



Water & Conflict

By Elizabeth Limpic



An adult can live without food for several weeks, but only two or three days without water. Water gives life and we rely on a continuous source of it to stay healthy. Without a reliable source of water, life becomes unstable. When food production, sanitation, health, education, drinking, cattle rearing, etc. are threatened due to water scarcity, conflict often arises.

If water is life, then possessing it gives power. Most conflict deals with the distribution or leveraging of

power. When some people don't have access to clean water and others do, there is an unequal distribution of power that can cause conflict. According to a 1996 NATO/CCMS study, "Water shortage is generally seen as the environmental problem most likely to lead to violent conflict." When studying nations' internal and external conflict, water is noteworthy for several reasons:

Agriculture. Water scarcity within a country that depends heavily on agriculture for its economy can cause political instability and internal strife.

Urban Migration. Rural people who lack a stable water supply may migrate to urban areas, leading to overcrowding and stress on already limited resources.

Privatization. Private ownership of water often raises prices many times putting water out of reach for the poor who need it most. This unequal distribution of resources can increase conflicts within a country.

Refugees. People living in the midst of conflict may have to leave their homes to seek water in harsh, and even dangerous environments.

International Waterways. 90% of all usable water in the Middle East and North Africa crosses over one or more international boundaries. This gives neighbors who live upstream the ability to exert sovereignty over the flow at any time just by increasing consumption.

"Without a reliable source of water, life becomes unstable."

The presence of accessible safe water is important in preventing conflict and taking care of people in the midst of violent conflict. Lifewater International helps people have access to safe, clean water. Lifewater's participatory approach to water development and health helps communities learn to work together. With the right technology and social cooperation, scarcity of water does not have to lead to conflict.



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Summer 2004

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Demonstrating God's Love through Clean Water

By Carol Nowlin

In the jungles of northern Ecuador, God's love is transforming lives, one well at a time. In forty remote communities in Esmeraldas Province, children and families now drink from a safe source of water – a well, drilled by a Lifewater-trained team.

Esmeraldas (meaning "emerald") is home to winding rivers and lush vegetation, but also home to many of the poorest communities in Ecuador. Consider the situation described by Cesar Cortez of HCJB, Lifewater's partner organization:

"The health and social problems in the area are quite severe.... They do not have potable water, sanitation, garbage disposal or latrines. The wastes of upstream users most often pollute the river water. Often dead animals are seen floating downstream. The social ills, which include prostitution, alcoholism, drug abuse, and family violence, are at epidemic levels."



Responding to this great need, Cesar and his team began work in the area in 1996 using a Lifewater-donated LS-100 drill rig. They transported the rig by canoe to the remote communities spread out along the Onzoles and Cayapas rivers. Many different

Expect to learn from experienced speakers and hands-on workshops, engage in exciting planning sessions for 2005 upcoming project trips, and network with a wonderful group of mission-minded people. Registration packets will be sent out in July to all current Lifewater volunteers. *For new or existing Lifewater volunteers, these are an essential four days!*

If you are not currently a Lifewater volunteer, but are interested in becoming one or just want to find out more about us, this four-day conference is a great opportunity. Please email info@lifewater.org to receive a conference registration packet or a volunteer application.



Above: Cesar's crew work with the new Lifewater-donated LS-100 rig at an AIDS orphanage. **Left:** Clean water has dramatically improved the children's health in the community.

Christian groups had visited these communities over the years, says Cesar, with the result that, "people from these rivers thought that every evangelical church was a different religion." Suspicion of outsiders was high.

Along with faithfully drilling wells, Cesar began to gather together pastors from Esmeraldas to form a pastors' association, beginning with just four people. As more and more pastors witnessed God's love being demonstrated in their communities through well drilling, many more of them began to join the association. Today, forty-five pastors meet regularly to study the Bible together!

In those forty communities where HCJB and Lifewater have been working, children are dramatically healthier than just seven years ago. Community members are receiving training in hygiene and sanitation and are learning how to maintain their wells. Pastors are being trained and encouraged as they work together to serve their communities. In Esmeraldas Province, God is at work, transforming it into its namesake – a shining jewel – one life and one community at a time.

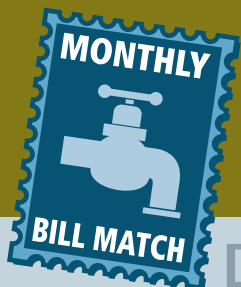
Attention Lifewater Volunteers . . .

Mark your calendars for Lifewater's Annual Volunteers' Conference happening this October 8th-11th, 2004, to be held in Pasadena, California, at the U.S. Center for World Missions. Check-in and registration will begin on Thursday afternoon, October 7th.



Shop online and help save lives!

When shopping at Amazon.com, a portion of the sales can go to Lifewater International. Go to www.lifewater.org and click on the Amazon.com icon at the bottom of the homepage. This will guarantee that a percentage of your purchase will help bring people clean water and Jesus' love. It is just that simple!



