



*A Partners' bridge alongside its dangerous predecessor.*

## *The Challenge Is Met*

**Partners in the Horn of Africa** entered 2009 with some trepidation. At the start of the year aid organizations were worried about the impact that the financial crisis would have on donations and their ability to function. Most charities were cutting back on staff and scaling back on plans. **Partners** decided not to follow suit and, instead, forged ahead in the belief that its loyal donor base would continue its support.

We were fortunate. Our donations in 2009 grew compared to the previous year, with donations of \$960,000 to **Partners** and \$125,000 to Friends of the

Horn of Africa, the sister organization which funds **Partners'** administrative expenses. The generosity of our donors allowed us to help Ethiopia at a time when the flow of aid dollars through other agencies was dropping.

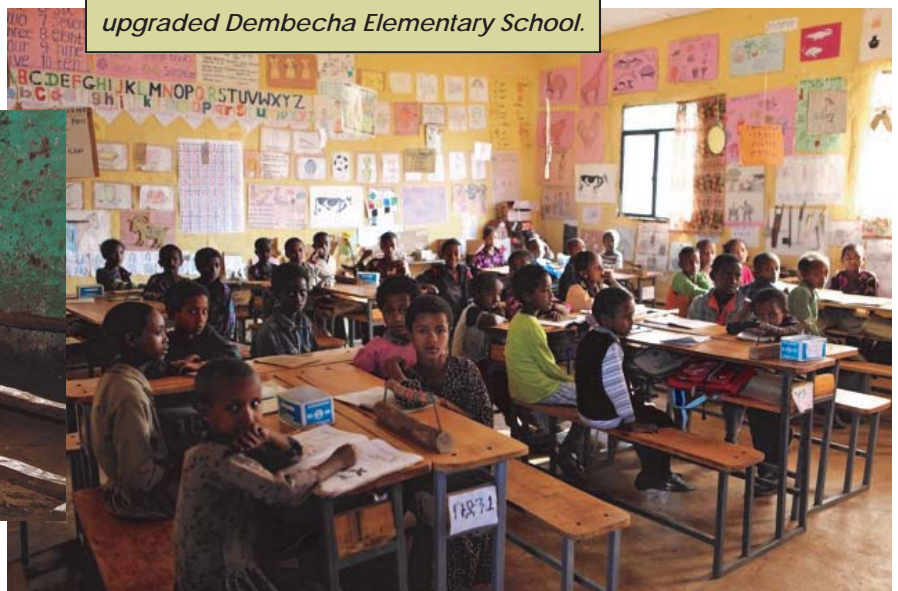
## *Focusing Our Efforts*

**Partners** believes in small projects with good reason. The requirement that our 'partners' contribute 15-20% of a project's cost means that our projects must be smaller and affordable if the community is to have a stake. And smaller projects allow villagers to play a more significant and meaningful role.

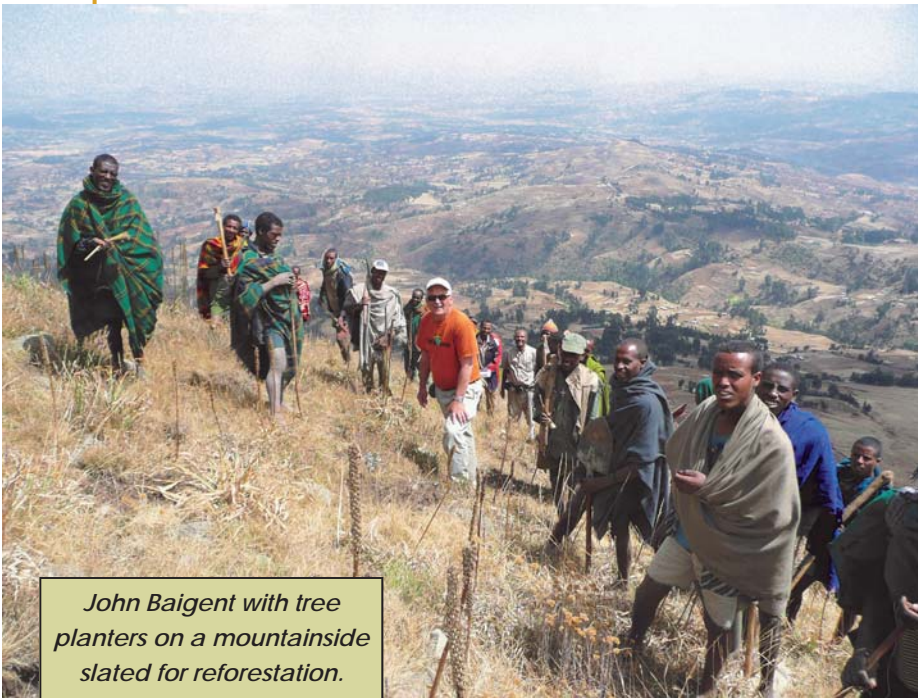
*Students in a new classroom at the upgraded Dembecha Elementary School.*

