



God Dwells in Clean Places

by Dan Stevens, Executive Director

Taken from his Open House devotional talk, given Saturday, August 12, 2006

I was a kid when I first heard the phrase, “Cleanliness is next to godliness.” As a little guy who liked playing in the dirt, the phrase didn’t make sense in my brain whatsoever. Whenever I heard it I’d think, “What do they know? They certainly don’t know how to have fun.”

Well, I’ve been converted. In May of this year we held our second Africa Partners Conference in Lusaka, Zambia. During the sanitation training portion of the conference, leaders from our African partner organizations decided together that cleanliness is a God thing. The conclusion was based on a study of Deuteronomy 23:12–14:

*You shall have a designated area outside the camp to which you shall go.
With your utensils you shall have a trowel;
when you relieve yourself outside,
you shall dig a hole with it and then cover up your excrement.
Because the Lord your God travels along with your camp,
to save you and to hand over your enemies to you,
therefore your camp must be holy,
so that he may not see anything indecent among you
and turn away from you.*

As we talked with our friends in Zambia about this passage, we recognized that sanitation is an act of worship, for God loves to dwell in clean places.

I realized that both the inside and the outside of our lives are similar to God. God wants to come into places that are dirty and clean them up. 1 John 1:9 says, “If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” I used to think that was as far as it went – that God only cared about my inside. But the Deuteronomy passage says that the dirtiness of the Israelite camp made it really hard for God to dwell there. The inside and outside are similar.

Is it that God hates dirtiness? No, it is that **God recognizes that dirt contaminates, and contaminants cause death, and death is what Christ died to defeat.** Christ died to overcome death and to give us healthy, whole, and complete lives. It is only in our completeness that we can connect in the way God intended us to connect – with God, with each other, and with our world.

“Hygiene is part of worship, sanitation is part of worship, and clean water is part of worship – part of God’s plan for transformation.”

So God dwells in clean places. Not because God loves clean things but because God is about wholeness and completeness, about enabling us to do the things that he created us to do.

God dwells in clean places and we’re invited to be part of God’s process of cleaning it up. **Hygiene is part of worship, sanitation is part of worship, and clean water is part of worship – part of God’s plan for transformation.** That’s what Lifewater is about: helping people understand that God wants to dwell in our hearts and in our neighborhood, that both the inside and outside of our lives belong to him.

Above: Executive Director Dan Stevens shares devotional, “God Dwells in Clean Places,” at the 2006 Open House

Below: Woman at latrine door, taken in Togo, Africa, by Volunteer Trainer Brenda Gleason.



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PO Box 3131, San Luis Obispo, CA 93403
Toll Free: 888.LIFE.H2O (805.541.6634)
Web: www.lifewater.org



2006 Open House Offers A Closer Look at Lifewater

by Leslie Hawthorne Klingler

Lifewater International hosted an Open House Weekend August 11 & 12 in its hometown of San Luis Obispo, California. The weekend introduced new people to Lifewater and helped the Lifewater family to take "A Closer Look" at developments in our growing organization.

Commencing the weekend, 230 people gathered for a "Welcome" barbeque in downtown San Luis Obispo. Lifewater Volunteer Trainers, board members, donors, staff members, and new friends from the community enjoyed a meal together followed by worship and stories of Lifewater's work around the world. Stories included the following:

Planting Seeds of Change in Togo, Africa,
by Volunteer Trainer Brenda Gleason

Zambia: First Steps toward Addressing the Global Sanitation Crisis, by Sanitation Coordinator Sam Moore

Relationships, Well Drilling, and Hygiene on the Tibetan Plateau, by Volunteer Trainer Dave Williams

On Saturday morning, Open House participants enjoyed a continental breakfast and devotions (see front page devotional by Dan Stevens) followed by **A Closer Look Workshops:**

Sneak Preview of Lifewater's New Curriculum introduced participants to this exciting new project that focuses on developing professional training manuals for Lifewater programs.

Lifewater's International Partners offered an overview of the organizations that Lifewater is training.

Lifewater Technologies: Growing Edges introduced new strategies that Lifewater is considering in the areas of well drilling, pump repair, water treatment, and holistic community development.

The Water Crisis: What You Need to Know provided statistics, resource websites, and other information to equip people as water advocates in their communities.

Q&A Time for Volunteer Trainers gave Lifewater VTs the opportunity to learn more about developments in the organization.

In the afternoon, Open House participants were invited to **tour Lifewater's new office.** Lifewater moved just two weeks before the Open House to improve its efficiency and accommodate a growing staff.

The Open House Weekend concluded with a **celebration banquet** honoring our Volunteer Trainers, board members, church representatives, and donors.

Lifewater received glowing reviews of the Open House Weekend. One volunteer wrote, "We had a great time and learned a lot. Also, it was great to get to know the Lifewater staff."

