




gift of  
*Water*  
gift of life

### Give something better this Christmas!


Instead of material gifts, choose gifts from Lifewater's online Christmas catalog at [www.lifewater.org](http://www.lifewater.org) to honor your friends, family, and business associates. When you purchase gifts, Lifewater will send your honorees beautiful holiday gift cards that explain Lifewater's mission and how the gift you made in their honor will make a difference to families in need.

**\$10**  **Provide a Hand Pump Repair Tool.** A gift of \$10 provides the tool needed to repair an Afridev hand pump. A repaired pump means restored safe water for an average of 500 people.


**\$35**  **Help Construct a Latrine to Provide Security and Dignity.** A gift of \$35 provides the materials needed to construct one latrine, providing a family with improved health, security, and dignity.

**\$50**  **Purchase a tank of gas** to transport a drilling crew and machine to a community in need of safe water. The gift of \$50 provides the gasoline needed to get drillers to remote places where travel costs prevent most aid from reaching.

**\$75**  **Buy a Biosand Filter to Provide Safe Drinking Water.** The gift of a biosand filter for \$75 brings a family the blessing of safe, accessible drinking water.

**\$100**  **Fund a Hygiene Training Session for Health Workers.** A gift of \$100 will fund one hygiene education session for fifteen health workers, who will then go on to share their knowledge with thousands.

**\$200**  **Provide a Hand Pump to Offer Fresh Water Every Day.** Your gift of \$200 will purchase a village hand pump and provide approximately 600 gallons of fresh water per day to 500 or more individuals.

**\$500**  **Equip a Drill Training Team to Make a Lasting Difference** Your gift of \$500 will equip drillers with the knowledge and hands-on experience they need to make a long-term difference in their countries.



To buy your gifts, visit

[www.lifewater.org](http://www.lifewater.org) or call 888-543-3426.

 **Lifewater**  
INTERNATIONAL  
P.O. Box 3131  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93403

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 550  
PASO ROBLES  
CALIFORNIA

 **lifewater news**  
2008 Issue Three

 **issue focus: ethiopia**

### "Do You Believe Me?"

by Sada Andrews, Community Relations Manager

Issa, a health promoter with an easy smile, works in the southeastern region of Ethiopia, near Somalia. After traveling three days to Lifewater's hygiene training in Awassa, Issa arrived with chicken pox that had emerged en route. Understandably, it took a few days for the seventeen other training participants to warm up to him!

Issa was unique among training participants for several reasons. He is a practicing Muslim raised in Kenya, and he does not speak Amharic, Ethiopia's most common language. Of the several languages he knows, English was the one he used during the training.

After five days of classroom training, course participants put into practice what they'd learned by training community members from a village near Dodola, in Ethiopia's highlands. Using a translator, Issa facilitated a lesson on the most critical times for handwashing: before handling food and after contact with fecal matter.

At the end of the lesson, Issa held up two posters of women cleaning up after small children had defecated. He asked, "Why is good hygiene especially important in these situations?" After a long silence, Issa continued, "I picked these posters because I want you to know that children's feces have even more germs than adult feces. Some people believe that children's feces do not have germs. But I want to be sure you know that belief is wrong . . ."

After Issa finished his explanation, the community members dutifully nodded in agreement, so I felt ready to move on to the next lesson. But Issa paused and asked a curious question: "Do you believe me?" The men and women fell silent and lowered their gaze. They slowly shook their heads and confessed, "No."

Issa realized this issue needed more time. He explained again the dangers of contact with children's feces, answered their questions with respect, and finally convinced them all that handwashing after cleaning children is critical to good health. "This is information we must tell others," they all agreed.

Issa's determination to work through tough issues makes all the difference. By discerning the community's true feelings instead of going through the motions of teaching, he became an agent of real change. Issa's humility and skill remind me of why Lifewater invests so much in equipping indigenous trainers to work among their people. With commitment and courage, he is saving lives.



