



Lifewater: Training & Drilling & ...

The Year in Review

Working on this annual newsletter is always a positive experience. Before starting, I felt that the year had gone by in the blink of an eye. But when I stopped to think about what to write, I began to realize how much had actually happened. Significant events include:

- Drilling a record 58 new wells in Liberia, Nigeria, Haiti, Kenya and Zambia.
- Building 8 communal washrooms;
- Successfully implementing a community mobilization and project ownership strategy;
- Holding dozens of health & hygiene workshops to teach villagers how to break disease transmission pathways and how to treat children who do get running stomach;
- Starting construction of a compound to serve as an operations base for the Liberian workers;

This is all about sharing our abundance to give children a future. What greater job could there be? Thanks for helping make all this possible!

Jim Gehrels, President

New Wells

The 58 wells drilled this year provide safe drinking water for an estimated 25,000 men, women and children! What does this number really mean? Imagine if it was you living in this Liberian village: *“Thank you ever so much for providing our community safe drinking water. For the past years we have greatly suffered for safe drinking water. Most times our children had to travel about 9 miles during the dry season to get drinking water.”*

Nine miles! I don't think that I could endure a 9 mile walk carrying water in the African sun. But they had no choice!

Statistics indicate that 25% of all Liberian children die before reaching age 5. The main cause of this epidemic is unsafe drinking water and inadequate sanitation facilities. However, when combined with improved sanitation and Health & Hygiene training, investments in water quality & quantity reduce the number of diarrheal related deaths by a remarkable 65%!! What a deal!

It is indeed humbling to think of all the children that will now live to help build their countries and future generations! Thank-you for your support in this work.

And here is a thank-you from one Nigerian Chief who describes the importance the community places on their two new wells:

“This act of kindness greatly reduces the need for our children and women to walk every time to the river for water. There are approximately 1,800 people who will benefit from this great service. May God bless you and provide for other villages this remarkable gift. It is our collective pledge as a community, to take care of these wells so that they will serve us for a long time to come.”

You can read more about the work of Lifewater in Nigeria in “Development Report Magazine” <http://www.developmentreport.org/archives/July/charity.php>



New Well in Nigeria

Communal Washrooms

Eight communal washrooms were built this past year. These tend not to be very glamorous projects to sponsor. However, think of the impact on girls who no longer have to miss school during their menstrual period. Think of the number of young children who will no longer get sick because they defecated in the bush where many had already gone. Think of the children who no longer have to risk drowning to toilet in the ocean or being bitten by snakes in the jungle. Washrooms save lives. Hard to imagine, but true.



School Washroom in Kenya

Where Does Our \$\$ Go?

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

2007/2008 Total	\$369,000
Capital Expenses	32%
Well Construction	26%
Training	26%
Sanitation & Hygiene	7%
Handpump Repair	5%
Overhead	4%

Compound Construction

Liberia is just emerging from 12 years of brutal civil war fueled by the sale of blood diamonds and powered by child soldiers. While most combatants have been disarmed, Liberia still needs significant support, similar to that provided by the Marshall plan in Germany following World War II.

The UN lists Liberia as “high risk” due to soaring rice prices combined with 85% unemployment. More than ever, Liberian parents need to be freed from having to choose between either buying rice to feed their children or buying the medication needed to help them recover from life-threatening but preventable water-borne disease

A key part of our development strategy for Liberia is construction of an operations base on land the local workers purchased on the outskirts of Monrovia. It will include office space and storage facilities as well as a workshop, secure parking and housing for the workers and their families.

Over the past year, Lifewater volunteers helped design the compound, drill a high yield well, and build a communal septic system... the first in Liberia since the war broke out in 1989!



The Year Ahead

The Liberian workers have drilled nearly 300 wells and have reached the productivity limits of their small LS100 rig. They require a more powerful hydraulic mud rotary drill rig and a 4 wheel drive truck to pull it. With your support, we hope to have these items in place by Christmas!

In November, a team of 25 volunteers will help the Liberian workers build a multi-purpose building and make their base operational! Efficiencies provided by this compound will reduce long-term reliance on foreign aid and will help the team drill 36 more wells every year!

Finally, we hope to drill a new well every week and double the number of sponsored washrooms. You can help us meet this life-saving goal by giving on-line with your credit card, sending a cheque, or by donating securities. Please visit our web site to learn more about these options.

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