



Don't forget to match your water bill this month



Please pray  
for volunteers  
in the field...

Above: Partnering for clean,  
safe water around the world.  
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### Leaving in March:

Togo, returning March 20th. Garon and Susan Harris and Stewart King are working in Kano, Togo, with Assemblies of God churches. They are focusing on pump repair and hygiene training. Please pray for the health and safety of the team.

Ethiopia, and East Africa Regional Conference, returning April 1st. Dan Stevens, Kevin & Patricia Klever, and Sally Scholl are pioneering a new partnership with the Kale Heywet Church in Ethiopia, training in hand pump repair and hygiene and sanitation (see "Breaking Ground" article). Board member Kanan Coleman will later meet up with the Lifewater team in Uganda to help them facilitate a training conference for the Lifewater partners in the region.

Ecuador, returning May 8th. Charles and Janell Dechert going to the Esmeraldas region to prepare the way for a Lifewater training trip in April. They are working with Cesar Cortez of HCJB to build a trailer for hauling the newly arrived drilling supplies.

Tanzania, returning May 9th. Lifewater volunteers have partnered in the past with the Unreached Peoples Mission of Itigi, training in well drilling and pump repair. This time Lilly Olson, Amy Buckingham, and Phoebe Lee will be teaching hygiene training to a women's ministry there.

Tanzania, returning May 29th. Art and Karen Pabst and Keith and Lilly Olson of St. Paul Partners will be continuing their work in water development and hygiene training with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania. They have been working with the Iringa Diocese in water development since 2002.

### Pray for Haiti

Two Lifewater trips to Haiti were planned for March, but due to the increasing security concern and civil unrest both project trips were postponed until safer times. Please pray for wisdom for the teams as they reschedule the project trips and for peace for the people of Haiti.

### Leaving in April

Ecuador, returning May 16th. Peter and Priscilla Rynning, Dave Potts, Tommy Lynch, and Carol Nowlin will be following the March trip with training on a new air-rotary drill from Lifewater, along with hygiene training in the Esmeraldas region.

Mozambique, returning June 25th. James and Justino, Lifewater partners representing the United Methodist Church, will be hosting Dwayne and Nancy Lee and Walt and Marge Rau to train a second crew up north in well drilling and hygiene training.



## Water & HIV/AIDS

By Dr. Kanan Patel-Coleman



**It is crucial that the fight against HIV/AIDS includes a clean water initiative to prolong lives, improve health, and render medications more effective.**

December 1, 2003 marked World AIDS Day, a commemoration aimed at stimulating awareness of and mobilizing action related to the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS on human lives. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) with the World Health Organization (WHO), in their annual report AIDS Epidemic Update 2003, present some sobering numbers:

- The world contains 40 million people living with HIV/AIDS. Nearly 3 million of these are children under 15 years.
- 3 million died of AIDS in 2003 (1 every 10 seconds); 1/2 a million were children.
- There were 14,000 new HIV infections per day in 2003; 8000 were in people less than 25 years of age.
- More than 95% of new infections occur in low and middle-income countries.

**So, what does AIDS have to do with Lifewater and providing safe drinking water? More than we might have imagined.**

The Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) breaks down the immune system over a period of time until the person becomes vulnerable to common illnesses. At this stage, called Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), infections from diarrhea and malaria can become fatal even for adults.

In the least developed countries, up to 90% of AIDS patients suffer from chronic diarrheal diseases, which contribute to an increase in diarrheal deaths. **Providing safe water to AIDS-infected individuals is essential to increasing the lifespan of infected parents, professionals and others - the groups that lay the foundation for a healthy society.**

Sufficient supply of safe water nearby is important to reduce the impact and spread of AIDS for many other reasons:

- People weakened by AIDS will not be able to walk long distances to get water.
- If drugs are available for treating HIV or other infections, they are often in pill form and need to be taken with clean, safe water in order to be more effective.
- AIDS patients are susceptible to skin conditions or eye infections that need to be washed with clean water.
- Many AIDS patients get a fungal infection of the mouth or throat (thrush) that causes a burning or dry sensation, which can be helped by drinking water.
- Caregivers will need water for hand washing before and after caring for ill people so as not to spread the disease to others.
- Mothers with HIV may choose to protect their infant children from getting infected by using formula instead of breast milk, but safe water is needed to mix the formula.

