

Lifewater: Making a Difference

Trip to W. Africa is a Success

In April, Randy Taylor, Glenn Stronks and Jim Gehrels spent 3 weeks in West Africa. In a bold attempt to multiply missions in West Africa, Lifewater Canada provided funding to send one crew member from the Lifewater Liberian team to Ghana to do some introductory work with the Ghanaian people.

We first went to Ghana and trained Lifewater volunteers from Togo, Liberia and Ghana as well as Allan Fulton (APF Ministries) and several members of the Church of Christ's West Africa drill program.

Training took place in a walled compound where new volunteers could learn without raising the hopes of local villagers. Although hard rock prevented us from successfully completing wells, everyone learned much and there are excellent opportunities to develop a new well construction program in partnership with Full Armour of God Ministries.

A real highlight was spending Easter in Ghana - wonderful services that went on for hours with an incredible amount of singing, dancing, preaching, singing and more singing!

We then spent one week in Liberia inspecting completed wells and providing training for local staff. With God's blessing, the vision and work of Lifewater Liberia has grown

rapidly since it was started in 1995.

Despite having their equipment looted by rebels and it still being difficult to find basic supplies in this war-ravaged country, the team has now constructed over 40 wells and has completed two well and latrine projects for UNICEF. Local workers need training in basic business practices and village agreements need to be strengthened to ensure that pumps are effectively maintained after installation.

It was really bittersweet to visit 10 communities where wells are half finished. As shown in the pictures below, well casings have been installed and abundant quantities of safe water are available. But the team did not have the money or supplies needed to install handpumps and build cement pads.

\$15,000 is desperately needed to sponsor the completion of these 10 wells so that local villagers will no



Orphans by well waiting for pump

longer have to draw water from stagnant swamps.

World Wide Web

Since mid-May, the Lifewater Canada web site has been visited by over 55,000 people and visitors are reading over 33,000 pages per month! We have had visitors from over 119 countries ... including places like Azerbaidjan, Brundia Darussalam, Guam, Guyana, Lithuania, Micronesia, Qatar, Saint Lucia, San Marino and Uzbekistan.

In the past year we have had over 300 visitors from Africa, South/Central America. It is exciting to anticipate people in developing countries using our web site in increasing numbers to help solve drinking water problems!

Y2K Water Worries

As we rapidly approach the new millennium, peoples concern about drinking water is growing. In the past two months, the Lifewater pages describing how to build a BUSH handpump were viewed 5000 times. The web page describing the non-electric "hydraulic ram" pump was viewed nearly 2000 times.

We have also been receiving a steady stream of E-mails from people who need advice as they try and construct well water supplies for their homes.

Training Tutorial

The most popular part of Lifewater's web site continues to be our on-line well and handpump tutorial (<http://www.lifewater.ca/ndexdril.htm>). Over 8,000 people have read this material in the past 2 months... although only 400 have dared test their well and handpump construction knowledge ... do you??? Visit www.lifewater.ca/test.htm and give it a try!!

Parle Vous Francais??

In the year ahead we would like to translate key technical information into French and post it on a French Lifewater Web Site. We have two volunteers so far who are willing to work on this project: David Lombo (Togo) and Robert Mollow (Southern Spain). If you have relevant typing, language or web site programming skills, E-mail: gehrelji@yahoo.com

A Community Writes...

I would like to share how you are helping make a lasting difference in the lives of Liberian villagers by helping them obtain what we take for granted - safe drinking water.

"We the elders and citizens of Ben Town thank-you for sponsoring us with a well and pump ... before this pump, people in this area was always with running stomach and this cause some of our people to died. But since this pump was fix in April last year there have been no more running stomach."

New Wells in Liberia

Lifewater Canada has recently received 4 well records from the drilling crew in Liberia. These wells were completed in June and July of this year. The mail from West Africa to North America is very slow. The drill team is asking for assistance to pay for these wells so that they can buy badly needed supplies to drill more wells. Each of these well records comes with pictures, technical notes on the well, and letters from the community thanking Lifewater for the help in their community. Are you interested in sponsoring a well? Or part of a well? Let us know and we can forward copies of one of these records to you.

We hope to raise \$1500 to cover the cost of each of these wells. You can donate funds through the United Way campaign or contact us directly.

Welcome Aboard!

It is a real pleasure to welcome those people who in the last year found our web site and have volunteered their services. Many people have gone to Houston and taken the hands-on drill and handpump training (visit: <http://www.living-water.org/training.htm>).

In addition, we would like to thank David Adilman (Massachusetts, USA), Greg Powers (London, Ontario) and Julia Whitworth (Deep River, Ontario) who help us respond to the E-mails requesting technical assistance. Professor Brian Young (University of Technology, Papua New Guinea) has volunteered to help respond to specialized ram pump information requests.

United Way Campaign

In the past year, our programs cost \$24,000 This money came from Environmental Companies, friends, family, churches and co-workers.

We are hoping that the 1999 United Way campaign will raise the \$6,000 needed to sponsor the 4 recently drilled Liberian wells. Once the Liberian drill team has received this money, they can provide safe water for other villages that currently must drink swamp water.

You can designate a portion of your United Way donation by specifying **Lifewater Canada: Registered Charity #88542 0737 RR0001** at the bottom of your Pledge Form.

On behalf of the men, women and children of these communities, we thank-you for your support.

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