



Water & Education

By Elizabeth Limpic

By simply looking around the school grounds on my most recent trip to Zambia, Africa, it was easy to see the important role water plays in the daily lives of students. Aside from the color of the children's burgundy uniforms against the brown landscape, flashes of yellow were visible all over the courtyard as the students moved about. **The yellow was not from books or backpacks, but from plastic jugs that the pupils clutched tightly in their hands.** The yellow jugs were an intimate part of the school landscape. Since the school had no water on its property, students took long breaks to fetch water from a well located a half-mile away. As I watched, I realized that even more than books or paper, the jugs represented life as the students filled and refilled them with water.

Most people in the U.S. cannot imagine a school with no drinking fountains, flush toilets, or sinks in which to wash hands. Unfortunately, the scene above is common in most classrooms throughout Sub-Saharan Africa. **Children's education suffers greatly from a lack of safe water and sanitation for several reasons.**

Water Collection. Too often students use valuable class time to fetch water long distances from the school. They have to carry jugs that are far too heavy for their small frames, which affects the development of their spines as they grow. Frequently, they are collecting it from contaminated sources.

Disease & Death. Unsafe water leads to severe outbreaks of diarrheal diseases, some of the most deadly diseases for children in the developing world. Improper waste disposal and lack of water for proper hand washing perpetuates diseases such as cholera, typhoid, and hepatitis. **These outbreaks force school closures, making education impossible in some rural areas.**

Effect on Female Students. Many girls are not able to attend school because their main responsibility for the family, collecting water, requires hours of walking each day. In many cases, young women drop out of school when they reach puberty because of a lack of privacy or female-only facilities. Improved latrines, hand in hand with adequate access to safe water, can significantly improve attendance at schools, especially for girls. **After making provisions for safe water and latrines at two schools, Lifewater's partner in Kenya reported a reduction in girls being pulled from class to fetch water.** They also noted a "remarkable increase in female enrollment."

People all over the world cite lack of education as one of the main obstacles to reducing poverty. Lifewater understands that in order to improve education, issues like water and sanitation need to be addressed. That is why Lifewater is working to provide schools with safe water, latrines, and hygiene education in places like Zambia, Kenya, Ecuador, and Central Asia. By reducing disease and providing for students' basic needs for water and sanitation, schools once again become assets to the community and catalysts for a better future.



A source of safe water at schools helps increase female enrollment.

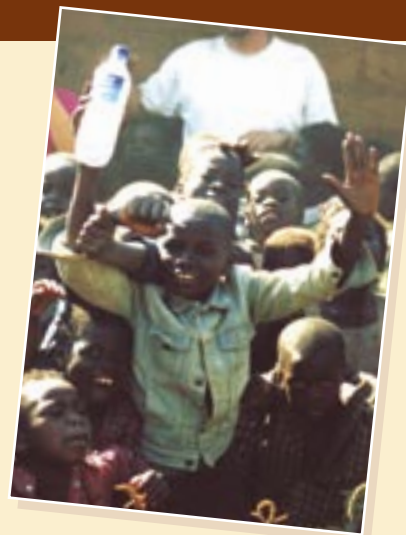
"All you who thirst, come to the water! Though you have no money, come . . ." Isaiah 55:1



Alternative Christmas Gift-Giving: "Give the gift that will not be forgotten"

In response to requests for meaningful gift ideas this Christmas, we have created a way for you to give the foundational gift of clean water and life-saving hygiene in honor of your friends and family. Donate \$25 to support the hygiene and sanitation program or \$50 toward providing safe drinking water and receive a gift card to send to your loved ones this Christmas.

On the enclosed envelope, check the "gift" box and indicate the number of gift cards you wish to receive. Please write in the total dollar amount enclosed. When we receive your donation, we will send your Lifewater Christmas cards to your address, so that you can personalize them and send them out to your friends and family. This is truly a gift that will not be forgotten!