Without clean water, those affected by the disease have little hope of survival. It is crucial that the fight against HIV/AIDS includes a clean water initiative to prolong lives, improve health, and render medications more effective. As Lifewater continues to respond to the need for clean water, adequate sanitation and proper hygiene around the world, life expectancy increases and hope of a better day is restored in the midst of this deadly disease.



**Above:** People's lives rely on access to clean, safe water. Togo, West Africa

**Top Left:** Drinking clean, uncontaminated water prolongs life for HIV/AIDS-infected people.

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## Spring 2004

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**“The war is over and we are trying to develop the nation. We need you.”**

*Kaprie Thoranka, Director of Child Help Organization in Sierra Leone*

## Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone, famous for its capital Freetown that was settled by over 50,000 freed slaves in the early 1800s, has been locked in a civil war from 1991 up until a year ago. The war has resulted in thousands of deaths and the displacement of well over one-third of the population, many of whom are refugees in neighboring countries. After several setbacks in the peace process, UN peacekeeping troops, The World Bank, and the international community have finally demobilized and disarmed the rebel groups. The Government has regained its authority and established peace. At last, three years after Kaprie Thoranka, Director of Child Help, first contacted Lifewater asking for clean water for his community, Lifewater is sending a team of volunteers (John Nadolski, Marge Rau, Buck Ford, and Paul Peterson) for three weeks in February.

Knowing how desperate the needs are in this war-torn land, Regional Coordinator John Nadolski decided to include a hand pump repair and hygiene component in this initial survey trip. He began researching what size pump cylinders to bring when Kaprie humbly informed him that there are no hand pumps left to be fixed; they were all destroyed in the war. Completely new hand pumps need to be installed over the current boreholes.

This news challenged two Lifewater volunteers who build bush pumps in Salinas, CA. Upon hearing the need, Al Abbott and his father Forest delivered eight bush pumps to the Lifewater office to be shipped before the team arrived in Sierra Leone. “The Lord brought all kinds of people together to provide for the need over there. It has been a long process, but finally the time is right,” John exclaims with a smile.

The team will survey the needs and facilitate a water workshop with other non-governmental organizations and Kaprie’s organization Child Help in the capital city, Freetown. Please pray for this initial meeting with Child Help and other organizations working in Sierra Leone and pray that God would use Lifewater to help rebuild and restore this nation.

**“Make a big impact through a small sacrifice”**

## The H2O Project

**What is the H2O Project?** Volunteers who saw what life would be like without access to clean, safe drinking water started the H2O Project. The mission of this organization is to provide clean water to those without by raising money for well drilling organizations like Lifewater. They realized that \$10-15 provides water for one person for a lifetime and began asking people to participate in the H2O Challenge.

**How does it Work?** There are two simple steps: Make water your only beverage for two weeks, then collect the money you save by that sacrifice and send it to Lifewater.

**Who can participate?** Church Groups, Sunday School Classes, Civic Clubs, Families, Companies, Schools, etc.

**Why not simply write a check instead?** By participating in the Challenge, you won’t need to divert money from your savings or from other charities you support already. And the small sacrifice on your part will also heighten personal awareness of the worldwide water need.

**How much of the money that I raise through the H2O Project will actually go to Lifewater?** 100%

“Have you been really thirsty in the last 24 hours? Did you have a hard time getting something to drink? Did you wonder if what you drank to quench your thirst was going to make you sick, or maybe even kill you? Probably not. But there are places in this world where people no different from you or me have to walk for miles just to bring home a bucket of water so dirty that some of them will become sick or even die.”

*Brenda Koinis, Founder of The H2O Project*

**What do I need in order to get started?** The H2O Project will send you a video, instructions, and supplies free of charge. To find out how you can participate in the H2O Challenge visit [www.theh2oproject.org](http://www.theh2oproject.org) or email [info@theh2oproject.org](mailto:info@theh2oproject.org).

**Are You Willing To Accept The Challenge?**

*Below: A community in Uganda gathers to offer the first gushes of clean water to the Lord.*



## Thoughts from the Field...

*Thoughts from Lifewater Partner Vincent Okeng of JOY Drilling, Uganda*

“God had been so pleased with our Ministry that we have been convicted to begin pouring the first water before the Lord as a honor to Him in the presence of the community. It has happened in the last two wells we drilled this year 2003 in Kumi District – Eastern Uganda. This recent revelation left [a] great impact in the hearts of the community. It was a time of devotion and giving the first harvest to the Lord. Everybody including us was touched and grateful to the Lord for His provision and revelation.”