Sufi, with her son Anwar looking on, practices using the tippy tap handwashing device that she has just learned to make at a Lifewater Community Health through Hygiene course. Her new skills dramatically improve Anwar's chance of living to maturity and enjoying good health. By Sada Andrews

### For Your Calendar

*No-Show New Year's Eve Party!*

*significant sacrifice*

**December 31, 2008**

We are excited to invite you to Lifewater's third annual No-Show New Year's Eve Party! Avoid the hassle of staying out late and instead enjoy wrapping up the year with a gift to those who lack safe water.



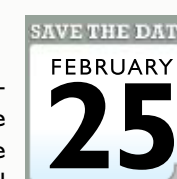
Each year, Lifewater provides you with reasons to stay home on New Year's Eve and donate your money to Lifewater instead. Here are a few from previous years:

- You can start your New Year's resolutions early and hit the gym at midnight.
- We all know the ball is going to drop. Skip the suspense and get a good night's sleep.
- If you stay home, there is absolutely no chance of being kissed at midnight by someone you don't know.

If you think these reasons for not attending are compelling, just wait until you see this year's! To make the celebration economical, this year's invitation will arrive in your email inbox rather than by post. If you are not on our email list but would like to receive the 2008 No-Show New Year's Eve invitation, please send a note to [info@lifewater.org](mailto:info@lifewater.org). We look forward to **not** seeing you there!

**February 25, 2009**

The Easter season begins with Lent on February 25, 2009. Lifewater invites you to take a few easy steps before Christmas to make the upcoming Easter celebration meaningful and memorable for you, your family, and your church or small group.



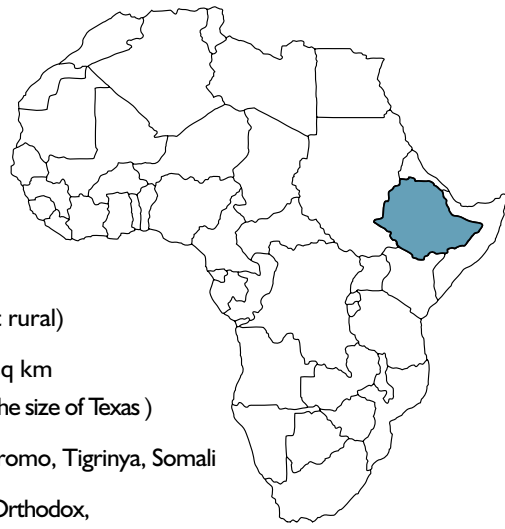
Over the past several years, Lifewater has helped bring significance to the season through **Significant Sacrifice: An Easter Journey**. This activity encourages individuals and groups to commit to weekly reflection time and small personal sacrifices as a way to remember Christ's sacrifice and those who suffer every day.

Each year Lifewater publishes a **Significant Sacrifice** Lent and Easter devotional guide, free upon request, that contains weekly readings, reflection questions, and prayers. Lifewater also offers **Significant Sacrifice** DVDs, bulletin inserts, and posters.

If you and/or your family, small group, or church would like to participate in **Significant Sacrifice: An Easter Journey**, please sign up for materials as soon as possible by sending an email to [info@lifewater.org](mailto:info@lifewater.org) or by calling toll-free at 888-543-3426.

 **Lifewater**  
INTERNATIONAL

## at a glance: ethiopia



**Population:** 81 million  
(84 percent rural)

**Area:** 1,104,300 sq km  
(apx. twice the size of Texas)

**Languages:** Amharic, Oromo, Tigrinya, Somali

**Religion:** 51 percent Orthodox,  
33 percent Muslim, 10 percent Protestant, 5 percent other

**Economy:** Approximately 80 percent of Ethiopians are employed in agriculture, and most are subsistence farmers. Major exports include coffee and livestock.

**GNI per capita:** US \$180. Approximately 45 percent of the population earns less than one dollar per day.

**Life Expectancy:** 52 years

**Under 5 Mortality:** 123 per 1000

**Safe Water:** 22 percent total population, 11 percent rural population

**Sanitation:** 13 percent total population, 7 percent of rural population

**History:** Ethiopia is one of the oldest independent countries in the world and has a history deeply rooted in the Christian tradition. The Queen of Sheba who visited King Solomon is considered to have been Ethiopian. Ethiopia is also mentioned in Acts 8, when Philip baptizes an Ethiopian eunuch. Christianity has been the official religion of Ethiopia since the fourth century. The country's history is also characterized by a commitment to autonomy that is reflected in sustained resistance to foreign threats such as the Ottoman Empire and European colonialism. Ethiopia's recent history has been complicated by difficult political transition, natural disaster, and border disputes.

