

**“WOMEN ARE THE KEY TO ENDING HUNGER IN AFRICA”.**  
*Half the Sky: Turning Oppression Into Opportunity for Women Worldwide,*  
*by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, 2009.*

**MOTHER AND CHILD GARDENING TEAMS.** During our January visit we were delighted to find more mothers assisting their children create family vegetable gardens with seeds received at school. Helping mothers control more resources for improvement of child nutrition is one of our top objectives (male farmers tend to use their profits in other ways). At the end of December there were 279 flourishing gardens, of which 181 were primarily managed by students, 60 by mother and child teams and 38 by adult male farmers. Since critical nutrition starts at conception and continues through the child’s second year, we are focusing our efforts on infants and young children, pregnant women and lactating mothers.



**Mother & Children Growing Vegetables and Seeds**

**SEED PRODUCTION UPGRADED.** For family gardening to be sustainable in the long term, it is essential that community members produce seeds in their own gardens, or be able to buy them locally and inexpensively. Thus another major objective is to strengthen the Kossoye Project Seed Bank by offering higher prices, comparable to U.S. markets. Chard seeds seem the easiest to produce, but carrots, beets and cabbages need an intervening cold season to produce seeds. At the end of the special gardening workshop conducted in January for progressive farmers, prize winning student gardeners, and community health workers, 12 students, 12 farmers, and 12 CHWs volunteered to work hard in seed production over the next year. Our staff will supervise closely and assist them. A humorous problem with carrot seed production is challenging us: very few carrots reach maturity because young children discover how sweet the young small carrots are and eat them before they become mature. Of course they are the *very* ones who need Vitamin A loaded carrots. But how to grow seeds?



**Girls Learning Computer Skills**

**COMPUTER TRAINING LAB OPENS.** The new computer training laboratory at the Kossoye Elementary school was opened in December to help graduates moving to the city find jobs in the modern sector, especially girls who often have no option except commercial sex work. Two of the regular Kossoye school teachers have computer training and are willing to train the entire class of 78 students for a small monthly stipend. We are delighted that 47 girls and 31 boys are enrolled and spend three hours each week in instruction and practice. Experts from the city will judge student competencies in June and the instructors will receive \$4 for each student who successfully meets performance standards.

**SEMINARS ON “POPULATION, POVERTY AND MALNUTRITION”.** Dennis Carlson led two seminars at the University of Gondar in January, one for 30 teaching staff and a second for 25 public health graduate students, that explored the relationships of rapid population growth, continuing poverty and widespread malnutrition. The Project will also give a small grant to a graduate student doing his or her graduate research in Kossoye on problems of malnutrition or family planning.



**University Faculty Seminar**

**PROJECT BOARD STRENGTHENED.** Since “Dr. Andy” Carlson plays a leading role in the Project there is a growing support base in Ohio, especially around Yellow Springs, where he lives with his wife, Krista Magaw, and their daughter Anna (who is editing The Kossoye Cookbook, based on the winning recipes from the cooking contest last May at the Local Innovations Workshop.) Three new Board members have been added in Ohio: Rob Content, an avid gardener and community development expert; Dr. Nikki Rogers, a physical anthropologist at Wright State University, and Jessica Bilecki, a horticulture educator in Barnesville Ohio. They bring invaluable resources to the Project.

**JUST PUBLISHED:** [KOSSOYE: A Village Life in Ethiopia](#), a book by Andy and Dennis that analyzes development in Kossoye over the past half century has just been published in the U.S. in a new edition by The Red Sea Press, Trenton, NJ and is available online at Amazon.com. It was published first by Addis Ababa University Press in Ethiopia in 2008 under the title, [Health, Wealth and Family in Rural Ethiopia: Kossoye, North Gondar Region, 1963-2007](#)

**DONATIONS URGENTLY NEEDED:** The global recession seriously limits availability of funds for development and philanthropic efforts. We are anticipating a shortfall of \$15,000 in our working budget for 2010. These planned expenditures include seed purchasing in the U.S., the Seed Bank in Kossoye, instruction in the computer laboratory, community health worker stipends, and further development of the experimental and demonstration gardens at the health post. Your gifts make a *huge* difference! Please do what you can.

Gratefully,  
Dennis and Andy

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Donations accepted through PayPal on website.



**Kossoye Escarpment**