Email correspondence with Eric, Feb 21, 2011 regarding school system

Hi Eric,

  Thanks for getting back to me. It is good to hear from you. I hope all is well with you and the students. I can't tell you how thrilled we are to hear that the students are drinking the water and washing hands even though the latrine tanks have gone dry. Kids will be kids and I'm just so glad that hand washing has caught on as well. The two are so important for better health. It sounds like you are half way through the dry season and going to make it with the water you have. Good job on regulating it.

  I hope that Mike works out another trip to Makali so we can add to what we have there already. I hope the building project is going well with the new housing for teachers. I understand about getting a small business going for someone would be difficult. Maybe when we are there the next time I could help one or two do a system for the chef.

  Thanks again Eric you have been such a help from beginning to end on all of this. Take care and please be sure to say Hi to the principal and the children for us.

ken

On Tue, Feb 21, 2012 at 1:09 PM, Eric Silverman <esilverm@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Ken,

Good to hear from you. The students are drinking the water from the
large tanks everyday and I'm not sure what they did before to drink
because they like to drink a lot. We have told them many times not to
wash their hands there and only use the water for drinking, but
occasionally someone breaks the rules... The kids were washing there
hands at the latrine system for a while until the water ran out when
the rains stopped. Hopefully though when the well is complete, we can
have kids take water from there and fill up the latrine systems. It's
hard to tell exactly if the health of the kids and faculty have
improved because I don't have any data from before and I was only here
for one school year and kids make up illnesses all the time. We,
meaning myself and the principal and a few of the teachers, continue
to tell the students to only use the large system for drinking and
before we used to tell them to wash their hands at the latrines, but
without any water it's difficult to tell them to do that now.

Unfortunately the sun disinfection has not caught on. It's difficult
to tell kids to put out their bottles and wait a number of hours to
drink the water because they only go to the large tanks when they want
to drink that minute. I'm not sure in what way it would be possible to
get the sun disinfection to catch on because the students are used to
drinking any type of water, wherever it comes from, so I think we're
just thankful they have clean water to drink at school and hopefully
take that message back to their homes.

You guys did leave some spares in the parts pile but we used them to
fix a few broken ones during 1st term when some kid decided to try to
wash his hands while using his foot to press down on the lever.

Everyone is very happy with the system and I think it should last for
many years, granted it is taken care of properly. If you want to try
and introduce the rain harvesting as a small business, you need to
think more about costs, funding, financials, and those type of things
that go into making a business successful. It's hard to just tell
people to start a business out of something without some support.

Hope this helps and makes sense.

All the best,

Eric

On 2/13/12, Ken Blair <Ken@rainbank.info> wrote:
> Hi Eric,
>
>   It was really good to hear things are going well with the system and the
> school. I was hoping to get you to elaborate a little about the main
> system. Such as are the students drinking the water from the large tanks?
> Are they refraining from washing hands from the large tanks and using the
> latrine systems for hand washing? Are the students and / or faculty feeling
> any positive effects from using both the hand washing and drinking water
> from the systems? Maybe less school days missed due to sickness. What is
> the response from any families of children who are using the water? Do you
> or others still teach from time to time about hand washing and clean
> drinking water? Finally has anyone used the sun for disinfection of
> drinking water as demonstrated.
>   Eric this would be so helpful for us if you could once again elaborate a
> bit. I hope we can get there in 2012 for the teachers building as well. I'm
> sure Mike will be all over some replacement faucets. Are you sure there
> aren't any in the parts pile?
>
> Hope to see you this year and thank you for your help.
>
> ken
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>   I
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> --

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