**Lifewater:** Lifewater partners with the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) and the Ethiopian Kale Heywet Church (EKHC). These two churches of five million members each have tremendous influence in their country.

Lifewater is currently training EECMY in Community Health through Hygiene and Hand Pump Repair using its new curriculum materials.

In the past several years, Lifewater has trained the EKHC in Community Health through Hygiene and Hand Pump Repair. Lifewater's participatory teaching methods revolutionized the way the EKHC teaches villagers. At Lifewater's encouragement, the EKHC began adapting Lifewater's training to carry on the program on their own. They adapted the drawings to be culturally appropriate for the different regions of Ethiopia where they work. EKHC has now begun teaching other organizations with their hygiene materials.

Sources: World Health Organization, UNICEF, World Bank Little Green Data Book

## In Whom Does Lifewater Invest?

by Sada Andrews, Community Relations Manager

Whose potential inspires Lifewater field trainers to volunteer so much of their time and money? Who attends the courses that they teach? I recently had the opportunity to meet Community Health through Hygiene trainees in Ethiopia and see why field trainers are so inspired to continue volunteering their service. Here are brief profiles of three of the sixteen participants:



**Teketel**, the only participant over the age of forty, is a nurse. After years of practicing traditional, top-down teaching methods, he is trying hard to learn new ways of participatory training and manages to maintain a sense of humor through the awkward transition. When Teketel practices facilitating lessons in a participatory manner—

which includes remaining seated—he leans forward with his feet under his chair, tempted to stand and lecture. Teketel's love for his people is manifested in his willingness to humble himself and learn. In his lifetime Teketel has saved many lives, and he shows no signs of slowing down now.

**Mulu** gains only a few inches when she stands from her chair, but when she speaks she commands the room. She has worked with one of Lifewater's Ethiopian partners for many years, training countless people in ways to improve their health through safe water, sanitation, and hygiene. Mulu's vast experience and knowledge are apparent as she practices teaching lessons. Just as valuable is the way she encourages and trains other trainers, bringing the group together through laughter and song. When she sings, which she does often, her love for God and God's people shines.



**Belaynesh** is a tall, thin woman with glasses perpetually perched low on her nose. She wears trendy skirt suits and often finds herself defending her employer, the government, from accusations of being slow and unreliable. She attends the training as part of a unique program in Ethiopia that brings government and church workers together as they help

their people. It has given Lifewater's Ethiopian partners, both large evangelical churches, a unique opportunity to demonstrate integrity and love to their Orthodox and Muslim colleagues as they serve the poor together. On the last day of class, Belaynesh comes early to bring our team gifts of bracelets and scarves. The bracelet she gave me sits on my desk and reminds me to pray for those who serve the people of Ethiopia.



A repaired hand pump in Ethiopia means longer life and health for an average of 500 people. Definitely worth celebrating.



**Above:** The village of Doyo resorted to this water source after their hand pump broke. By Fred Proby

**Left:** Lifewater partners and local community members celebrate after repairing a pump with low-flow problems. By Wayne Niblack

**Below:** Women of Doyo thank Lifewater field trainers and partners for repairing the hand pump of their water well. By Fred Proby



## on the field training

### Water and Living Water: Pump Repair Training in Ethiopia

by Leslie Hawthorne Klingler, Communications Manager, with Wayne Niblack, Field Trainer



Lifewater field trainer Wayne Niblack.