*(Continued on page 2)*

*A classroom before renovation.*



This year **Partners** stuck to small projects but decided to do many of them in clusters. Instead of building a school library here and a water well there, we took on three multi-year projects that focused on specific, discrete areas: seven elementary school libraries a year for five years and ten water wells a year for seven years in the Gojjam Region of Central Ethiopia. When these projects are completed **Partners** will have built 35 libraries and 70 wells in an area about the size of the Okanagan Valley. The impact on the region will be noticeable. In another rural part of Ethiopia we are building classroom blocks, libraries and latrines at 10 schools over a two-year period. Again, **Partners** will be bringing about a significant change in specific area. In addition to the impact these projects will have on a small area, they allow **Partners** to benefit from economies of scale. Building 10 schools in one region is much less costly than building 10 schools across the country.



John Baigent with tree planters on a mountainside slated for reforestation.

## Special Projects in 2009

**Mt. Adama, Reforestation** For years people living on the upper slopes of Mt. Adama have been living on food relief. They can no longer support themselves by farming. Years of erosion, caused by the removal of all trees, have left the land barren and dusty. In partnership with local villagers and the regional government **Partners** planted 66,000 seedlings in a 12-hectare area. 89% of the trees survived (we had expected 70%) and transformed the area. In addition to the seedlings, other indigenous

species that have not been seen for 20 years sprouted in the reforested area. The soil is moist, flowers are popping up. The villagers are overjoyed and have set up a guardianship program so that goats and sheep are prevented from grazing in the area until the new growth has stabilized. The local government has now asked **Partners** to join them in replanting the entire mountainside. Once that is done the huge gullies caused by run-off can be repaired and the area should again become self-sufficient food-wise.

**Washable, reusable sanitary pads** This project has now moved into full production. 10 women from **Partners'** micro finance project produce 50,000 pads a year with local materials. The pads are then sold at subsidized prices to rural school girls. School attendance improves dramatically and 10 formerly marginalized women earn a good living.

**House of Hope** This new name for **Partners'** hospice in Addis Ababa tells the story of how anti retroviral drugs have changed the face of AIDS in Africa. People who formerly came to the home to die are now admitted and discharged within months. The drug regime, coupled with a good diet, allows people living with the virus to return to their families. Micro loans then kick in so they can start small businesses which will allow them to buy the good food essential for the drugs to work.

## 2010, A different kind of challenge

*Partners in the Horn of Africa* does not use donations to cover administrative expenses. As *Partners* grows it is increasingly difficult to have those expenses funded by directors and a few other individuals. In 2010 we hope to sell carbon-offset credits generated by the manufacture and distribution of fuel-efficient ovens. We expect that the revenue generated by the sale of credits will provide a fresh source of funding for administrative expenses.

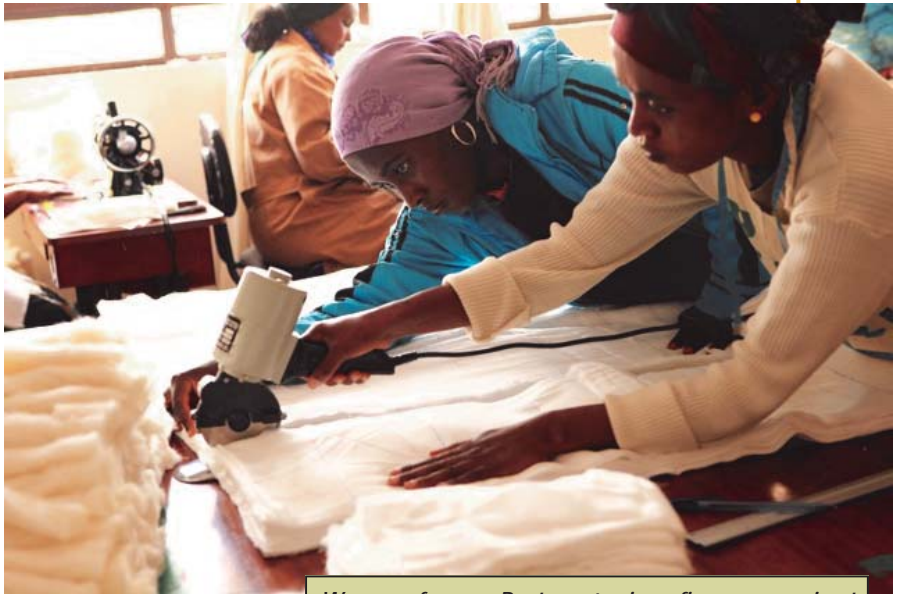
Underpinning this strategy is an emerging and long overdue approach to the funding of aid through 'social enterprise'.

