

Pulling Together in Ethiopia: Helping Farmers with Disabilities Work



Ned Stoller, ATP & Lowell Stoller
Fulfilling Life Ministries & AT Catalyst

<https://fulfillinglifeministries.org/> <https://www.atcatalyst.org/>

November 8-20, 2022

We flew near Mecca on our way from Istanbul to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



11/8,9/2022

**KIBIR hosted us 3 days in Addis Ababa
at the SIM guest house.**



11/10/2022

KIBIR teaches biblical business practices to help start successful enterprises.



An Ethiopian Orthodox church



11/10/2022

Misikir our host took us to meet 3 rural pastors with disabilities



We saw the beauty of the land and animal-power agricultural practices.



Banana trees grow everywhere.



11/11/2022

**Most Ethiopians work in agriculture,
and there are piles of watermelons!**



We visited farms near Addis Ababa to learn their farming methods



11/12/2022

We demonstrated adaptive tools to a group of farmers with various injuries



11/12/2022

Learning how to reap teff with a sickle.



11/12/2022

Learning how to thresh teff with sticks.



11/18/2022

Winnowing wheat in the wind to separate the grain from the chaff.



11/12/2022

Walking to church in Addis wondering if there are any rural work alternatives.



11/13/2022

Farming terrain is rugged up mountain sides and access to water is a premium.



11/13/2022


We joined the AT Catalyst wheelchair team at the Sodo Christian Hospital.



We learned of the Lord's care for all of us and the biblical view of disability.

SODDO CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL & THE CATALYST PROJECT

Conference on Disability
Mobility, Health, Purpose and The Spiritual



Conference Agenda

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2022

8:00am – 8:30am	Devotionals
8:30am – 9:30am	Introductions
9:30am – 10:30am	Tour of Soddo Christian Hospital and campus
10:30am – 10:45pm	Transition to Warehouse(s)
10:45am – 12:00pm	Tour Warehouse(s)
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm – 2:00pm	Overview of Wellness in Disability
2:00pm – 3:30pm	The Biblical View of Disability
3:30pm – 5:00pm	Group time for Relationship Development

11/14/2022

Project Emmanuel in Sodo hires people with disabilities to build wheelchairs.



Project Emmanuel also makes crutches, hospital carts and beds with 40 workers.



11/14/2022

Measuring a stroke patient for proper fitting in a wheelchair.



11/15/2022

Emmanuel staff learning to adjust foot-rests to minimize risk of pressure sores.



11/15/2022

**Bijaj taxis are more numerous than cars.
They took us from the hotel to hospital.**



11/15/2022

We taught a class on adaptive tools for farmers with disabilities.



Working with people from Agape Mobility adjusting wheelchair brakes.



11/16/2022

Groves of trees are planted for straight poles used in all kinds of construction.



11/16/2022

Staff from Cure Hospital and Sodo positioning a child with cerebral palsy.



11/17/2022

Luke teaching hospital staff and parents therapy techniques for CP.



11/17/2022

We worked on a prototype to make a wheelbarrow pushcart for balance.



11/17/2022

We went to more locations and farmers were able to try out adaptive tools.



11/18/2022

Tesfaya uses both hands and balances while resting his back on his crutches.



Donkey carts are common transport in Sodo for hauling teff, water, wood, etc.



Traditional coffee is prepared by roasting the beans over an open fire.



**Sugarcane, coffee, casava, cabbage,
maize, teff & wheat are common crops.**

11/18/2022



Roads are shared equally by donkey carts, Bijaj taxis, livestock, and vehicles.



11/19/2022

Flying home west from Addis Ababa we gained 8 hours, so it was a 32-hour day!



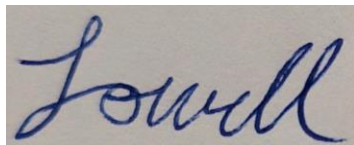
11/20/2022

Next steps? A clear need for assistive technology services was recognized.

We are praying for wisdom to know the next steps for providing assistive technology services and developing low-tech adaptive tools for workers with disabilities. We know this with our Ethiopian partners...

- We are pulling together with Ethiopian farmers and trades people who are fully capable of providing high quality assistive technology services in their country,
- Rural Ethiopians understand their farming systems and culture very well,
- Most Ethiopians are very social people and care for each other,
- Many Ethiopian churches and organizations are very interested in this effort,
- Our Ethiopian partners are quick to learn and desire professional development to continue increasing their quality of service and manufacturing skills, and
- Our partners will work on a sustainable business model for this undertaking.

As decisions are made, we will let you know of more opportunities to work with our partners around Addis Ababa and Sodo and improve the likelihood of success for workers with disabilities in Ethiopia. Thank you for your prayers.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lowell".A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Nel".