"Clean Hands, Clean Heart"

Inside Message:

A \$25 gift has been given in honor of you this Christmas to Lifewater International! This gift will help train families how to prevent disease through hygiene and sanitation training.



"Abundant Life"

Inside Message:

A \$50 gift has been given in honor of you this Christmas to Lifewater International! This gift will help provide clean water for the thirsty through indigenous well drilling programs around the world.

this issue...

Fall 2004

**Water & Education • Amazing Generosity, Amazing Results
Wedding Bells & Water Wells • Volunteers In The Field
Spreading J.O.Y. through Long-term Service • Privatization of Water
Saps Precious School Resources • Alternative Christmas Gift-Giving**



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Amazing Generosity, Amazing Results

By Carol Nowlin

At the end of 2003, we invited our supporters to help us serve more people with safe water, and we were *amazed at the results*. Readers of Dan Stevens' November letter responded overwhelmingly to his challenge to provide hygiene and safe water through drilled or repaired wells, raising a total of almost \$50,000. Many others gave gifts in honor of their loved ones to support Lifewater's hygiene and well drilling programs, raising over \$10,000 through our Christmas Card Campaign.

What were the results of this generosity? Many good things have happened in 2004. With this issue's focus on education in mind, I have selected just a couple stories to share with you about how Lifewater has made an impact this year.

Sierra Leone. Children at a school in Makeni lost their source of water when the hand pump was stolen from their well. After receiving Lifewater training in February, a team from Childhelp Sierra Leone was able to replace the stolen pump and restore safe water to the 400 children and their teachers.

Central Asia. Teachers in a village school were giving hygiene lessons to a rowdy classroom full of children while their Lifewater trainer observed their efforts. Just then the school principal walked in and admonished the children: "Be sure to listen well. The foreigners who gave us this training do not have a lot of money, but they came here to help us anyway. They won't be here forever, so we must listen carefully to what they have to share."

Your support has made a difference in 2004, and as the end of the tax year approaches, I encourage you to include Lifewater in your year-end giving plans. We are truly thankful for all those who partner with us in offering both safe and *living water* to a thirsty world.

Students learning about the transmission of disease, which is part of Lifewater's hygiene program.

Wedding Bells & Water Wells

For one couple, Ezer and Jan Kang, who got married in Southern California recently, their wedding was a chance to celebrate life as well as give the *gift of life* to those in need. A recent article in the New York Times focusing on Sub-Saharan Africa and water as well as a trip to Africa for the groom had impacted the couple. They decided, in lieu of party favors to, "carve out a portion of [their] recent wedding budget to partner with Lifewater International." Each place setting at the reception included water goblets with tags displaying the *Lifewater International* logo. At the reception, Ezer rose to thank the guests and told them the following:

"... in everyone's glasses is something God has given to help us sustain life – water. It disturbs us to learn that this natural resource and basic right is beyond the reach of billions [of people]. . . In the spirit of celebrating life, Jan and I decided to support the efforts of an amazing group on this special day."

Ezer then went on to explain to his guests about *Lifewater International* and the work we do around the world in water development, hygiene, and sanitation.

Ezer and Jan are a part of a much larger nationwide trend where couples are using their wedding day to bless others. Some ask for donations to their favorite charity in place of gifts, while others register through the *I Do Foundation* whose partner stores donate a portion of gift money to charity. Ezer and Jan's decision to focus on others in need on their special day will continue to have a ripple effect for many years to come.



Please pray for volunteers in the field...

Leaving in October

Peru, returning November 4th. Volunteers Kathy Borland (CA), and Dick and Sue Morris (CA) will be working with missionaries from Amazon Focus. They will be training the Yurimaguas people in hygiene in the jungles of Peru. Dick will also be assessing their need for sand-filtration, which is an effective way to attain clean water.

Tanzania, returning November 11th. Keith and Lilly Olson (MN) and Yvonne Tandberg will partner with Rev. Lambert of the Iringa Diocese to facilitate a countrywide hygiene and sanitation training session for two people from each of the 20 Dioceses in Tanzania.

