

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

For Projects Abroad Ethiopia



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VOLUNTEER STORY

A Valery Marinue, a Science graduate from Canada, Worked in a Teaching Project, volunteering in a School

Valry, a year old College graduate from Canada, went to Ethiopia, Africa, to volunteer in a teaching project at Hill side school; teaching general science.

“I stayed for a month teaching science to students from grade 1 to grade 6 bringing new activities in the teaching curriculum which helped me to be successful. I also prepared practical activities that they can include in their classic way of teaching science in order to be more effective for the teachers to help them to have a more successful teaching learning process.” Said Valry, explaining her successful four weeks stay at the project.



The school Principal, Mr. Zelalem, made a statement saying “They felt really privileged for having such an influential volunteer, and that they look forward to have more influential volunteers such as Valry. He and all the other staff prepared a good bye program to show their respect.

Apart from her project, Valry also made good local friends who showed her around Addis Ababa city. “I see places I would never see if i was alone, i am very happy to have friends from a different culture and see places i never knew existed.”

“My whole experience was really great. My host family was very welcoming. It really felt like home. The student and the staff both at Projects Abroad and the school were very friendly and lovely. Overall, I can say I had a fantastic time in Ethiopia.”



Valry’s advice for future volunteers is to be strong on their first days because things could be different due to the weather change, and different lifestyle. “I faced a culture shock on my first few days. It is a bit difficult on your first few days but once you adapt to the situation, the experience helped me to be creative to use my prior knowledge and apply it to a different learning situation.”

Within four weeks Valry managed to learn reading and speaking simple Amharic. She even made a statement in Amharic while being interviewed.

Celebrating Epiphany

*Volunteers celebrated Ethiopian Epiphany with Children in
Kidane-mehret Orphanage*



'Timket' (Epiphany), is one of the biggest holidays in Ethiopia. It is the Ethiopian Orthodox celebration of Epiphany. It is celebrated on January 19 (or 20 on Leap Year), corresponding to the 10th day of 'Terra' following the Ethiopian calendar. Timket celebrates the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River.

On this holiday volunteers and staff took soft drinks and cakes to about 80 children ageing between the years of 2 to 16. After serving the children, the volunteers had time to play, sing and share some of their experiences. The children were very happy with what the volunteers did and asked if they could come back and play with them again.

Volunteering is fun, Caring is happiness!

The Africa without EBOLA

Is EBOLA really a threat for the whole Africa?



Ebola virus disease (EVD), formerly known as Ebola hemorrhagic fever, is a severe, often fatal illness in humans. The virus is transmitted to people from wild animals and spreads in the human population through human-to-human transmission. The average EVD case fatality rate is around 50%. Case fatality rates have varied from 25% to 90% in past outbreaks. The first EVD outbreaks occurred in remote villages in Central Africa, near tropical rainforests, but the most recent outbreak in West Africa has involved into major urban

as well as rural areas. (WHO)

Despite clear geographical limits to the Ebola outbreak, most did changed their plans to come anywhere near Africa even to countries in East Africa, like Ethiopia which are nowhere near West Africa where the Ebola outbreak is a concern. Anthony England, a British chemist who earned a doctorate at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and has spent a significant amount of time in sub-Saharan Africa, decided to make a map to help explain which countries currently have Ebola cases and which donot. You can see the map above. (Washington post)

Misinformation and misunderstandings can lead to unwise decisions. The international community needs to realize Africa is not a one little country rather Africa is the 2nd largest continent in the world which covers 20.4 percent of the total land area with 54 fully recognized sovereign states. As shown in the above map currently only three/ four countries are affected by Ebola which leaves you with multiple parts of the continent to go and fulfil your dreams. See you soon! [Read more](#)

Play your part by spreading this news for others who still doesn't have enough awareness!

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Greetings!

I hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year celebration. Those who made it in to Ethiopia before January 7 got a special opportunity to celebrate Christmas twice, as here in Ethiopia we celebrate Christmas on January the 7th.

I hope you found something touching and inspiring within this newsletter. I would like to thank all volunteers from the past and present for contributing your valuable time, money and knowledge to make a difference at our projects. We always have a place for anyone who wants to come and be part of the great work being done by the big Projects Abroad family. Big thanks to the volunteers who have shared their stories and photos with us. We encourage everyone to join us in making the newsletter more interesting and exciting. You are welcome to send your own written articles and pictures. This will help others to understand and learn more about Ethiopia and Projects Abroad. If you have anything you'd like to contribute, suggest, or comment on, please contact: - berekettesema@projects-abroad.org

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