



# Young Scholars

*Writing by AbdulAzeem Omotosho, Filimon Fishaye, Luwam Teweldebirhan, Salam Gebremichael, and others who wish to remain anonymous, produced in collaboration with Press Press.*

# Of Press Press

# Language

# Language

Learning a language you don't usually speak will take you time and hard work but if you practice it a lot and if you try to speak with someone that speak the language perfectly will make you learn it a lot more easier.

one day I was walking and I touched someone mistakenly and I said sorry in English and everyone laughed at me I was so embarrassed but after a while I thought that wasn't embarrassing it's not even my language why would I be embarrassed of making mistakes and after that I started speaking.

When I was back home we used to take most of our classes in English but everyone was shy to speak it because we would make mistakes

My Parents used to tell me and my siblings to try to learn more English because they would say when we go to the USA we would be able to communicate with others but we didn't really understand the need of learning English but we learned enough English and my Parents was right about how we would need English and if you came to the US with no English you will have trouble going to the malls alone and communicating with others even though the process of learning it is hard you should learn it.



The little cub choose his path from a young age.

By AbdulAzeem Omotosho



The fox has to make a decision.  
EITHER TO LIVE OR DIE.

## Decision

Since I have been given the opportunity to have a page in the press book publication, I haven't been able to decide on what to write about.

Since I have been given the opportunity to go to college, I couldn't decide on what college to go.

Since I have been given an opportunity to choose a career I couldn't decide on which career to choose.

But since I realized am old enough to make my own decisions, I have since then decided to be me and nobody else.

## What is Sanctuary?

Sanctuary has a lot of meaning and they differ from individuals. But to me sanctuary is a quiet place where I can be alone, by myself worry free and in control of my life. It's not a physical thing, but rather a state of mind. When I relocated from Nigeria to the United States was a moment of sanctuary to me because I had left my old life and will be starting over a new life.

By: AbdulAzeem.

# Everything is Possible

By Filimon Fishaye

Coming to the United States from Ethiopia about four years ago, I was faced with one of the biggest obstacles of my life: adapting to the American culture.

Much of the reason I decided to come here to the states was due to the lack of opportunity for obtaining an education back home. In fact, most of the 18-year-olds in Ethiopia were forced to join the army and fight for the country. That said, I chose to come to this country primarily for the chance to attain a well-paying job and be able to give back to the community.

Arriving here in Baltimore, Maryland, I was immediately placed in the 8th grade. To say the least, the culture in Ethiopia was vastly different from that seen here in the U.S. For starters, the barrier of language served as a huge deterrence in my progression.

In school itself, I had a difficult time communicating with classmates, teachers, and everyone around me. Whenever my teachers would pick me to answer a question in class, I would always have fear of other kids making fun of me for my accent or my lack of English literacy. It came down to a point where I would just stop communicating with my teachers and friends entirely, and on some occasions, skip school. I was pitying myself.

Outside of school, I was faced with handling much of the responsibilities of supporting my family. My mother, born and raised in the country of Ethiopia, was unable to speak English. Unfortunately my father was out of the picture. As a result, I was forced to carry many more tasks than I was used to back in Ethiopia.

This included getting the groceries on a weekly basis and more difficult things such as communicating on behalf of my mother to different people. For example, I was often required to communicate with my mother's physician, which in itself was a grave task, because I was unable to speak English.

Having been faced with the overburdens of all these new life changes and adjustments, I was unsure of how to go about life. I contemplated just dropping out of school and finding other means of making a living in order to support my family. Then came my life saver: Soccer Without Borders.

Growing up in Ethiopia, I grew a fond interest in the sport of soccer. Being able to play the sport of soccer served as an escape from reality in the sense that I could just get away from all the stressors of this world. As I left Ethiopia, I was unsure if I would even have time for the sport with all the responsibilities I would have to partake in. Fortunately, in my last year of middle school, I came to know a soccer organization called Soccer Without Borders (SWB), which serves primarily to help newcomer refugees aged 5-21 in Baltimore City, "through after school and summer programs with an emphasis on academic enrichment, language development, and family engagement."(<https://www.soccerwithoutborders.org/baltimore>) I was able to participate in this program for about six months, and the progress I made was unexplainable. Not only did SWB help me create a lot of close-knit friendships, improve my English skills, and increase my persistence, it also gave me the opportunity to engage in the sport that I love so dearly.

With my drastic improvement in confidence and with the help of SWB, I was able to overcome my shyness and expand my horizons. When I came to high school, I made countless invaluable bonds with both teachers and friends. I even built up the confidence to try out for the high school soccer team, which I was fortunate enough to play for throughout my high school career. Being a part of the soccer team helped me feel more of a sense of belonging and comfort in the community; I knew I had coaches