Annual Volunteers' Conference, October 8th-11th. The theme for the conference is "Going Deeper" based on the scripture verse found in Luke 5:4. During the conference Lifewater volunteers will gather to hear speakers, share trip reports, and plan project training trips for 2005. Please pray that this would be a productive and blessed time.

Leaving in November

Ethiopia, returning November 22. Lifewater is working with the Ethiopian Kale Heywet Church to build capacity within their existing hand pump repair program. Volunteers John Esch (MI), Kevin Klever (CA), and Michael Nevin (CA) will travel to Debre Zeit to train 10 people in maintenance and repair of hand pumps.

Spreading J.O.Y. through Long-term Service

"Every human being is valuable before God. When you drink dirty water, God feels very bad. He cares."
Vincent Okeng of J.O.Y Drilling, Uganda

Since 1992, Lifewater and J.O.Y. Drilling, which stands for, Jesus first, Others second, and Yourself last, have partnered to provide safe water and share the gospel with the people of Uganda through shallow well drilling. Vincent has been reaching out to communities, refugee camps, and schools for the past 12 years, placing a high emphasis on community participation for the project. As he and his crew invest in people throughout Uganda, lives are transformed by their love and commitment.

The 17-year insurgency in Northern Uganda has had a devastating impact on the region, displacing an estimated 1.4 million people. J.O.Y Drilling has focused their efforts in Northern Uganda, an area with several displaced peoples' camps. In the midst of this devastation, J.O.Y. Drilling has served approximately 35,000 Ugandans with safe water. They have also found favor with many community leaders because they take the time to train local people how to use the new source of water effectively.

Currently, J.O.Y. Drilling is impacting communities where they are drilling by teaching money management skills. In order to increase ownership for the project, they are requiring community leaders to open bank accounts to help pay for bags of cement, as well as keep



Vincent and his crew train the community on how to maintain the hand pump.

money for repairs and maintenance for the hand pump. **Vincent shares, "Money in the bank can't be eaten easily. When the pump breaks in the morning, it should be repaired in the afternoon. We want this project to benefit the next generation. Many community leaders are appreciating our advice."**

Because of the crew's love and commitment to the people they are serving, they have open doors to share the *living water* of Jesus. Over the years, Vincent estimates they have shared the gospel directly with over 5,000 people and seen 400 commitments to follow Christ. Please continue to pray for the ground-breaking work this team is doing and for their ability to impact communities with Jesus' love.

Water & Education Cont. Privatization of Water Saps Precious School Resources

An Editorial By Elizabeth Limpic



Water or Education? Rising water costs are forcing many schools to shut their doors.

"All you who thirst, come to the water! Though you have no money, come . . ."
(Isaiah 55:1)

As governments in developing countries turn municipal water supplies over to private companies, school resources suffer greatly. Many governments, under pressure from the World Bank and Millennium Development Goals, have turned to private companies in an effort to expand people's access to safe water. However, as this basic human need is turned into a market commodity, its' perceived monetary value has grown and outpaced even government-run schools' ability to pay for their share.

Schools rely heavily on safe water and sanitation in order to function effectively. In Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe, several schools are facing closure due to water rationing and exorbitant water bills. Although schools can charge fees to pay for water, many parents are incapable or unwilling to pay. Thus, precious funds are redirected from urgently needed textbooks and stationery to cover rising water costs.

Unfortunately, many governments have neglected to maintain piped sources of water to schools due to a lack of infrastructure and finances. However, turning this precious service over to private companies is not the solution, especially if it causes a domino effect of school closure and further eroded educational systems.

An integrated approach to maintaining safe water sources at schools is critical. A focused effort on repairing broken hand pumps and drilling new water wells with community participation and ownership is a more sustainable solution, although it is a lengthier process. Training community leaders in water management and conservation will also help. Fighting poverty requires both education and fulfillment of basic human needs such as water and sanitation. We cannot sacrifice one at the expense of the other.