# Breaking Ground: A New Ethiopia Partnership

By Patricia Klever



Above: Partnering for clean, safe water in Ethiopia

Lifewater is starting a new partnership in Ethiopia in March as a result of our membership in the Millennium Water Alliance (MWA). Lifewater will be working with MWA members Emmanuel International and Living Water International in their efforts to support the Kale Heywet Church based in the capital city, Addis Ababa. Currently, the Church has a viable water well drilling program in operation. Lifewater will help add to their water development strategy by training Church workers to provide safe drinking water in rural areas with a new program in hand pump repair. Lifewater will also be training teachers in basic hygiene and sanitation concepts that will be used to train villagers.

Ethiopia has some of the greatest needs for safe water and hygiene of anywhere in Africa. Some of the staggering statistics include: 51 million people out of a total population of 62 million live in the rural areas. The GNP (Gross National Product) per capita is equivalent to only \$100 dollars per year. Life expectancy is about 44 years; the infant mortality rate is 116 deaths per 1000 live births. Access to safe drinking water in rural areas is just 13%, with adequate sanitation facilities available to 6% of this rural population. In recent years, the country has been plagued by drought, increasing threat of HIV/AIDS, and a war with Eritrea that began in 1998, currently under a cease-fire agreement.

The MWA is receiving its first grant funding this project from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Lifewater will

receive \$35,000 in the form of a matching grant for water development project initiatives. The Alliance's initial goal is to enable 74,000 people in rural communities to access clean, safe water and sanitation and is planning to expand its program in Ethiopia to other East African countries in 2005 and 2006.

## THE MWA

The Alliance is a consortium of seven leading U.S. humanitarian and faith-based non-governmental organizations that work across the globe serving millions of people with safe drinking water, hygiene and improved sanitation. Founding members include CARE, Emmanuel International, Lifewater International, Living Water International, Water Missions International, WaterPartners International and World Vision. MWA was formed in December 2002 to assist with the U.S. commitment to the Millennium Development Goals. UNICEF is an advisor to the MWA.

## A Mother's Choice

An Editorial By Elizabeth Limpic



On a recent episode of the hospital drama ER, Dr. Carter (an ER Doctor) experiences life in a rundown Congolese AIDS clinic, where he treats HIV/AIDS patients. The episode focuses on his desire to help an African mother dying of AIDS. **Dr. Carter wrestles with the complexities of "mother to child transmission" of the disease during breast-feeding, called MTCT.** As he tries to advise the mother how to care for her child, a heated discussion erupts between Dr. Carter, and Makemba, the African AIDS worker. The discussion centers on the reality poor mothers face when feeding their children, as opposed to the policies set out by international organizations regarding "mother to child transmission" of HIV/AIDS.

Most international organizations recommend that women with HIV/AIDS should not breast-feed their children, due to the 10-20% chance of MTCT. Companies like Nestle have taken advantage of this recommendation by marketing their baby formulas in developing countries as a way to prevent the spread of HIV. However, AIDS workers like Makemba say that it is not that simple.

The edict not to breast feed is not realistic for most poor mothers for many reasons, one of the biggest being the lack of access to clean, safe water. **Without safe water for preparing formula, washing the bottle, and washing hands, water-borne and diarrheal diseases leading to death in babies increases greatly.** In countries like Congo, infant mortality averages more than 10%, a figure that experts say can triple with artificial feeding. Current research on infant mortality and disease transmission does not adequately take into account the effects of formula feeding.

When basic needs like safe water are not being met, mothers infected with HIV/AIDS face difficult choices, even when they receive adequate education from health workers. The fight against AIDS is a battle that must be fought in a holistic manner. **Without providing communities with the basic necessities of clean water, proper hygiene and sanitation, all the health information in the world will not result in more babies surviving in poverty-stricken communities.** There are no simple answers, but we know that safe water must be a part of the solution in preventing the spread of AIDS. There are many more mothers just like the one featured on ER with a hard choice to make, not only because they are HIV-infected, but because they are also living in poverty.

Above: Hopefully, HIV/AIDS infected mothers will receive adequate counsel and facts as they decide whether to breast feed or use formula for their babies.