



“Gift of Water, Gift of Life”

Upcoming Trips: May/June:

Lifewater teams in the field...

This month, we have postponed three overseas training trips scheduled for Eritrea, Benin and the Philippines due to heightened security concerns around the world. The Lifewater teams planning field activities in May and June would appreciate your prayers!

Brazil: Latin American Indian Ministries (LAIM), Matt Moughamian (AR) and Rev. Marius Peyre (FL) are planning advanced drill training with a group of indigenous Indians in the northwest region of the Amazon basin. Please pray for their safety in transit and success in drilling.

Tanzania: In June, Keith and Lilly Olson (MN) along with several other volunteers from their church will be working with Rev. Lambert Mtatifikolo, Director of the Community Development Program with the Lutheran Church in Iringa, Tanzania. Lambert attended the hand pump repair training last year in Texas. His team will receive training in shallow well drilling so the church can help meet the needs of the people. Participatory hygiene and sanitation training will be taught to four groups of student teachers at the local teachers' college.

Mozambique: Walt and Marge Rau (WA), Dwayne Lee (CA), Keith Olson (MN) are traveling in May to work with James Humbane and the United Methodist Church in Maputo. James attended the Lifewater conference last year and was thrilled to learn about drilling with the LS-100. The team will teach hygiene and sanitation, drilling and handpump repair. Lifewater trained a drilling crew with the Free Methodist Church several years ago. Churches partnering together with Lifewater are saving lives in Mozambique by bringing safe water and improved hygiene to needy communities in Jesus' name.

Lifewater Hygiene and Sanitation Training

Lifewater is offering two Participatory Hygiene Training Seminars in the next two months. These trainings are great opportunities to acquire the skills to teach others simple hygiene lessons that can save lives and improve health through preventative methods. You don't have to be a Lifewater volunteer to attend! The first one is April 23-26 in Albuquerque, NM. The second seminar is scheduled for May 14-17 in Pasadena, CA. If you are interested in attending either seminar, please contact the office for an information packet. If your organization or church is interested in hosting a seminar, please contact the office for a host packet.



Lifewater INTERNATIONAL



March / April 2003

ECUADOR: Spring Improvements made in Yampuna



The children of the Shuar tribe loved the hand washing lessons!

Our small plane circled over two-dozen thatched roof buildings in the midst of thick, green jungle, then touched down on the dirt landing strip. On the runway stood a group of young Shuar men and children from the village of Yampuna in southeastern Ecuador. Some had painted their faces with geometric designs using the bright red dye of the annatto seed; they looked both fierce and beautiful.

This village had requested our help to improve their drinking water supply. Bruce Rydbeck with HCJB World Radio in Ecuador invited Lifewater's Kevin and Pat Klever and Helena Verho to participate in a training seminar in the village. Yampuna's drinking water supply comes from a small spring, a 15-minute walk from the village. Spring water flows naturally from underground and had been traditionally collected in a small, excavated pond, inches deep and just a few feet wide. We worked with the villagers to cap the spring, which purifies the source and improves flow. These improvements can be made using simple construction at low cost. The residents of Yampuna contributed by hauling thousands of pounds of sand and gravel to the spring on their backs in hand-woven baskets and provided hospitality for our work team with food and lodging.

Working side-by-side, we quickly become friends with our village hosts. One evening, Gustavo told us about his grandfather, who had been a respected and powerful warrior. In earlier days, people lived in fear of witch doctors and their curses, and warred continually with neighboring tribes. Warriors sometimes took the heads of their enemies they had killed, thus earning the name headhunters. Through the efforts of Christians who came to the Shuar tribe in the 1950's, Gustavo's grandfa-



Ancient ways yield to a new way of thinking under the eaves of this kitchen hut.

*Create in me a pure heart, Oh God, and
renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

Psalm 51:10

ther learned about the Creator God, and his Son, Yus, who offered forgiveness for his sins. He became a Yus Shuar, "one who bends the knee". Gustavo told us that his people needed to hear the gospel message over and over again to understand it, because many people still believe in the witch doctor's curses.

We finished spring improvements at two villages, poured concrete slabs for about 30 household latrines, and held sanitation training in the transmission of diarrheal disease and ways to prevent it. We enjoyed great fellowship and as we left they said, "You are welcome in Yampuna again. Come back and tell us more about God".

this issue...

**ECUADOR: Spring Improvements
made in Yampuna**

**From The Desk of Dan
Stevens, Executive Director**

**INDONESIA: Water for Refugees -
the work continues...**

Volunteer Conference 2003!

