

Purmerend, August 2010

Dear donors, (aid)organizations, and interested friends of Ethiopia,

It's been over a year since our last newsletter was published. This you do not expect from us and it has an obvious reason. In addition to the normal activities and action within the administration, in the past year we have mainly focused on the continuity of the SOG and in particular the projects in Dembidollo and surroundings. The main cause for these considerations is the fact that in March - April 2009, after months-long investigation, it was diagnosed that Theo van der Jagt (chairman), has a rare and incurable form of cancer of the peritoneum being a *malignant mesothelioma* (also known as asbestos cancer). He has since then undergone full treatment. Currently the situation is reasonably stable, although even the very near future remains uncertain. In this context we have, both here and in Ethiopia, given much thought and discussion on the future of SOG and in particular about the projects in and around Dembidollo.

Based on the above, continuing as we have been doing up to now, is not an option for us. In March 2010, we had to conclude in a board meeting, that there are no possibilities for SOG to continue existing in its current way. The other board members and other stakeholders are – because of their own work - unable to take over all the activities. Especially since most activities take place in daytime, particularly the contacts with Ethiopia and the various organizations in the Netherlands.

But just to end 40 years of action and realization of projects in a region of Ethiopia, where people still need help, is also no option for us. Hence we are in full discussion with an organization that will at least promote and look after the current projects of SOG and will assess, and if possible finance any approved new projects of Walal, the way that SOG has done in recent years. The work in Ethiopia and the projects do not stop, but some things will change!

Soon you will receive more detailed information from us, but we want you to note Saturday, November 6, 2010 in your diary. A closing and handing over meeting will be organized. Therefore, you will receive an official invitation and program. The program will include on the one hand a report of what has been achieved over the past 40 years, an official part, a piece of Ethiopian culture and on the other hand - through a presentation - an indication of how the projects can be supported in the future in that piece of Ethiopia.

It remains for us now, to wish you a pleasant holiday and like to see you on Nov. 6th.

With best regards,
On behalf of SOG Aktie Ethiopië

Theo and Leny van der Jagt

