



Lifewater: Training & Drilling....

The Year in Review

As I reflect on the past year, I am struck by how much has happened in just 12 months. Highlights were: sponsoring our first well in Nigeria, finishing eight wells in Liberia before fighting broke out, and starting to translate our drill manual into Spanish and French.

On a personal note, I told a co-worker about my failing eyesight and the emotional challenge of learning to walk with a white cane. He wrote back and said *“Many of us are dead before their death and are blind despite having 20/20 vision. Many don't see the sufferings of their human neighbors and keep on spending spree for themselves.... Please keep on living and trying to make a sense in this senseless world”*.

This note of encouragement put the work of Lifewater back in perspective. It is an opportunity for all of us to share with our neighbours in need. Please join me in making the most of this opportunity in the year ahead!

Sincerely Yours,

Jim Gehrels
Lifewater Volunteer & President

Update from Liberia

The past year was both trying and rewarding. Fighting broke-out as rebels tried to overthrow President Taylor who had been indicted for crimes against humanity. Women and children were victimized by street fighting, rape and looting.

In the midst of this darkness, it was encouraging to hear PBS news report that thousands of people were staying alive by drawing water from handpumps... Lifewater pumps installed with the generous sponsorship of people like you!

In September, Taylor went into exile in Nigeria and UN peace keepers were deployed. The ports re-opened and humanitarian aid is now reaching those in need.

The drill team is safe and their supplies and equipment were not looted. They are working again and in October drilled three more wells! They are also visiting villages to fix broken handpumps using their new AG-100 Yamaha motorcycle that Lifewater helped them purchase:



Lifewater Conference

Earlier this month, 4 Canadian volunteers met with Lifewater volunteers from around the world at the Lifewater International Conference in California.

It was a busy, productive time. We taught two handpump repair workshop, introducing over 50 people to basic concepts and approaches to repairing broken handpumps. Trainees came from Kenya, Equador, Mozambique, Laos, China, Haiti and Romania.

We spent much time over meals and coffee talking with these overseas guests, either directly or with the aid of interpreters. We answered their well drilling and handpump questions... and received personal invitations to travel to many countries to help train and equip local people. If only we didn't have the burden of full-time jobs to pay our bills!

We participated in workshops on sanitation & hygiene and even a workshop on drill mud and the use of polymer! Finally, several photos from Lifewater Canada volunteers were recognized with awards in the annual photo contest.

Letters from the Web

Our web site receives thousands of hits a month accessing our training material provided free of charge. It is gratifying to receive e-mails like this one:

Hello from Cambodia! I am an unpaid advisor to a large group of landmine amputees and their families in Cambodia. They have no source of water and their village plan requires 15-20 wells. We know nothing about well drilling, but your web site is incredibly informative and valuable. Thanks much! Peter

eGranary Digital Library

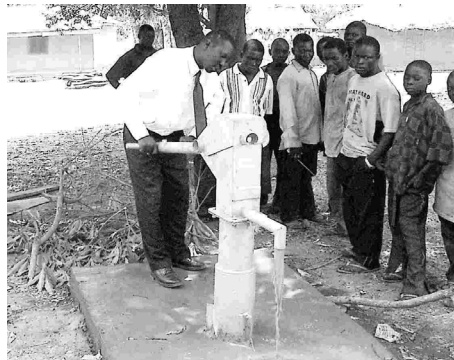
The Univ. of Iowa's "WiderNet Project" is a nonprofit initiative which aims to make materials available to those around the world without adequate Internet access. This information is delivered through the "eGranary Digital Library" by installing hard drives on university servers in developing countries or via satellite transmission.

Upon their request, we have granted permission for technical education components of Lifewater Canada's web site (including the 100-page drill manual) to be added to the eGranary Digital Library. This material will soon be available to university communities in 3rd world countries via university intranet hard drive installations or satellite transmissions. What an exciting way to more effectively reach those in need throughout the developing world!

New Country Requests

This year we received requests for assistance from countries around the world including Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Turkmenistan, India and Nigeria. The letters are similar to this one from the Philippines: "*We are a small volunteer group. There is a desperate need to establish water wells and public restrooms in the many poverty stricken villages around us. Can you help us? Thank you, J. Sullivan*".

We decided to provide help to a group of motivated workers in Nigeria who have a drill rig and have drilled some wells but lack funding and advanced training to further the work. This past year, we were able to sponsor our first well in Nigeria:



The Year Ahead

7 volunteers are planning to visit Liberia in February to provide the drill team with advanced training. Trip goals include teaching how to use forms when building concrete pump pads, testing water quality and assessing sustainable village pump maintenance, providing small-business skills development and health & sanitation training. We also hope to celebrate the dedication of the teams 100th well!

The Liberian team plans to complete 15 new wells in 2003 and the Nigerian crews are also hoping to drill several wells.

You too can see with 20/20 vision and make a lasting difference by helping African villagers obtain what we take for granted - safe drinking water.

Some people donate \$30/month - their coffee money, and some have sponsored wells in memory of loved ones. It all adds up.

Write to us at our address provided below or visit: www.lifewater.ca/donate.htm. Also contact us to learn how to designate your United Way donation to Lifewater.

Please specify whether you want your donation to help support:

- drilling a new well,
- fixing a broken pump, or
- training the Liberian drill team

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