

## THE FUTURE



According to an impact assessment survey, there are over 152,000 Mossy Foot patients in the Wolaitta province of

Ethiopia. A Mossy Foot Project goal is to continually increase the number of patients treated each year. Most will be treated through the expansion of the regional clinics.



In addition to treatments and surgeries, the Mossy Foot Project also focuses its resources in the areas of prevention and

vocational training for recovering patients. They are trained in skills such as shoemaking, carpentry, bicycle maintenance, masonry, poultry farming, and hair-dressing. Some receive training in health care so that they might provide compassionate care to others in their villages afflicted with the Mossy Foot disease.



By God's grace, we work towards achieving our project goals in the areas of prevention and education:

- Expand the number of Mossy Foot Project clinics to a total of 30.
- Expand our children's Mossy Foot prevention program.
- Provide literacy education for children and young adults impacted by the Mossy Foot disease.
- Expand the existing shoemaking program and the distribution of shoes and socks to Mossy Foot patients through our clinics.
- Expand our vocational training program.
- Continue our micro-credit loan program
- Increase the distribution of shoes and socks for Mossy Foot patients.

## BECOME A PROJECT PARTNER

Ninety-nine percent of Mossy Foot Project costs are met by donations from partner churches and individuals.

Without our partners, it would not be possible to keep this vital project operating.

Please prayerfully consider becoming a partner in this very important ministry. If you, your church small group, or church is interested in obtaining more information on how to get involved with the Mossy Foot Project, please contact us.



## OUR MISSION

Providing Mossy Foot patients with life-changing resources through medical treatment, prevention, education, vocational training, and a message of eternal hope



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## WHAT IS MOSSY FOOT?

Mossy Foot is a debilitating condition affecting people that work in soil of volcanic origin, as in rural districts of Ethiopia and other African countries. Mossy Foot is caused by micro-particles of volcanic ash that penetrate the skin of bare feet. These particles cause inflammation of the delicate walls of the lymph vessels, resulting in the accumulation of lymph and swelling of the feet and legs. The skin loses its resistance to bacteria and fungus and begins to develop warty (or mossy) bumps and large fibrous lumps called “keloids.” Most families in the rural districts of Ethiopia earn their living from subsistence farming, making soil contact a part of daily life. The damage from working barefoot in the volcanic soil begins in early childhood and the first signs of Mossy Foot are generally seen when a child is about ten years old. Over years of living and working in the soil, the swelling and deformity of the feet and lower legs becomes so severe the afflicted must abandon farming, usually their sole means of financial support. The gross deformity of the feet and lower legs, repeated ulceration, and secondary infections make these



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people social outcasts and unable to financially provide for themselves and their families. Mossy Foot is a serious medical problem with far-reaching social impacts. The World Health Organization has declared it a disease of poverty. The wearing of foot protection can entirely prevent the disease; however, the majority of people afflicted with Mossy Foot cannot afford to buy shoes and socks that would provide them this protection.



## THE MOSSY FOOT PROJECT

The Mossy Foot Project is the only one of its kind in Ethiopia. Centered in the town of Soddo, Wolaitta province in southern Ethiopia, the Mossy Foot Project is a Christian-based ministry that provides medical treatment, surgery, shoes, socks, vocational training, and educational assistance to people afflicted with Mossy Foot. Each of the treatment clinics in the Wolaitta province opens with Bible reading and prayer. In addition to hearing the Gospel message of the Bible, attendees are instructed in how to treat and prevent Mossy Foot. Severe Mossy Foot cases are evaluated for possible surgery. The surgeries are funded by the Mossy Foot Project and performed locally at Soddo



Christian Hospital. The Mossy Foot Project is opening doors to spread the Gospel of Salvation through Jesus Christ, and is an especially effective means of sharing the Gospel with those who come for treatment.



## THE PAST & PRESENT

The Mossy Foot Project was started in 1997 by Dr. Nathan Barlow, a Christian medical missionary who spent his entire life ministering to the poor in Ethiopia. In partnership with doctors at Soddo Christian Hospital, Dr. Barlow began the first clinic focused solely on treating this disease.

Today, there are fifteen treatment clinics that treat about 4,000 patients each month. Through the work started by Dr. Barlow, over 70,000 Mossy Foot patients have been treated including patients that have received surgical treatment.