Upcoming newsletters will elaborate on developments introduced at the Open House. If you are interested in receiving a summary of any of the trip reports or workshops mentioned here, please send an e-mail to Leslie Hawthorne Klingler, Co-Director of Communications, at lhawthorne-klingler@lifewater.org.

Photo above: 2006 Open House participants gather for a "Welcome" barbeque.

Give a Lifewater Gift Card this Christmas!

Make this Christmas season less hectic by buying your Lifewater Gift Cards ahead of time. Log onto www.lifewater.org (or see enclosed envelope) to make your purchase. Your friends and family will receive beautiful Christmas cards by e-mail or post telling them of the contribution in their name (with a personal message from you), and you'll be blessed by knowing you've made a difference and checked holiday shopping off your list!



Lifewater Hosts its Second Africa Partners Conference in Zambia

by Pat Klever, Projects Director

I stepped off the plane in Lusaka, Zambia, and excitedly waded through customs and immigration. Thankfully, the spare drilling parts my Lifewater companions and I carried for the local drill crew cleared customs without a glitch. Once through, we were warmly greeted by six smiling faces of friends from Uganda and Zambia. The second Lifewater Africa Partners Conference was about to begin. (The first was held in Kampala, Uganda, in 2004.)

Throughout our first night, 26 representatives of 12 Lifewater partner organizations trickled in to the Christian Care guest house after long journeys from Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Mozambique, and Zambia. They had come to share their experiences and knowledge in water, sanitation, and hygiene.

Conference participants, along with the five of us from Lifewater (two Volunteer Trainers and three staff members), enjoyed five

Above left: 2006 Lifewater Africa Partners Conference participants

Above right: Male participants play the role of latrine walls during drama time at the sanitation training portion of the Africa Partners Conference.

days of discussion, demonstrations, and training. We worked on a range of topics, including

- working effectively with communities;
- conflict resolution;
- fundraising and reporting;
- ministry outreach;
- bio-sand filtration, and;
- sanitation promotion.

In addition to learning together, everyone appreciated the fellowship. We were especially grateful for the blessing that washed over us one evening as we sang over and over a simple chorus praising God in nine languages.

I returned home grateful for every one of the conference participants—the faces of Lifewater in Africa joined by their desire to serve God and bring hope to a thirsty world.



Daudi Kaliisa, Lifewater's new West Africa Regional Coordinator

Lifewater Welcomes New West Africa Regional Coordinator

by Leslie Hawthorne Klingler

Daudi Kaliisa joined the Lifewater staff on August 1, assuming the role of West Africa Regional Coordinator. A native of Uganda, Daudi has an M.A. in international development and experience working as the Uganda Country Director for USAID program ACIDI/VOCA, which sends professionals from the U.S. to provide technical assistance in developing nations. He has also worked as a Human Resource Coordinator for CARE International and research fellow in minority studies for the University of Iowa.

As West Africa Regional Coordinator, Daudi will develop Lifewater's relationships with current African partners and cultivate new partnerships. He will also network with other entities working in the field and identify new funding sources.

Daudi most looks forward to developing relationships with likeminded partners in West Africa. "Grass-root connections are the key to everything," Daudi says. He asks for prayer as he settles into his new job and discovers God's plan for him at Lifewater.

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Please pray for
Volunteer Trainers
and the people
whose lives they
have touched.

Returning Training Trips

CHINA: (6/13–7/3) Rod Thompson led Volunteer Trainers Carrie Wallestad, Matt Grieger, Dave Williams, Karen Wong, and staff member Fred Proby to train a Lifewater partner in Shallow Well Drilling and Community Health through Hygiene.

CHINA: (6/19–7/1) Ray and Rosemary Miller traveled with Fred Proby to train a Lifewater partner in Community Health through Hygiene.

ETHIOPIA: (6/15–7/4) Terry and Ginny Steinhoff, Lon Stuebinger, and Diane Foss trained Kale Heywet Church staff members in Hand Pump Repair and Community Health through Hygiene.

ZAMBIA: (7/18–8/13) Staff member Adam Feffer and Seeds of Hope International Partnerships director Kirk Schauer led Advanced Well Drilling and Basic and Advanced Community Health through Hygiene trainings.

UGANDA: (7/20–7/29) Elizabeth Stewart conducted a survey trip with Lifewater partners Deliverance Church and Divine Waters and representatives from Jars of Clay/ Blood Water Mission and Invisible Children regarding helping children brutalized by the Lord’s Resistance Army.

PHILIPPINES: (8/15–8/24) Berle Taylor led a team of Volunteer Trainers Stan Ostrom and Glen Frachiseur to conduct Advanced Well Drilling and Small Business Development trainings.

Upcoming Training Trips

UGANDA and KENYA: (10/14–11/4) Ken Moore, Rod Thompson, and Sally Scholl will train Lifewater partners Deliverance Church–Uganda, Divine Waters of Uganda, and Lifewater Kenya in Bio-Sand Filtration.