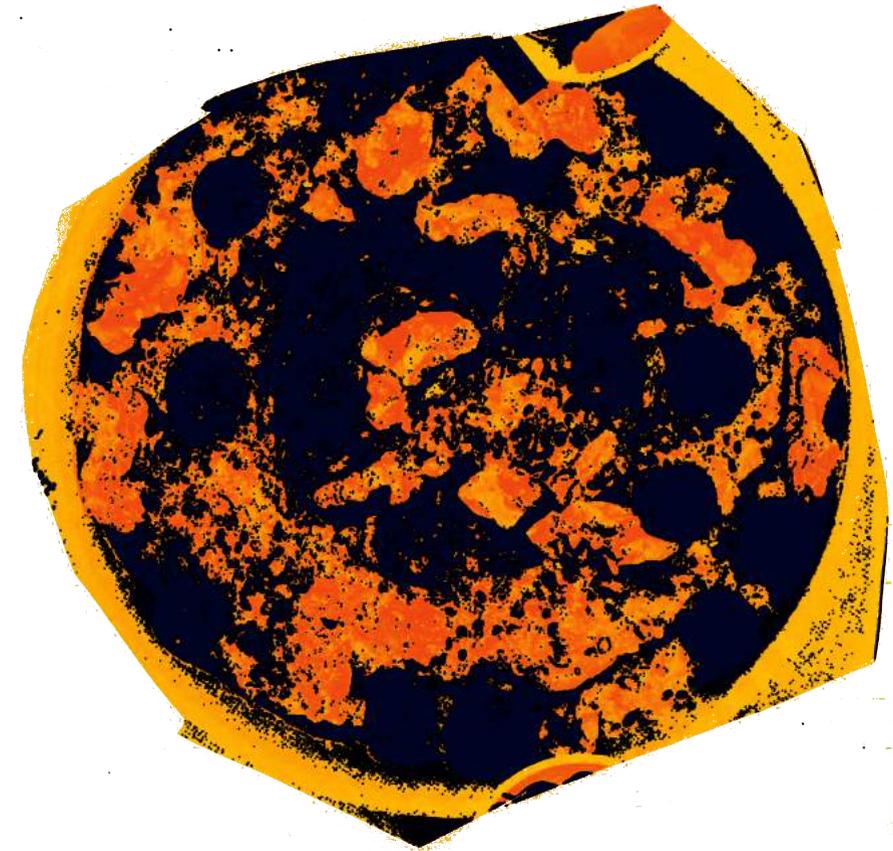
and friends I could go to for help with any issue I may be faced with. It was great to know I had a support system to help me overcome any other obstacles I may endure. As I progressed in high school, I was able to take myriad honors and AP classes that enabled me to grow academically and challenge myself on a day-to-day basis.

Altogether, being introduced to Soccer Without Borders (SWB) and expressing myself through the sport I loved, helped me to grow mentally, academically, and socially, and express myself in a way I never had before. With my high school career coming to an end, I look forward to the opportunity of attending college and continuing my pursuit of education in computer engineering. Along the way, I hope to gain new experiences and knowledge that will help me become successful and able to give back to the community at a later stage in my life. For now, I serve as a volunteer soccer coach and subject tutor for SWB, but my end goal is to be able to motivate and pass on wisdom to those just like me in becoming successful and reaching new heights in their lives. I believe that by inspiring and serving as a mentor to the youth, I will be able to have the greatest impact on society and an everlasting effect. Nelson Mandela put it best when he said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

families but in Tanzania was

Christams is the most important holidays.

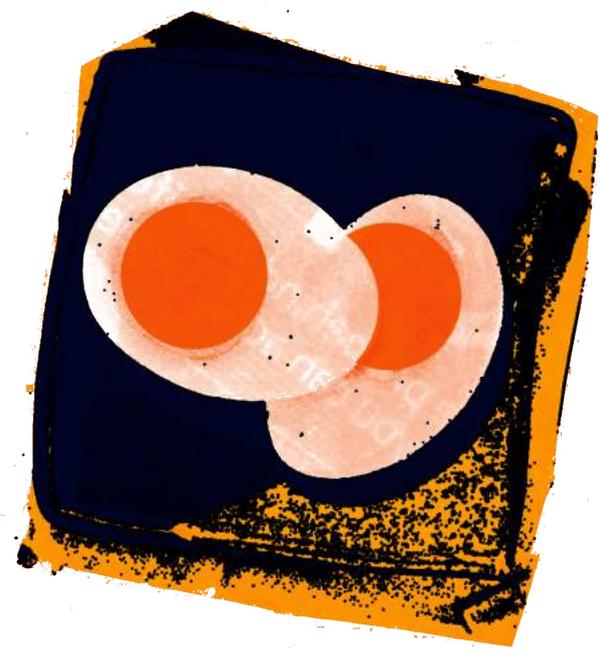
I think it's really important in our traditional and culture here I don't know why.



AMERICA's holiday is different from Tanzania because we usually celebrats christams the most.

is not the same,

Here in America people usually eat dinner with their families but in Tanzania was a different story.



In Tanzania not the same, first we would go to church then eat and dress up and hang out with our friends.

Christam is different from Tanzania because I always thought that was going to be the sam as it was back home.

Here people receives gifts or families comes and visit each other, Tanzania christa- mas it's completely different because we had to dressed up and go to the movies. with our friends.

and visit each other, Tanzania christa-

## Eritrean Easter

I chose this topic because Eritrean Orthodox Easter is different than American Easter. before Easter comes we fast 55 days we don't eat things that includes dairy and meat and then when it's a week away from Easter we pray and fast till 3 o'clock and when the last day of the fasting we go to church in the morning and stay there till 6pm.

We still be fasting the whole day when it's finally Easter we cook a lot of foods and dress up traditionally we visit relatives and friends

When Easter comes it makes me feel so cultured Blessed and happy and the most exciting thing about Easter is the way we dress up and how families comes together to celebrate Easter and also the foods we eat 😊



A decorative border of black line art featuring stylized flowers and leaves with swirling stems, framing the text on the left side of the page.

# First Time in America

When I first came to America I was scared because there was new people and new faces. But my sister was there with me when I went to school for the first time people were staring at me like I was some zombie. I was scared because I was not in the same class with my other half, that was the hardest, but at the end it was worth it. But I found out why the kids at school were staring me and my sister because I was wearing our traditional clothes.

A vibrant red background with a marbled, swirling pattern in shades of red and white, occupying the right half of the page.

This series of works was created by students in Press Press Young Scholars 2018, a writing and art program for youth that was developed through a partnership between Press Press and Baltimore City Community College Refugee Youth Project. You can learn more about Baltimore City Community College Refugee Youth Project at [www.refugeeyouthproject.org](http://www.refugeeyouthproject.org).