those who can't able to run their school life because of extreme economical problem.

In the beginning we were 10 and then 20 and then now we have about 80 members.

We know that our modest support can't face this deep problem, but our slogan is "if we save one child out of 80 000 000 people, IT IS BETTER THAN NOTHING".

After 16 years, some of them are very close to 12th grade and the others are even graduated from training school with honour etc. "WE ARE PROUD OF THE WHOLE ADWA BER TEACHERS AND PROUD OF THESE SMART YOUNG STUDENTS!!"



These pictures were taken in 1998

Adwa Ber School; before and after:





This was in 2001



This was in 2006 and 2009 (with the parents of the students)

Our means of income and the way we organize:

- 1- Our members are our first source of money ...
- 2- We do festival fundraising once a year
- 3- We sell; T-shirts, Ethiopian Souvenirs, Tombola, Calendars, Post cards, Money Box
- 4- Ethiopian restaurants give us (sometimes) free supply Ethiopian delicious dish and etc.

“As you see, there is also a wonderful solidarity between the French members and the Ethiopians community”. Big thanks for all of them!!

You know, to organize all these things are so tough! Sometimes we do the meeting after our work up to midnight. Some of the board members come from far away (80 km) to participate the meeting.

“It is in this way we do this human actively since the creation of BOURGEONS to fulfil the annual budget for the School children even if it's not an easy task”. Fortunately, their courage gives us full of energy !!

Our MERKATO looks like this, during the annual festival day



This is one of our ways to get money!

In order to realise the annual festival day for the school (as you see above), the whole team of Bourgeons give voluntary their full of energy up to the last day ! (This is a little part of the activity)

Actually the school of Adwa Ber is more or else modern than before and it treats 400 students and 18 teachers. The number of the students by class is now very respectful. Before, it was up to 6th grade, but now it is up to 8th grade ... (In the future if the government interfere, it can be a beautiful high school ... Because there is enough place to build supplementary classes.

Supply:

- We fulfil annual sport equipments for the whole school
- In the beginning, Bourgeons has started by supporting 16 students and then 23, and this year (2010) 75 students for their annual school materials, uniforms etc ...
- Our supporters help us also by sponsoring 25 students for those who are unable to go to school and even don't have enough food to eat due to the terrible financial problem. Among them, there are handicaps also ... The vast majority of them are orphans (Each student receives directly 30€ per month from his sponsor for his entire daily life, including for his school materials ...). Concerning the sponsorship, each sponsor has a right to reduce 66% while tax declaration according to the French law. That means the donor pays 10€, 35c, around 13 USD from his pocket per month. (So it is useless to say you that how much this amount of money can save and ensure the life of one child.
- Students communicate every semesters their sponsors to give their school result and at the same time, they exchange letters especially about Ethiopia and its culture ...Even, some of the sponsors have already travelled to visit the students up to Ethiopia ...
- Beyond that we dispose the annual budget for the need of the school ...
- And so on

About CAB:

CAB (Club des Anciens Bourgeons), means “The Ancient Club of Bourgeons”

They are the fruit of Adwa Ber School and the Association Bourgeons after the effort of 16 years ... We met these young students when they were 6 or 7 year old.

That's why today they have a great ambition to replace us in their turn to help the others ...



The board Office of the CAB

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|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. Gebre Michael Gebre Meskel | Chairman (2 nd year economy) |
| 2. Eshetu Letta | V / Chairman (3 rd year engineering school) |
| 3. Marewa Semaw | Treasurer (1 st year University of A.A) |
| 4. Zemenew Yimanew | Member (12 th grade) |
| 5. Haregeshet Melese | Member (4 th year management and computer) |
| 6. Tesfaye Teka | Secretary (Graduated from technical school) |
| 7. Surafel Mekonen | Member (4 th year art and draw) |

The main objective of the CAB is :

- To avoid the dispersion of each student and to keep up their future unity especially when the students leave Adwa Ber School to join high School...
- To keep the solidarity between them to face during the difficulty...
- To contribute their technical help, for Ex: Last year, (in 2009), they proved their voluntary contribution to full fill the annual form of sponsored students (for 22 + 53 students). And they showed how much they are motivated for this wonderful solidarity.
- Last year, after their meeting, they report us also that they are ready to help the small students to translate their letters in English when they write to their Godfathers, if it is necessary.
- This year (2010), they continue also to full fill the annual form of sponsored students for 100 students.
- They start to contribute some amount of money from their modest income for sponsoring 3 small school children.

The Chairman of the CAB “Gebre Michael Gebre Meskel”, who is now 2nd year of economy at the University of Mekele gives us regular information by mail, telephone etc. You know, we can write more about them, but to make short, we want to say simply “WE ARE SO PROUD OF THEM” !

Festival (thank-you) day organized by CAB on August 2010



The 3 new school girls, sponsored by the CAB for their school supply ...



These beautiful pictures were taken by one of the founders of Bourgeons Mr. Berhanou G/Silassie on August 2010 during his visit at Adwa Ber school.

These pictures speak louder than words!! 

Anyhow, their smile face is the recompense of everybody who support our action ...

We encourage them to continue their precious unity!

Project to build a new library: (“Association Bourgeois Library”)

Our ambition for this school is still doing more (if we can). Unfortunately, our small budget doesn't allow us to go ahead....

Adwa Ber School doesn't have library like the other schools...

The construction is estimated around 500 000 Birr = 30.527,08 USD (In 2008)

Until we get financial possibility or sponsor to realise the project, we have decided to start this library temporarily, in the old class room. We have done especial fundraising to buy some books (School books, fictions in Amharic and English etc ...)

For the first time, the school has now, a very small library ... (Even though it is not in a good condition)

The name of “Association Bourgeois Library” is given by the direction of the Adwa-Ber school for the memory of the Association Bourgeois.

We are even afraid that if there no a real construction, in the long run, the books may be destroyed because the humidity ... “The situation is urgent” !



About the election of board office :

According to the status of the Association Bourgeons,
*The members of board office are eligible for re-election, maximum 2 successive re-elections.
The term of office of Council members can't exceed 6 years.*

The Association does its annual meeting and its festival day with the whole members. At the same time, it is the time to vote for the members of the bureau for those who are finished their mandate. For example, last year (2009) our chairman Mrs. Renée MIGEON, has finished after serving brilliantly the Association Bourgeons for 5 years and she left her place to Mr. Dejen Yirgu. But our smart Renée is always with us to share her experiences. Thanks to her and for others who are always present with us too! (The first picture shows her farewell day)

The elected members of Board Office



Renée Migeon (Former-Chairman) and Dejen Yirgu



Mr. Ketema Teffera
Vice chairman



Mrs. Yasmine Charbonier
Secretary



Mr. Michel Emerit
Vice Secretary



Mr. Raphael Lujin
Treasurer



Mrs. Camille Dejen
Vice Treasurer



Miss. France Jumel - Communication and Press



Mr. Abate Tegegn - Correspondent of Association BOURGEONS in Ethiopia n



Col. Asnake Yirgu - Correspondent of Association BOURGEONS in Ethiopia

Conclusion:

Our dear friends,

This document is a little bit long but we think that, it may be necessary to explain our long way what our little ENBUT is doing MODESTLY toward the SCHOOL CHILDREN in Ethiopia...

As we mentioned above **“WE ARE HAPPY TO CROSS A LONG WAY TOGETHER!!”**

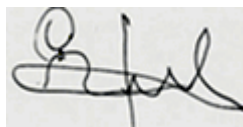


But our job is not yet finished

Association BOURGEONS :



Chairman



Dejen Yirgu