

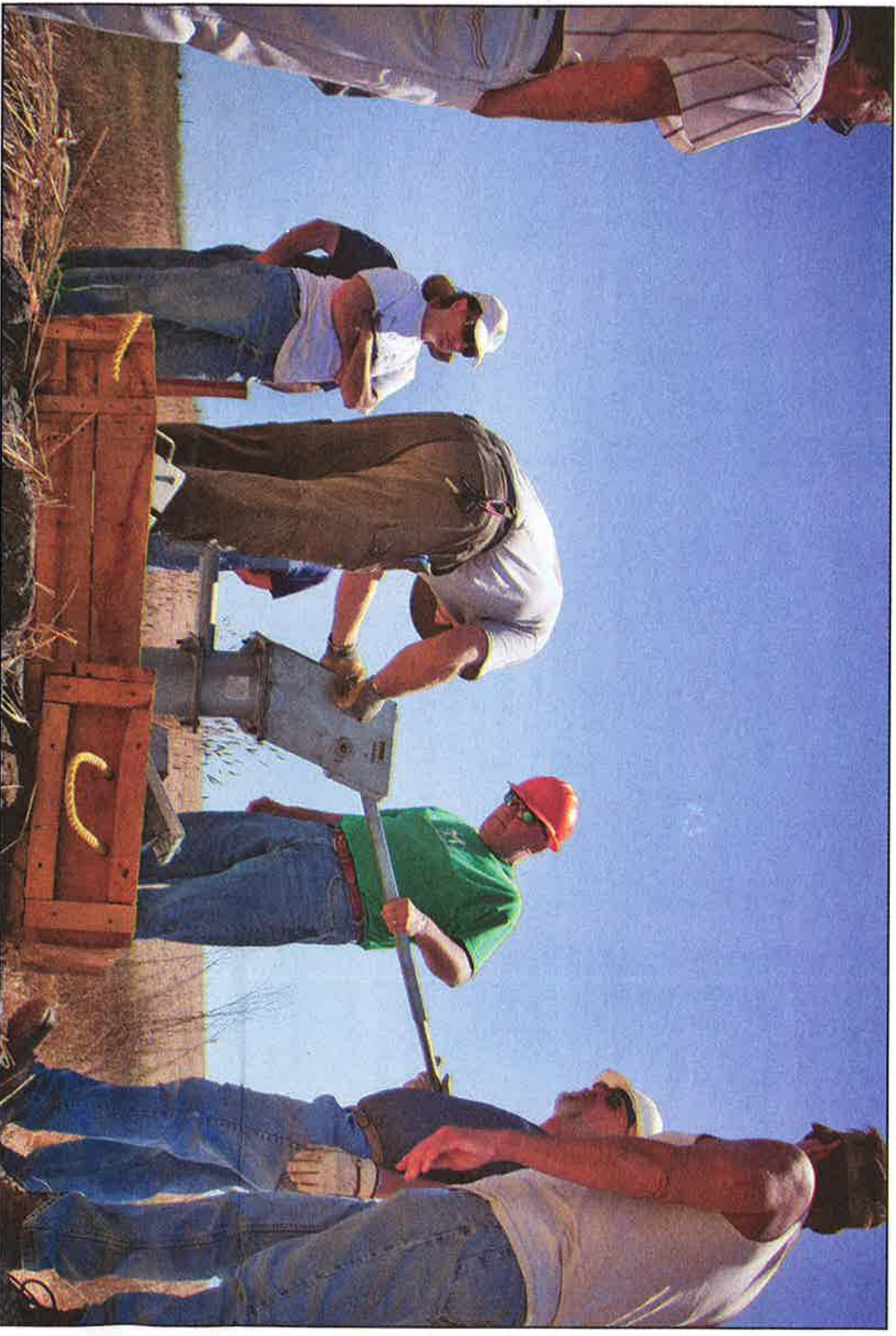
Volunteer Field Trainers Help Save Lives by Training Africans, Asians, and Latin Americans in Sustainable Water Development

submitted by
LIFEWATER INTERNATIONAL

Nearly one billion people in the world lack safe water. An estimated 2.5 billion people lack the security and dignity of a simple latrine. Every day, 4,000 children die of preventable water-related diseases. Lifewater International, a Christian water development organization based in San Luis Obispo, is committed to changing these statistics through sustainable WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) development.

Volunteer field trainers are an important part of Lifewater's strategy to promote lasting change through WASH. After being trained themselves, field trainers teach African, Asian, and Latin American partner organizations how to drill wells, repair broken hand pumps, construct biosand filters, design and build latrines, and promote essential hygiene practices. Lifewater's in-country partners then employ these skills to improve the lives of thousands of people in impoverished communities. As partners grow in their abilities, Lifewater staff members follow up with evaluation and advanced WASH training.

Representing a broad spectrum of ages and professional backgrounds, Lifewater field trainers travel in teams of three to five for an average of three weeks at a time. If you are able to travel internationally and are interested in sharing God's love through participatory WASH training, consider becoming a field trainer today! Visit lifewater.org for more information.



Lifewater field trainers learn hand pump repair at Lifewater's Training Center in San Luis Obispo.

Frances Sies and Sue Morris are Lifewater field trainers from the North Country. Below are excerpts from post-trip interviews following a hygiene training trip to Uganda in early 2010.

Sue Morris
Hometown: Paso Robles, CA
Occupation: Nurse practitioner
Number of Lifewater trips: Four (Peru, Ecuador, Kenya, Uganda)

What was the most memorable aspect of your trip to Uganda?

"Seeing the health promoters we taught put what they learned into practice in the villages. We were able to watch them—community members themselves—teach WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) to their neighbors. The local people were hungry to know how to improve their health through clean water, new hygiene practices, and ways to keep their clean water safe."

What was the most important personal lesson you took away?

"Coming home this time, I felt a sense of hope. On previous trips I felt overwhelmed by the enormous need in our world. This time, I could see that we are making a difference one community at a time."

What was the most important

thing you learned during your trip to Uganda?
"The trip confirmed what I have often experienced on mission trips and life in general: blessing others has a boomerang effect, and blessings return to us. When I serve, I truly receive more than I give."

What advice do you have for Lifewater supporters?
"Please pray for, participate in, and promote this ministry!"