



Haitian crew chief, Jean-Louis with son.

["Gift of Water, Gift of Life"]



John Nadolski surrounded by new friends in Togo.

["Upcoming Trips:  
March/April:"]

**Angola:** Randy Taylor (SD), and Jim Perkins (CA) Randy Taylor and Jim Perkins (CA) are planning a survey trip to Angola in February or March. Please pray that God will provide for wisdom as they plan for the drill training later in the year.

**Cambodia:** Fred and Janet Proby (CA) and Bill and Dolores Godwin (CA) will be training the Cambodian Methodist Council in well drilling and hygiene education during this trip.

**Peru:** Vince Tidwell (NM), Richard Howard (GA), and Sarah Vlachos (OH)

Vince Tidwell looks to lead a team to Peru in late spring or early summer, depending on when the drilling equipment arrives on site. Vince is looking forward to using shallow well drilling and participatory hygiene training to help the people of Peru.

**Liberia:** Jim Gehrels (Canada), Glenn Stronks (Canada), and Randy Taylor (SD) The Liberian drill team plans to install their 100th well on this trip. It is an amazing accomplishment and we celebrate their success. We pass along our congratulations to the team, as well as Jim Gehrels and Glenn Stronks of Lifewater Canada.

["Please Pray for these  
trips out on the field:"]

**India: SDI** - Nathan and Tiffany McEachen (CO), Jim Nickel (WI), Ray and Rosemary Miller (WA) This group will be helping Sampuru Development, our action agency, in pump repair, advanced drill training, and hygiene education.

**Ecuador: HCJB** - Kevin and Pat Klever (CA), and Helena Verho (MO) will be working in the Amazon Basin teaching seminars on "spring development".



# Lifewater

INTERNATIONAL



January / February 2003

## Haitian Crews Continue to Bless

*"This is what the Lord says: 'I have healed this water. Never again will it cause death or make the land unproductive.'" 2 Kings 2:21*

In December, Lifewater's Executive Director Dan Stevens, Founder Bill Ashe and Board Member Jeff Bjorck, traveled to Haiti. They visited several villages with overseas partner Johnny Armand, and Les Babcock, a long-time pioneering volunteer. Participating on their first Lifewater trip, Dan and Jeff were especially impacted as they saw firsthand how clean water transforms communities. Below Jeff gives us a brief account.

running water was safe to drink! Even though a contaminated well runs just as cool and refreshing as a clean one, the former is as safe as sewage.

As the water continued flowing, we asked the local pastor to come to the pump. He offered a prayer of thanks to Jesus Christ, the Giver of true Living Water. Following this, all present burst into a Haitian song of praise that doubtless reached God's ears as a symphonic masterpiece. I wiped tears from my eyes and thanked God for the great privilege of serving with Lifewater."

Want to read more about the trip?  
Visit [purepiano.com/Haititrip.htm](http://purepiano.com/Haititrip.htm).

"My trip to Haiti was a powerful experience. In the Western Hemisphere's poorest country, many children wear either rags or literally nothing but dirt. Let me share one brief story from our time on La Gonave, the chief island off Haiti's coast.

We spent one day accompanying the local drilling team to a broken pump. With this well unavailable, women and children were enduring daily three-hour round trip walks to obtain their "life water." To reach the pump, we carefully crawled for two hours up a dangerously steep mountain road in a five-ton WWII army surplus truck provided by Lifewater.

I was inspired to see the hard-working team applying their Lifewater training with such diligence and pride as they endured the scorching sun while disassembling the entire pump. After several hours, when the last steps of repair and reassembly were completed, I sensed mounting electricity in the air—static electricity generated by the friction of dry tongues scraping parched lips. Finally, a team member began pumping and another put his ear to the pump, straining to hear whether the precious fluid would make the climb it had not made in months. At last, water spewed forth amidst shouts and laughter! Happily, it smelled of chlorine, proving that the disinfectant inserted before reassembly had reached the well's bottom. The



Lifewater-trained Haitian crew installs the new pump.

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## From The Director's Desk

Have you ever found a little note of encouragement in your lunch box, in your car, or on your pillow? Recently, I received three "notes of encouragement" from God. They have reminded me of how He is encouraging and enabling the ministry of Lifewater International in very exciting ways.

First, as the New Year began and I looked at our financial status, I was amazed to see that we have ended the year with approximately a 10% increase in revenue over last year. This is at a time when most nonprofit organizations are experiencing a 30-40% decrease in funding. I thank God for His blessing and thank each of you for your generous and faithful giving to Lifewater.

Second, as a result of the Millennial Water Conference held in Houston last October, Lifewater has been asked to join an alliance of water resource and development organizations. The goal is to plan new initiatives that meet the growing water needs of the world. This is an exciting opportunity to work with Care USA, Living Water Intl., World Vision, Emmanuel Intl., and UNICEF. Together we hope to set a new pace for providing safe water for the rural poor along with the message of eternal life in Jesus.

My third "note of encouragement" came as a result of my recent trip to Haiti. I felt God's hope within the bleak picture of Haiti as we made significant connections with water development people working in the country. I was reminded of Lifewater's opportunity to be the catalytic influence that brings together the many ideas and people involved with water development there.

I thank God for His encouragement and for the privilege of continuing to work with you as we care for His people around the world. God bless you.

Your Co-Laborer in Christ,



Dan

## Abundant Water in Bangladesh

In late November, a team of Lifewater volunteers traveled to Dhaka, Bangladesh to provide training in health and hygiene and pump repair. The team, Ray and Rosemary Miller, Phoebe Lee, Dan Denisiu, and Dan Klein, joined the Bengali Evangelical Association, a local agency working in the Barisal sector of Dhaka.