**KENYA: Board Member
Ken Moore's First Trip**

Holding on to a Spirit of Generosity

Education Corner

Upcoming Trips

**Lifewater Hygiene and
Sanitation Training**

PO Box 3131, San Luis Obispo, CA 93403
Toll free: **888-LIFE-H2O** (805-772-0600)
Web: **www.lifewater.org**

From The Desk of Dan Stevens, Executive Director

“Where there is no guidance, the people fall, but in abundance of counselors there is victory.” Prov. 11:14 (NAS)

One of the great joys of my job is the opportunity to work with a dedicated, creative and diverse group of people known collectively as the Board of Directors. As I have grown to know and care about these men and women, I am impressed with how extremely focused and hard-working this group is, with a deep heart of compassion underlying all they do. I want to introduce them to you through this short discussion with Lifewater founder Bill Ashe, Treasurer Gene Ashe, and member Jeff Bjorck.

Dan: *What factors motivated you to become a member of the Board of Directors?*

Jeff: I have a burden for the Gospel and the poor. I desire to be a good steward and to be of direct service to the Kingdom of God. And I believe that my gifts may uniquely help this ministry.

Gene: As Bill's son, I was there when Lifewater was founded and was captivated by his vision. Since life in the physical realm does not exist without water, having good water is the most basic of human needs and therefore permeates almost every facet of our existence. And water is one of the elemental analogies God has used to reveal His nature.

Dan: *If you could tell people just one thing about Lifewater, what would it be?*

Bill: We provide the vehicle, water development, to introduce the gospel through the acts of Christian service.

Jeff: Lifewater is the most cost-effective ministry I know of addressing the MOST crucial and foundational physical human need on the planet.

Dan: *What is the most exciting story you have heard about an impact Lifewater has had for the rural poor?*

Gene: It was when Les Babcock installed a Lifewater well in a small Haitian village. That well put the local witch doctor out of business because people no longer got sick from their water. Here is a concrete example of light triumphing over darkness through safe water.

Bill: In the secondary school at Kerengett, Kenya, 345 students received a Lifewater well to use while at school. These students pointed out that this well saved them hours of walking to get safe water so they had more time to study. What a wonderful gift for the 345 students and their education, all for a one time investment of \$2500.

Now you know more about why I love this job. Next month, I'll introduce you to a few more members of our Board.

Your co-laborer in Christ,



Dan Stevens

INDONESIA: Water for Refugees - the work continues...

This was our third trip to the island of Manado, Indonesia. The refugee problem is serious as thousands of people have been displaced. Lifewater volunteers Bob Tsigonis, Dan Holmgren, Carl Cady, Ray and Rosemary Miller (and several other team members from Alaska) spent one month training an Indonesian team to drill water wells using the LS-200.

Our action agency partner in Manado selected nine drill team candidates for training. After the first day, Introduction to Training, three candidates quit after learning what would be expected of them—hard work! The action agency asked for a minimum 6-month commitment from each drill trainee, and a willingness to work on remote islands where refugees were returning to villages and moving into resettlement areas.

We mobilized from Manado to Bitung on the opposite side of the peninsula, selected a water well site, and began drilling. Unfortunately, we could not find bentonite, the clay used in mud-rotary drilling! We tried using all kinds of other materials including potter's clay, naturally occurring brick-making clay, and something they called 'polymer' which turned



out to be something for treating sewage. The bentonite finally arrived after ten days into the project and we were able to proceed. The training location included the worst and the best of conditions. We ran into problems drilling in volcanic rock, but the trainees gained valuable experience they'll use later on. We were blessed with a 35-foot well with water at 17 feet. We installed an India Mark II hand pump on the well and thanked God for the success.

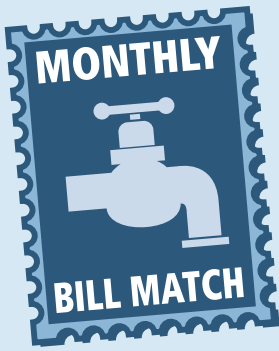
The Indonesian crew is a model Lifewater team made up of wonderful, caring people. They have been trained to minister to the emotional and spiritual needs of the refugees, and actively demonstrate the power of prayer. They love to sing and worship, and they are excited about embarking in this water ministry. All are ready to bring the love of Christ, the Living Water, and the refugees are thrilled beyond belief to finally have clean drinking water.

Volunteer Conference 2003!

