

*In Honor*

*Of*

*Demet Debesai*



**Our dear friend** passed away on January 26, this year. Her name was Demet Debesai from Eritrea, Africa. She was 55 years old and battled stage 4 breast cancer since 2014. She came to St. Louis in 2015 as a refugee with her son, Nathaniel who will turn 18 next month. The first time I met her she stopped by Oasis for some furniture and clothes. She said, "You must come have coffee with me." I stopped by one afternoon and that visit became the first of many, many times of coming to her home (which was very close to Oasis.) to relax for awhile, talk and have coffee. The traditional coffee ceremony is one of the most recognizable parts of Eritrean culture. Drinking the coffee is not the sweetest part of this ceremony; it's the fellowship and friendship that comes as you take time to roast and grind the beans, smell the aromatic fragrance and drink the delicious coffee in tiny teacups. You must have three.

In Demet's obituary she was described as a leader, a war hero, a patriot, a survivor, and a fierce fighter who earned her respect one battle at a time. She was a beautiful daughter, a wonderful sister, a superb mother, a trusted friend and a devoted Christian. She was a soldier in the military from 1980 to 1991, also fighting in Eritrea's war for independence. After the war she became a social worker in her country. She had two sons, one daughter and one "adopted" daughter. She had six beautiful grandchildren. **Demet was such a gift from God to me.** I knew Demet for three years. She was so kind, gentle, and loving. There was just something so precious about her. She was strong, and brave. Honestly I never heard her complain about the cancer when it returned in 2017. No matter how she felt, she would say, "How are you doing, Joani?" She was a very selfless, humble friend. She loved Mark and I, the Oasis staff and the English teachers. We will miss her. We were honored to be called her friend.

*"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His loved ones." Psalm 116:15*



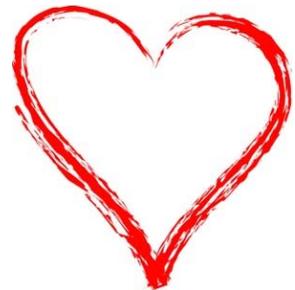
Oasis  
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*Our Mission is to Love & Care for those seeking refuge from a war torn country with the heart of Jesus.*



## Bless Nathaniel!



Nathaniel is Demet's awesome son. He will be 18 next month and is a Junior at Gateway High School in South City. He is an excellent student and loves soccer and wrestling. Nathaniel is living with his uncle and aunt right now. He wants to finish high school and go to college. **If you are interested in giving financially, Oasis has established a fund in his name. Please send your checks to Oasis International marked for "Nathaniel Naguse".** We are also looking for a car for him. We know God has a great plan for Nathaniel.



*"Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged." Matthew 7:1-2*