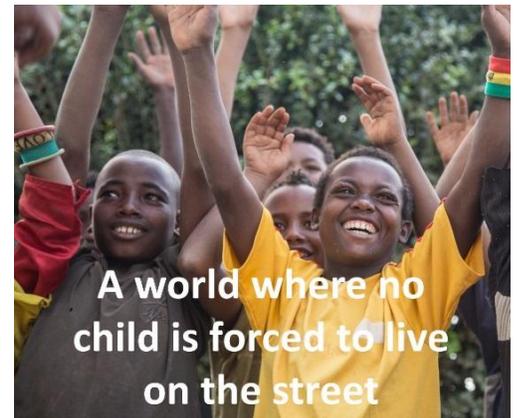


Welcome to the latest issue of Retrak’s Prayer E-News. We are so grateful to you for your commitment to pray for the work we are doing around the world. We see daily how prayer changes things and we thank you for being part of that change.

In this issue, Retrak’s chairman David King reviews the great things God has done through Retrak in 2015 and the challenges we faced and will face as we look ahead into the rest of 2016. Many of you have asked about Mike’s visit to Ethiopia – thank you for your prayers and interest. He has shared just one story out of many from that visit and asks you to pray with us for the work of Deborah House. Finally, we invite you to use our latest prayer resource in your churches and meetings.



A Word from the Chairman

David King joined Retrak as a trustee in 2009 to contribute financial advice to the board. However, God had other plans for him and he has been Retrak chairman for six years through a period of great growth and challenge.

Looking back on 2015, Retrak has been on an amazing journey. Here are some highlights:

- Appointing Sir Peter Fahy as CEO and involving children in the appointment process;
- Holding our first board meeting in Africa and leading staff retreats in Ethiopia and Uganda;
- Appointing a country director from within Retrak for the first time – Florence in Uganda;
- Initiating Retrak’s new work Brazil;
- God’s strength as we coped with a terrible car accident in Kampala involving a number of our children in which many were seriously injured.



Looking ahead, we want to increase our public and church fundraising and have invested in staff to do so. However some high-profile problems in the UK charity sector now make that more difficult. Our aim is to transform more and more children's lives but there are challenges about which countries we work in and, for example, the balance between preventing more children coming to the street, and resettlement activities to take children home.

Please pray:

- For Godly wisdom on David to lead the board;
- For Sir Peter as he leads the team and that the new team will gel. That Sir Peter and David form a “dynamic duo” as the Retrak journey moves into a new phase;
- That we would listen to God as we make strategic decisions about the future;
- Success in public and church fundraising and that we do it with the highest standards of governance and respect for our donors;



- *David King, Retrak Chairman*

Ethiopia



Deborah House is Retrak's centre for girls in Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia. In January this year, the centre was re-launched in a new premises to enable Retrak to work more effectively in helping young girls who find themselves living on the streets. Abebech*, is a 14 year old girl who's aunt brought her from the family home to the capital promising she would educate her. Instead, when Abebech arrived, she was forced to cook for the family and serve as a maid in her aunt's home. After much begging to be allowed to go to school and significant verbal and physical abuse from her aunt's family, Abebech

ended up on the streets. Eventually Abebech found her way to Deborah House. At Deborah House, girls like Abebech find a place where they can feel safe and can be children again. During their stay, staff will help them catch up on their education, learn some life skills and most importantly, help them, where possible, to find their family and support them in a process of reintegration.

Julyata Shibiru, Retrak's programme manager says "It is like they are locked in a box and have no way of getting out and no escape. Retrak helps them to find a way out and gives them a chance to live as children again. These girls are very vulnerable but if you give them the chance they astonish you with their ability and creativity."

Abebech hopes to be reunited with her family soon, and to finish her education. Her dream is to become an athlete. (* Name changed to protect the child's identity)

Please pray - Julyata asks that we:

- Thank God for the recent success in recruiting foster parents but please pray for more suitable parents to come forward.
- Pray for an increase in funds for Deborah house so that we can increase our capacity and work with more girls.
- Pray for those girls that have already been integrated; that they will settle well and continue to thrive within their renewed family setting.



Prayer PowerPoint

We have prepared a PowerPoint prayer resource for your personal use or for use in your churches to inspire and inform your prayers for Retrak. Just press "F5" once you have opened the file and let it run in the background. Please follow the link below to the resource: <https://www.retrak.org/please-pray-church-presentation-resource>

Do let us know if the prayer resource is useful or how we could make it better. Lastly, we would love to come and visit your churches to talk more about Retrak's work so please let us know if this is something you are interested in.

Thank you so much for the part you play in realizing our vision of "A world where no child is forced to live on the street". It is a bold vision but with God's grace, Retrak's proven model of care, and your support, it's a reality we are already moving towards.