The Lifewater International Volunteers' Conference will be held in Pasadena, California at the U.S. Center for World Missions, October 11-15, 2003. This year, we have rearranged the schedule! The conference will begin with workshops and a celebration banquet on Saturday October 11. We will jump right into volunteer training and planning for overseas projects in 2004, finishing on Wednesday afternoon, October 15th. So mark your calendars now and don't miss out! If you are interested in learning how to become a Lifewater Volunteer, contact Volunteer Director John Nadolski, for more information, 805-772-0600 or email John@lifewater.org. Look for more details about the Volunteers' Conference in upcoming newsletters!



"Lifewater International is a registered non-profit organization in the State of California ("Lifewater, Inc."). Our Federal Tax Exempt ID Number is 95-3987142, recognized February 28, 1986. Lifewater International has been a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability since 1988. Following IRS recommendations, we advise potential donors that Lifewater International has complete discretion and control over the use of all donated funds. We encourage our donors to be informed, so we invite you to review Lifewater's financial records at our website, www.Lifewater.org."



Give the "Gift of Water...Gift of Life" each month by matching your water bill.

KENYA: Board Member Ken Moore's First Trip

Three years ago I became involved with Lifewater International and was ultimately asked to serve on the Board of Directors. After serving on the Board for two years, I decided to get my hands dirty and go to Kenya with a Lifewater team. To prepare, I went to the training school in Florida for a four-day course in drilling and attended the Lifewater annual conference last fall.

I think the most important thing Lifewater does is train nationals to drill water wells. We donate the equipment to the Action Agency and they continue to drill wells once we return home. Lifewater also trains local people in ways to improve their sanitation and hygiene practices to improve family health. We train other trainers who can then go onto to share the information with students and other communities.

During January 2003, I spent three weeks in Kenya in the village of Rabondo. I tried to find Rabondo on a map before I left, but it is pretty far off the beaten path, a place that tourists never visit. It is located between the towns of Kisii and Migori in the

Nyanza Province close to Lake Victoria. I was forewarned that there would be no running water or electricity in Rabondo. Thus, I was pleasantly surprised when we arrived the first night to see a house with electric lights burning. Our hosts had hooked up a Honda generator to provide us with electricity. We had very nice accommodations, upgraded one step from the local houses.

Lifewater received funds from Rotary to purchase and ship an LS-100 drilling machine to Rabondo. The Lifewater team would spend this trip training the team to use the drill, so they may also help provide clean water to neighboring communities. The area is very poor and has not received help from other international aid organizations. The team's lead driller Melchesidek is developing his skills along with the other team members. This month, the Lifewater team based in Nakuru Kenya will continue training the Rabondo team. It is our prayer they will complete their first water well in Rabondo and go on to bless many more villages in this area.



The weight of water that women and girls carry on their heads is the equivalent of airport luggage allowance, 20kg.

Holding onto a Spirit of Generosity

Generosity comes from the heart; it is as much an attitude as an action. Proverbs 11:25 promises, "The generous prosper and are satisfied; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed" (NLT). We have been blessed with abundance. A spirit of generosity encourages us to be liberal in giving and sharing, and promises we will be refreshed because of it. When we are generous with our time, our resources, and our lives, we share our abundance and spread the blessing of generosity.

Recently, our office saw this spirit of generosity in action as Jake Wolfe, age ten, came in to give a gift to Lifewater. Jake's mom & dad encouraged him to give some of his allowance and birthday money to God rather than spend it on toys. Jake said immediately, "I would like to give half of it to Lifewater!" Jake had been to the Lifewater office before to stuff envelopes and had seen first hand the good work that goes on there.

Education Corner

Community Development

At Lifewater, we are involved in community development. How should we view community development from a Christian perspective? Jesus gave us an example to follow as he ministered to both the physical and spiritual needs of people. In Christian Community Development as well, we should minister to the whole person and seek to help people reach their God-given potential in all areas.

We can also look to the word "development" itself for clues. It comes from a French military term meaning "to de-envelop". We can compare it to an envelope surrounding a letter. To "de-envelop" means to remove the obstacle (the envelope) in order to read the message inside. One main goal of Community Development is to help groups of people remove obstacles that keep them from growing individually and corporately.

CBCD (Church-Based Community Development) uses this concept in their definition of Christian Community Development: "To remove obstacles and hindrances in order that people can reach their full potential as God intended it to be." Lifewater seeks to do just that through our programs. If you're interested in further readings on Christian Community Development, you can read an article from Tearfund by going to www.tilz.info and clicking on Footsteps/Footsteps 53.