The BEA coordinated participants from several surrounding villages and arranged for transportation to the Lifewater training classes held in one area of Barisal. Rosemary and Phoebe taught health and hygiene classes, while Ray and the two Dans taught pump repair classes.

"We were impressed with the abundance of water. All along the roads ran streams; rice fields were flooded as planting was in progress. Lack of water was not a problem: lack of clean, uncontaminated water was. We found that many outhouses were very close to fish ponds. Most people used dirty water for bathing and for washing food and clothing, while reserving well water for cooking and drinking," Dan Klein commented.

The villagers were eager to listen and learn. Phoebe and Rosemary trained about 30 women in practical methods of maintaining hygiene and sanitation for their families. Using illustrations and materials purchased locally, the women learned the basics of how germs spread and cause diarrhea, how to make hand washing stations called "tippy-taps", and a simple method for purifying water. Rosemary was even able to teach a basic first-aid course.

As Phoebe and Rosemary trained on hygiene and sanitation, Ray, Dan, and Dan gathered their pump repair class around a tool box and explained the tools' uses, care and maintenance, and some safety lessons. Then one at a time, teams of six had to dismantle a pump, inspect it, and put it back together with fresh leather seals. Through the experience of hands-on training, they quickly caught on to the basics of working with these locally made pumps.

The Lifewater volunteers also explored ideas with the villagers concerning rain catchment systems, and arsenic filters. This group of local trainees will return to their villages empowered by their new knowledge. Now they can train others with life-saving hygiene and sanitation lessons and pump repair techniques.



A local village girl and little baby who came to watch the activities.



From left to right: Johnny, Dan, Les, Bill and Jeff in Haiti.



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## Training in Togo and Ghana



Pump Repair training in Moretan, Togo.

The month long trip to Togo and Ghana was quite a spiritual and physical adventure for Lifewater team members Marissa and Ayanna Ragin, Paul Peterson, Ron Petersen, and John Nadolski. From beginning to end, God answered prayers and opened many doors of opportunity for the team.

The trip was challenging from the start as the team had to maneuver 800 pounds of luggage through a border crossing, two customs inspections, three changes of cars, and a four-hour taxi ride. As it turned out, all 800 pounds was needed: replacement parts for the drill rig, pump repair equipment, hygiene training supplies, clothes, and love gifts for the people of West Africa.

The team traveled to Moretan, Togo, four hours north of the capital Lome. There the village chief informed the team that there was an epidemic of typhoid fever in one small village nearby. The clinic was full of people with various stages of typhoid fever and it had already killed 19

people. The Lifewater group researched the cause, and found that the typhoid fever was due to a contaminated hand-dug well. This discovery made it even more important to start training the villagers in pump repair and hygiene education.

Along with the help of the Lifewater volunteers, Abraham Djadjou, the crew leader for Eau de la Vie-Togo, led a diverse group through pump repair training. The trainees included six men from Togo, three from Benin, and two from Ghana. The trainees helped repair three pumps and Lifewater left supplies to repair a few more.

Marissa Ragin led hygiene training at the health clinic in Moretan. It was a great opportunity for the local doctors. They used this gathering as a springboard to discuss ways to prevent typhoid fever. The team finished drilling a new, productive well near Lome before moving on to Ghana.

In Ghana, the team spent several days with overseas partner Rev. George Ghanem of Full Armour of God Ministries. The team was able to give insight and encourage the organization's ongoing ministry. Rev. Ghanem is planning a program to drill 14 wells this winter.

Lifewater has been able to provide water development training, but these organizations are still in need of funds for well drilling supplies. The Lifewater volunteers saw firsthand the number of communities transformed as a result of God's love shining through these two ministries.

## Fighting Disease through Education in Ecuador

Recently Lifewater volunteers Peter and Priscilla Rynning, and Walt and Marge Rau, taught participatory health and hygiene classes in Ecuador. Cesar Cortez, our overseas partner from HCJB World Radio, Quito, handpicked leaders from churches and schools in the Borbón area of Ecuador's Esmeraldas province for six days of intensive training in December.

"Infant mortality due to water-transmitted diseases is still a serious problem in Ecuador, so we are pleased to have Lifewater working alongside us," said Cortez. "The reaction of the 25 participants was very positive," he added. "After the seminar, they decided it was time to complete the sanitation model by building latrines and changing some cultural habits. Now they are educating the people in their communities and schools."

Lifewater began an ongoing partnership working with HCJB World Radio in 1997 after discovering that we share a similar purpose of providing clean water to the rural poor. "Since then [Lifewater] has been helping us with well-drilling equipment and hygiene training," Cortez says. "We reciprocate and help Lifewater by sharing our experience in Ecuador. Our relationship with Lifewater allows us to gain a worldwide perspective in potable water supply."

In February, Lifewater will be sending Pat and Kevin Klever, and Helena Verho to work in partnership with HCJB on "spring development" seminars for communities in Ecuador's Amazon basin. Later this year, another Lifewater team will train using a new well drilling rig that was donated for use in Ecuador. The rig has been shipped and is expected to arrive soon.



## Financial News

We are grateful to all of you that donated to Lifewater this last year. We were able to meet our budget because of you. Lifewater is able to serve the poorest of poor because of your generosity and we thank you.

On the "gift" page of our website ([www.lifewater.org](http://www.lifewater.org)) there is information about how you can support Lifewater and what a contribution will provide. Through the web page you can also make automatic, monthly donations from your checking account. Please fill out the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) form and send it to our office to begin this effective way of giving.

Please consider joining our *Water Bill Matching Campaign*. As you pay your monthly water bill, give thanks for the gift of clean water and extend the blessing by giving to those that are in desperate need of the same clean water. Such a great reminder not to take our water for granted!

***"Blessed to be a blessing."***