As we come to the final scene of this school year, we reflect on the accomplishments of the 2015-2016 school year. Both the students and the staff has been spinning the wheel to enrich the academic process, making it all possible to grow in knowledge and faith in our Lord and savior. The school board and administration has been putting every effort to strive the school to Excellency and dependency.

By the end of this day, our students are out for the summer break; day students will be enjoying the summer holiday, and the boarders will reunite with their parents and guardians. We pray that each of them will be kept in God's safe hands

### **Busy spring at Hope School**

Everywhere you looked around the school you could find students studying hard in preparation for taking their year- end exams. The outcome of the exams will identify the level of progress made during this school year.

Sunday, May 15, 2016, twelve students graduated from Hope School in a formal celebration. They are looking forward to a positive, bright future, one in which their hopes and dreams are realized. After they sit for the government exam, some of the students will continue on with vocational education and several others will attend a university. The faculty and staff offer blessings and good wishes to all graduates.

It's a hectic time for our 12th graders as they sit for their government exams. A state exam is set by the ministry of education and is taken by the 12th graders, the students will take 9 exams in 9 different days. Festivity will fill the streets and the houses of those who will pass the exam, our prayers are held that every 12<sup>th</sup> grader house will be filled with joy as the exam results are announced.

### New and exciting educational programs are coming in September.

A new Kindergarten will begin for some deserving children aged 4 and 5 years old. There will be one class and the children will attend for four hours per day. The classroom is being prepared, but it needs furniture and materials. Each year a new grade level will be added until all grades will be offered. A second Special Education class will be added, giving those who struggle with their education a second chance in education and better opportunity to succeed. The special education students who we welcomed last year are doing much better than expected, the tremendous progress achieved during the school year qualifies them to go up one level. Bethlehem directorate of Education praised the effort made.

# New Projects outside the Building

Recently, the drive way was paved, new plants have been planted, and everywhere you look there is new construction going on.

A new water system and solar panels were installed and the roof was redone, all to conserve energy and lower costs.

A basket ball court, tennis court, are also in the works. These will be good for the boys and girls, and will help generate revenue also. Outside groups will be able to use the facilities, once completed, for a fee. At this time, a large new boy s dormitory is in the process of being built. Once the facilities are completed it will allow for more boarders. There will be room mothers hired to care for the boys in the facility that will have a home like atmosphere.

# **Revenue Generators**

Hope Secondary School is always looking for ways to generate income to help covering part of the operational expenses. Of course, donations are the life blood of the school, and the school counts heavily on them.

The school has about 3,000 chickens and sells the eggs everyday to restaurants, markets, hotels, private individuals, etc. However, due to supply and demand in the market the price of the eggs has been declined.

Recently, the guest house used for volunteers will also accept paying visitors with low prices and use the spare rooms as a B&B.

There is a nice gift shop that sells a variety of local items, many of which are handmade by parents of the students to help pay for their education. Beautiful olive wood items, hand embroidered and cross stitch items, handbags, jewelry, note cards, Christmas items, and beautiful note cards for Easter and Christmas. The paintings used on the cards were done by a student who graduated from the school. Hope school is ready to ship the product overseas upon request.

#### Visitors and volunteers

The Lord has blessed us with many friendships made through individual and groups who have visited the school the last couple of months. Several groups from all around Europe and USA have met the living stones, encountered the blessings of the Lord upon the school, and shared the experience of local lifestyle. Individual volunteers have shared the daily life at Hope School *"I came to be a volunteer at Hope Secondary School due to a change of plans, but I really believe it was the work of God. The school is based on Christian values of love, peace, tolerance, human dignity and justice. You can see these values all through the school. It was a heart touching experience that I will never forget. I want to come back and serve Hope school again" Louise Mueller. MZ, USA* 

We are honored to welcome any volunteer at Hope school to help in serving our marginalized students. We are looking for both short-term and long-term volunteers who will be flexible and willing to serve in the different aspects of the school. We welcome individuals and groups.

Although our financial crisis has been diminished over the past couple of years, we still need your help and support to fulfill our mounting liabilities and obligations towards the increasing number of applicants who find Hope school as their opportunities to continue their education and build up their future.

We, at Hope Secondary School sincerely appreciate all of you who have supported this school and its students. If you feel a calling to help toward any of these needs, please visit our website at <u>www.hopeschoolbeitjala.com</u> to see how to donate. Every donation helps to give these deprived students a better chance at success.

Thank you. Blessings in His name from all of us at Hope Secondary School

Khader Saba - General Director Director@hopeschoolpal.com