Wayne Niblack of San Jose, California, has been a volunteer Lifewater field trainer since 2006. A software analyst, he decided to become a field trainer because the basic Lifewater approach appealed to him: help communities meet their need for safe water, and while doing so, share the love and gospel of Jesus Christ. In April 2008, Wayne traveled to Ethiopia with three other Lifewater field trainers to teach Lifewater's Hand Pump Repair course to one of Lifewater's partners, the Mekane Yesus Church. Upon return, Wayne shared about his trip:

*One highlight was the joy and celebration of the people in the village of Doyo when we were able to repair their pump. The women of this Muslim village were absolutely beaming, and out of their limited resources offered us an abundance of food, local coffee, and thanks. One of them told us, "Your God is powerful. He has given us water."*

*Another highlight was simply talking with people, especially staff members of the Mekane Yesus Church. They are quality people. As I spoke with them, I was able to see their heart for service and the gospel, and I learned about the church's wide-ranging programs to help their country. I also enjoyed talking individually with the trainees on our rides to various water pumps we were repairing. It was a pleasure to try to understand their ways of thinking and to encourage them in their work and testimony.*

*A final highlight has to do with a broken pump we worked on with the trainees. We fixed several obvious problems, and we did a nice job. But surprisingly, the flow rate was still low when*

*we had to leave. Discussing our work that evening, we decided to go back. The next day we found and fixed another problem that corrected the low-flow rate. It was satisfying to know we left our trainees with an example of persevering to do a good job and showed the community that we really wanted good things for them.*

*For Wayne, being a field trainer brings out many emotions: "It can be frustrating to realize the obstacles—lack of transportation, supplies, local shopping, and so on—that our local trainees will face as they try to put into practice the things we have taught them. It can be heartrending to connect with people and see how difficult it is for them to provide their families with the basic needs of food and safe water. But it's a real joy to get to know some of God's faithful servants and work with them to bring life-transforming change—water and living water—to a community."*

## on the field training

### Love Does No Harm to Its Neighbor: Hygiene Training in Ethiopia

by Nancy Baker, Lifewater Field Trainer

Nancy Baker of San Luis Obispo, California, has been a volunteer Lifewater field trainer since 2003. In August 2008, she and three other field trainers facilitated a Community Health through Hygiene training course for Lifewater's two Ethiopian partners. Here are her reflections on the trip:

*The Ethiopia training went well. After their week-long Lifewater course in hygiene, our partners had the opportunity to train members of a local rural community. Lessons were mostly taught in Amharic, many of the community members answered back in their local language, and we had an interpreter to whisper English in our ears so we would know what was going on. Even though we couldn't speak to community members directly, it was fun to sit on the grass and just be together and laugh!*

*The one person I will most remember is Birke, leader of a local women's self-help group. Birke was striving to problem-solve and figure out ways they could put their knowledge into practice: How can we convince our husbands to wash hands? During harvest time when there are more than fifty people helping in the fields, how can we all wash hands before we eat?*

*Another strong memory is a drama several community members performed. In the drama, neighbors are invited for lunch. They have the boldness to ask if the cook had washed her hands before preparing the food. When she says no, they refuse to eat. The hostess is very offended and becomes angry. The ensuing*



Change isn't easy and it doesn't happen in a hurry!

*argument dramatizes the social risks Ethiopians face when they insist on changing cultural norms. Change isn't easy and it doesn't happen in a hurry!*

*It was a privilege to watch our partners field difficult questions and skillfully deliver lessons to the community members. And it was an even greater thing to witness sharing of Biblical wisdom in an audience of mixed religious backgrounds. One partner read Romans 13:9-10: "Love does no harm to its neighbor..." A Muslim coworker sitting next to him put his arm around his shoulder and expressed agreement with the scripture.*



Lifewater field trainer Nancy Baker. By Sada Andrews

*Addressing the other Muslims in the circle, he said that, since there is only one God, we should lay aside our religious differences and all listen to this teaching from the Bible and work together to follow it. The group then discussed how handwashing is a way to show love to your neighbor by stopping the spread of disease.*

*Before Lifewater's training, two children from this rural community of six thousand people died of water-related illness in one month. With the training, sixteen community leaders are equipped to stem these deaths by teaching handwashing, and Lifewater's partners are equipped to train many more communities in lifesaving hygiene practices. What a priceless opportunity to witness the power of God's love at work and see God answer our prayers for good relationships and teambuilding.*

But the needy will not always be forgotten, nor the hope of the afflicted ever perish. Psalm 9:18