



## Lifewater: Training & Drilling & ...

### The Year in Review

At times during the Liberian civil war, we did not think the team or the Lifewater program would survive. Well it didn't just survive - with your support it has thrived! From its start drilling just 3 wells in 1995, the local team is now averaging nearly 1 new well every week! In 2007 they finished their 200<sup>th</sup> well - safe drinking water for over 50,000 people! Hundreds of lives have been saved since up to 25% of all Liberian children die from diseases related to unsafe water and inadequate sanitation!

As summarized in this newsletter, other significant events include:

- starting a well sponsorship program in Kenya;
- expanding community health through hygiene programs
- starting a village pump repair training program
- revamping our web site which offers free resources to aid workers around the world.

On behalf of the men, women and children who have benefitted from this work, I thank you for your support which made it possible.

*Jim Gehrels*

Jim Gehrels, President

### New Project Team

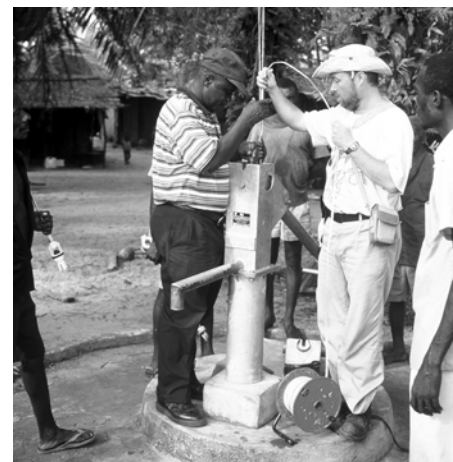
Thanks to your generous donations and our overhead staying under 5%, we were able to extend a helping hand to GWAKO Ministries in Northern Kenya. GWAKO supports women's co-operatives which are formed to help members buy house furniture, utensils etc. Sadly, most members are young widows whose husbands died from HIV/AIDS. Read what a difference your support in helping them obtain safe drinking water makes in their lives:

*"The girl child, who traditionally and culturally, is the one to help the mother in domestic chores, have to wake-up very early to find the water still settled, as the same water point is being used with both human and animals. The result has been the girls do not perform as boys when it comes to examinations. With the provided water point, the lives of both our animals and ourselves will improve tremendously. Water, and not just water, but safe drinking water, is now available when you need it, giving us time to attend to other economical activities. The performance of the girl child will dramatically improve as they are now having equal learning time with their boy counterparts".*

### New Program Areas

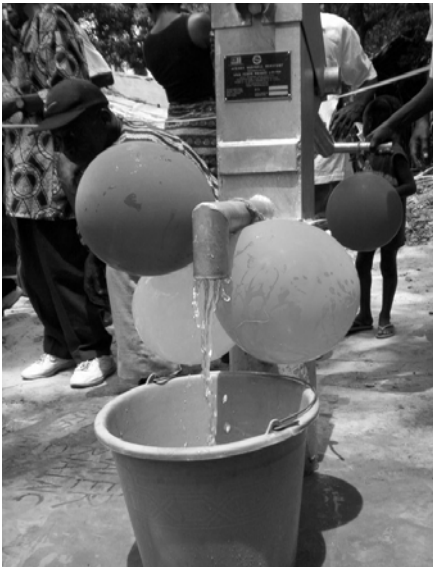
The benefit of safe drinking water has been extended by integrating drilling with a community health through hygiene program. This program teaches villagers how diseases are transmitted and how to keep from getting sick. The Liberia team now has a full-time Hygiene Coordinator and two hygiene workers have been hired.

Volunteer trainers also helped the Liberian crew start a pump maintenance program. The goal is to train Well Caretakers and Pump Technicians from each village who perform routine maintenance activities to keep pumps from breaking and "sitting spoiled". If you would like to help the rural poor in upcountry villages afford the pump parts they need, please mark your donation for "Pump Parts".



## 200th Well in Liberia

A number of us had the privilege of being in Liberia when the local Lifewater crew celebrated their 200th well! A "life-time memory" was hearing 150 choir members from 19 churches blend their voices in celebration. If you have not already done so, I really encourage you to go to our new web site and watch or download the new 6 minute video featuring songs from the 200th well choir.



## Where Does Our \$\$ Go?

Here is a summary showing how your donations were used this year to help support our efforts....

<b>2006/2007 Total</b>	<b>\$201,000</b>
Well Construction	57%
Training	30%
Health & Hygiene	5%
Sanitation	3.5%
Pump Maintenance	1.5%
Overhead	3%

## Web Site Update

As Lifewater has grown over the years, so has our web site. As new pages and hundreds of links were added, it gradually became harder for visitors to find what they were looking for and more and more time consuming for volunteers to maintain. With hundreds of volunteer hours, we were able to roll-out a fresh new web site last month. Special thanks to Peter Brown who created the web site sound track as a pro-bono effort! Much of the site content has been updated to better reflect who we are many more photographs showing Lifewater at work were included. Because of the changed file structure and new page names, some of your links to our web site may need to be updated.

Please take a few minutes to tour the site ( [www.lifewater.ca](http://www.lifewater.ca) ) and let us know what you find helpful, what is confusing and what you would like to see included in future development plans.

## The Year Ahead

In November 2008, we hope to be taking some interested donors to Liberia to see the work first-hand and to visit some of the orphanages that our partner humanwave.com is working with. If you are interested in learning more about this trip, please email Peter Brown at [humanwave@shaw.ca](mailto:humanwave@shaw.ca)

We have been working with folks in Zambia and Haiti and within the next few months you will be able to sponsor projects in these countries if you wish.

At the end of October, a small team of volunteers will be spending several weeks in Liberia. Trip goals include providing advanced drill training, business skills assessment and helping develop the pump maintenance program. Also, the Liberian team has recently purchased 5 acres of land on the outskirts of Monrovia on which they hope to build a compound. A key part of their plans is a workshop and a warehouse. This will enable them to stockpile material during the rainy season so that they do not have to waste time during the dry season buying supplies like rock, gravel, well casing, cement etc. If you would like to help the Liberian workers become more economically independent, please mark your donation as "Liberian Compound Fund". Also let us know if you would like to come help them build these structures!

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