Don't forget to match your water bill this month

Clean Water Restoring Relationships

By Dan Holmgren

In February 2004 an Indonesian well drilling crew called **Team Bore**, consisting of Lifewater-trained refugees, witnessed how clean water and Jesus' love in the face of conflict and differences can bring reconciliation. The Islamic village of Soki was badly damaged as Jihad warriors marched through, chasing Christians under threat of death. The leader of Soki immediately recognized the need to restore clean water to his village and asked Team Bore to come drill regardless of their "religious affiliation." Team Bore agreed to install the well outside the main mosque in the village.

A group of Lifewater-trained volunteers from Alaska began training Team Bore two years ago after forming an organization to respond to the need of refugees in Indonesia called International Friends of Compassion (IFC). Once trained, Team Bore began immediately providing wells to villages that had experienced recent violence, places that westerners could not go without extreme risk.

While Team Bore was onsite drilling in Soki, one crew member made an astounding confession that he had fought on the side of the Jihad in the area that they were installing the well! Not only that, he recognized several of the community members who had fought with him. God had transformed his life in the refugee camp while receiving training from Lifewater volunteers. He is now working to bring peace and salvation to Muslims as he cares for their need for clean water.



Above: Team Bore in front of the mosque with two Soki community leaders.

When the well was finished, the Soki leader gave permission for the crew to dedicate the well outside of the Islamic mosque by praying in thanksgiving to Jesus and asking for God's blessing on the community. A few months earlier this village was the site of extreme conflict between Muslims and Christians. Through Team Bore and their offering of clean water, God laid the foundation for deep reconciliation to take place. Please pray for the village of Soki and the relationships that Team Bore established through the simple offering of clean water to a people in need of its life-giving properties.

Water Wars

An Editorial By Elizabeth Limpic



No money, no water. Children can no longer access clean water because the price is too high.

"[Water is] one of the world's great business opportunities. It promises to be to the 21st century what oil was to the 20th." - Fortune Magazine

Until now, water has been viewed mostly as a public good, not a market commodity, especially since there was little or no profit to be made from owning or managing water utilities. As people realize the value of this increasingly scarce resource, some countries are shifting control of their water systems to privately owned companies. The underlying premise – that the cost of providing this valued resource should be recovered – is sound, but privatization can have unintended and disastrous results.

Many communities around the world have already witnessed the disastrous effects of water privatization. In many cases private companies are charging well above what poor communities can pay, thus excluding the already vulnerable and marginalized segments of a country's population from access to safe water.

In South Africa the new policy of cost recovery started being applied throughout the country in various ways. However, poor South Africans saw the process of privatization as all the same: no money, no water system. In Ngwelezane, South Africa, people had to return to gathering water from polluted sources such as Lake Emshulutuzi, leading to one of the worst Cholera outbreaks in their history. In Cochabamba, Bolivia, people revolted in 2000 as their water rates doubled when a U.S. company took control of the water source.

Cost recovery does not have to occur to the detriment of the water system's poorest users. Simply changing control of a nation's water supply from public to private hands does little to correct the imbalances or improve the lives of its users. Grassroots involvement and an affordable, sustainable approach to cost recovery that takes into account the economic condition in an area will promote peace and ensure the poor have adequate access to safe water.



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for volunteers
in the field...

Returning Trips from June

Kenya: Cathy Fitzgerald and students from Reno were able to successfully drill a well and install a rain harvesting system with the trained national crew at the secondary school in Rabondo, Kenya. We are very thankful for Cathy's service to the people of Kenya. We praise God for this opportunity for the students and for providing clean water through a new well.

Volunteers On The Field- July

Haiti / La Gonave: Volunteers Joe Troester, Doug Headrick, Otto Schick, Jeff Stevens, Ron Petersen, and Rich Redd had planned a trip to do a geophysical survey of the land using a very sophisticated water meter. However, due to the airline restrictions, the team was unable to bring along the equipment. Ron and Rich decided to stay behind with the meter; however the rest of the team has decided to focus on water quality survey and pump repair. Please pray for the guidance of the team. Pray that the Lord would bring much fruitfulness.

Ethiopia: Staff member Patricia Klever, along with volunteers Janet Hedges, Sally Scholl, and Linda Key, headed out on July 1st to do intense hygiene and sanitation training at the Kale Heywet Church in Ethiopia. We have very high hopes for this team and are excited to hear their reports. Please pray for the trainings to be effective and for the health and well being of the team.

Tanzania: Keith Olson will be working with Geology professor Jim Clark and Christy Page, a student from Wheaton College, on well drilling training. Please pray for growth for the Tanzania team as well as success in the projects.

China: The team members are Rod Thompson, Sally Scholl, John Sedlak and David Olsen. The team's hygiene trainers will have 3-4 days in the classroom followed by field training/observation along with cable tool drilling issues with Gary and Linda Pasquarell, Lifewater partners. Please pray for these trainers as they travel to China; that the Lord would allow them opportunities to share His love while also providing the basic life-saving skills of water development.

Leaving in August

No trips are scheduled to leave in the month of August.

Philippines, scheduled for August, has been postponed until 2005.