



## Lifewater: Training & Drilling & ...

### The Year in Review

As our drilling year draws to a close, I am filled with a deep sense of both connection and thankfulness. Connection between people from across Canada, the USA and from around the world who have reached out a helping hand to provide safe drinking water. And connection to the 72 communities that received safe water, latrines or rehabilitated wells.

The thankfulness I feel is more complicated. Most obviously, I feel very grateful to everyone who gave so generously despite the hard hitting recession. I also know that my life is richer every time I have the opportunity to get to know a donor better by phone, email or in person. Finally, I feel blessed to know that I as one small person am making this world a better place by helping save lives of children and dramatically improve educational opportunities for young girls.

Thanks for helping connect the world through your gift of life-giving safe drinking water!

Jim Gehrels, President

### New Wells

This past year, you have helped 52 villages get the safe drinking water they so badly needed. Listen to the impact that your donations make:

#### Duazhon

*We the community members of Block "B" Duazhon want to extend our warmest "Thanks and Appreciation" to the Lifewater Family for the hand pump which have brought great relief. Since the construction of this hand pump, there have not been any fetching of water from creeks or drainages within our village. From this, we have not experience cases of runing stomach, vomating etc. So we thank you so very much and pray God gards and protects you people greatly.*



*Villagers Celebrating Pump Dedication*

#### Bernard Farm

*The entire community write to thank you for responding to our call by giving us safe water. We really caught hard time during this long dry season. All open-hand dug wells went dry and our children had to travel miles in search of water. What you have done will go a long way for us and we pray that God will continue to provide you people with more funds in order to help other communities as well. Truly Yours, Gertrude Pearson, Chairlady*

### African Voices

*The following note is from Tommy Towalid, Chairman of Lifewater Liberia:*

Happy are people who find "water" a blessing! When life is almost impossible, clean water is out of the question. Lifewater leads hygiene workshops and drills wells, changing lives of many and bringing forth the true meaning of life. I would like to tell you one of their stories.



Old Ma Nancy, mother of eight, boasted how Lifewater blessed her and her children saying "the shackles of death would have held them captives had Lifewater not gone to drill and hold workshops to improve their lives". After many months, what is touching is that Old Ma, out of her merger resources obtained from selling cassava, palava sauce and okra found Lifewater's office to give LD\$135 (US\$2) in appreciation of Lifewater's effort. It is her prayer that Lifewater continues to help communities that lives may be prolonged.

## Out of Africa

In August, 6 volunteers from the USA and Canada flew to Africa to help the Liberian workers. Susan & Terra worked hard with the Community Mobilization Team. One of their jobs was helping “Liberianize” hygiene education material by writing a rap song about the need to eliminate open defecation! It may not play on our radio’s, but it was a smash hit at the community workshop!

Andrew and Alex together with local workmen finished building the multi-purpose compound that was started last year. Welding, electrical, masonry and carpentry skills were used daily! Thanks to their effort, the project is under budget and ahead of schedule! In addition, Andrew ran noon hour clinics addressing basic medical needs of many local villagers.



Joe spent his time working with the drill team to repair equipment and develop vitally important maintenance procedures.

Kumba helped the Liberian staff move to their new headquarters. She also completed a review of their financial procedures - an important part of our donor accountability commitment.

## Joe Qua Qua News

Last week, Joe Qua Qua, a senior Liberian worker, had his left index finger ripped off while drilling. He was rushed to hospital and is now recovering. Our prayers go out to this gentle, giving man.



## Desert Run

In February 2009, recent graduate Arno Ekkert was in travelling Australia when he died in a car crash. Last month, his family and friends commemorated Arno by completing his dream of running from Oyosoos to Richmond to raise money to provide safe water in Africa. You can still visit [www.thedesertrun.com](http://www.thedesertrun.com) to give the gift of life in memory of a loved one and help them reach their goal of sponsoring 15 wells in Africa!

## Where Does Your \$\$ Go?

Here is a summary showing how your donations were used....

2008/2009 Total	\$446,500
Well Construction	46%
Capital Expenses	27%
Training	14%
Sanitation & Hygiene	8.5%
Handpump Repair	2%
Overhead	2.5%

## The Year Ahead

Volunteers will travel to Liberia and Nigeria to provide advanced drill training and work on several construction projects. Please phone us if this interests you!

We also hope to get the drill manual translated into French. We have several volunteers committed to this project but could use several more helpers!

Lifewater also hopes to build on the August training trip to Liberia by introducing a pilot project on community led sanitation. This project has complicated social, financial and cultural challenges and we are looking for volunteers with international sustainable development experience.

Finally, we hope to find sponsors for 5 wells per month. We invite you to join this initiative by sending a cheque to the address below, giving on-line with your credit card, or donating securities. Please visit our web site to learn more about these options.

### **Lifewater Canada**

307 Euclid Ave, Suite 194  
Thunder Bay, ON  
P7E 6G6

<http://www.lifewater.ca>

#### **Contact:**

Jim Gehrels

[gehrelji@yahoo.com](mailto:gehrelji@yahoo.com)

Phone: (807) 622-4848

Charitable Registration #:  
88542 0737 RR 0001