This is a good development. As long as charities look to others to fund administrative costs there is little incentive to restrain those costs. Independent revenue streams bring stability and sustainability to charities.

In 2010, *Partners* will continue building schools, digging wells, supporting HIV orphans, making micro loans to marginalized women and taking on related projects. In addition, we have two major projects which we hope to implement. One is a footbridge across the Upper Nile...a footbridge with two 44 metre spans connecting to and from a mid-river island. This bridge will allow more than 200,000 people who are stranded for up to 6 months each year to access schools, medical care and markets. It will also prevent 40 drownings a year. The other major project is the reforestation of the slopes of Mt. Adama...a project which will plant several hundred thousand seedlings a year in an area where sustenance farming is presently impossible due to soil erosion.

All of these projects are going to improve and save lives in Ethiopia. They will help Canadians make a difference in a wonderful but impoverished corner of the world.

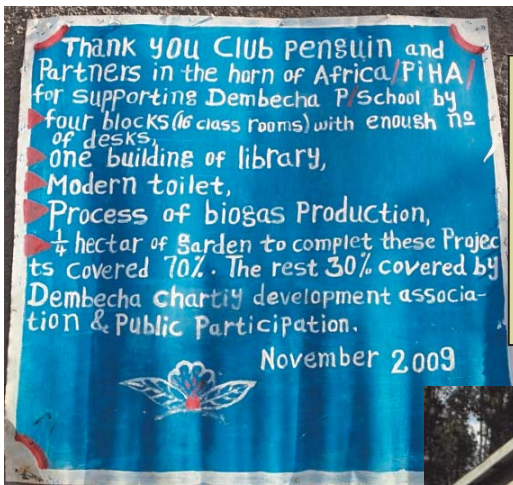
John Baigent  
Executive-Director



*Women from a Partners' micro finance project making washable, reusable sanitary pads.*

*Rural orphans at "Scholarship House", a safe home for post-secondary female students.*





*A sign at the Dembecha Elementary School thanking Club Penguin who funded Partners' portion of the upgrades. A noble effort in English in an area that speaks Amharic.*



*A completed elementary school library in the Gojjam Region funded by Club Penguin and the community.*



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*Partners in the Horn of Africa* is a recognized Canadian charity and issues tax receipts for all donations.

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."*  
- Margaret Mead

Our 2009 Annual Report is published courtesy of Local 1518 of the United Food & Commercial Workers Union.

**Who we are and what we do**

*Partners in the Horn of Africa* is a Canadian charity working exclusively in Ethiopia. 2010 is our 9th year of operation.

*Partners* works with Ethiopian "partners" (typically local charities or community organizations), building schools and bridges, digging wells, providing micro-finance loans to marginalized women, caring for HIV orphans and running a hospice. We also do community education and run group homes that allow poor, rural kids to continue their education. These are just some of our projects. To date we have completed over 150 community-based projects.

*Partners* is supported by Canadian citizens, corporations, unions, foundations and service clubs. We do not receive any government funding.

Two aspects of *Partners* are unique. We do not use donations for administrative expenses. 100% of our donations go to projects in Ethiopia. Administrative expenses are paid for by a sister organization, Friends of the Horn of Africa, which is funded by *Partners'* directors and a few other individuals. Our "100% rule" is facilitated by unions and corporations who contribute office supplies & furniture, computers, telephones, publishing, postage and technical & professional services.

A second feature of *Partners* is that each project has an Ethiopian 'partner' who contributes 15-20% of the project cost (in cash, labour or local material). This ensures that all projects reflect real community needs and empower our 'partners' by giving them an important role in the development of the project.