reconciling relationships

YEAR IN REVIEW

2011-2012
Our broken relationship with God hinders God’s good work in the world (e.g., sustaining all people with clean water). The fact that some people must drink contaminated water reflects our alienation from our Maker.

Throughout human history, water shortages have been one of the most common causes of violent conflict between people groups. Lack of water subjects individuals to an unjust inferior social status.

Poverty, disease, stunted growth, impaired intellect, and wounded dignity are all common results of lack of clean water. These shake the confidence that all people should have as wonderfully made human beings.

Instead of maintaining a mutually beneficial relationship with nature, God’s creation has become something we abuse and something that in turn causes suffering.

Unsafe water reflects broken relationships.
We are blessed to share in offering God’s reconciling love by helping people gain clean water. Individuals who drink clean water for the first time get a new taste of God’s faithfulness and care for them.

Finally able to care for their own needs, individuals gaining clean water affirm their God-given dignity and worth. Those of us who help this happen also gain peace and confidence as we sense that we are acting in accordance to our God-given purpose of serving others.

Most communities where Lifewater works have a relatively low impact on the environment. With safe water and good sanitation practices, they gain a chance to be even better stewards of God’s creation. And—if we are open to it—these communities can help teach those of us who consume more than our share of resources how to live more sustainably and responsibly.

Working toward clean and safe water for all people is part of the path of peace that knits together our diverse world.

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Keeping on

In July, I traveled to visit our implementing partners in Zambia and Ethiopia. Our partner in Ethiopia is the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus. With five million members, the church is the second largest in Ethiopia; only the state Orthodox Church has more members. Mekane Yesus has been in development for many years. It has a 40 million dollar budget and works with many, many non-governmental agencies.

While in Ethiopia, I had lunch with Deed Jaldessa, the director of Mekane Yesus’s Development and Social Services Commission. I asked Deed what we could do better in our partnership with the church. He replied:

“"No one does it better than Lifewater. Lifewater’s volunteers are the best. These are none better! Lifewater’s training and curriculum are the very best. Please, do not change anything! Just keep doing what you are doing!”"

This statement comes from a man who works with hundreds of NGOs from around the world.

So that is my challenge to us all... to keep doing what we are doing. Thank you for your faithfulness to the poor; they need our help, just as we need their partnership and testimonies to strengthen our own faith. Together we are making a difference. Please do all you can, and thank you for walking this journey with us at Lifewater.

Joshua Brown
Chairman of the Board
Cambodia
Lifewater partners with Cambodia Hope Organization to create stable, economically viable communities around Poipet that help eliminate the many social factors leading to human trafficking.

Ethiopia
Located in Addis Ababa, Lifewater’s East Africa office provides full support for Lifewater’s two large-scale projects in partnership with the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus – Development and Social Services Commission (EECMY-DASSC). The projects are providing holistic water development to a total of 81,000 people—many of whom are highly prone to suffering due to drought.

Ghana
In partnership with HCJB Global, Lifewater is focusing on hygiene and sanitation training in Ghana. In 2012, Lifewater trained Christian radio station producers and announcers from Sierra Leone, Lethoso, South Africa, Burkina Faso and Ghana in principles of effective water development, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and helped bring Christian WASH messages to multi-faith peoples across West Africa.

Kenya
Together with World Vision Kenya and Lifewater Kenya, Lifewater has provided comprehensive water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs to primary schools in Nakuru and Mbita Andei.

Laos
Working with Terra Clear Development, Lifewater has helped to establish a successful ceramic pot water filter fabrication and distribution business. The business provides an affordable safe water option for the rural poor and teaches essential hygiene skills as part of their marketing strategy.

Uganda
Lifewater and Divine Waters Uganda have brought safe water to 110,000 individuals as part of efforts to help communities resettle after decades in internally displaced persons camps.

Photo: Child at school in Kenya
Primary Beneficiaries

Lifewater helped 75,871 people gain at least 15 liters (3.96 gallons) of safe water per day within one kilometer (0.62 miles) of their home. Lifewater reports its beneficiaries conservatively—only up to 500 beneficiaries per well with a handpump. While many more people often benefit from each well, Lifewater installs 500 is the maximum number of people that can obtain the recommended daily amount of water from any single well.

Secondary Beneficiaries

In addition to helping our primary beneficiaries, Lifewater’s work benefitted hundreds of thousands in secondary ways—including providing additional but insufficient clean water to individuals, and helping to improve the health and environment of entire families by training individual family members in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). While the family members who are directly trained are counted as primary beneficiaries, other family members are considered secondary beneficiaries.

A CHILD DIES every 20 seconds of a water-related disease. We are changing that.

“With this water, I thee . . . ”

Marriage is a sacred cultural institution that has been positively affected by the increase in access to water. Lifewater’s East Africa director Zerihun Haile explains, “Many fathers are reluctant to wed their daughters to men who live in very dry areas. They know that the workload placed on their daughters to fetch water will be tremendous, and they want to see their daughters have a better life.” Zerihun says that, as safe water sources were installed in Lifewater’s project area, the distance to collect water decreased and time-savings for girls and women increased. He says, “People now happily report that marriages are on the increase.”

Water touches so many areas of our lives. Social outcomes—such as improved marriage prospects—are just one of the indicators of a project’s success.
Mtito Andei Schools Project (Summer 2010 to Spring 2012)

LOCATION: Mtito Andei Division of Kibwezi District, comprised of severely arid and water-stressed communities in a rural area between Nairobi and Mombasa

GOAL: Provide clean water, bathrooms, WASH training, and integrated water management education for ten primary schools in Mtito Andei. Inspire neighboring communities to seek the same improvements in their homes.

improvement beneficiaries

Gained clean and safe water sources 4,336 primary school students, teachers, and administrators at ten primary schools
Acquired adequate, hygienic bathrooms (latrines)
Trained by professional or volunteer trainers in good hygiene
Trained by community members (whom the project trained) in good hygiene 22,500

Mr. Joseph Mtesia
Headmaster, Misiani Primary School

“My name is Joseph Mtesia. I am the headteacher of Misiani Primary School. The children now have fewer stomach problems, absenteeism is decreasing, and the performance of students in increasing. The cases of ringworms have been reduced to almost zero, and we are improving the environment by planting very many trees! Enrollment at Misiani School has increased in the past year from 49 to 126 students, in large part from improvements made to the school and the buzz around the community about the WASH program.”

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RESULTS:

• Reduced absenteeism at school
• Promotion of adolescent girls' education
• Empowering of pupils as Change Makers
• Reduced ringworm school-wide
• Increased handwashing with soap
• Construction of household latrines
• Regular latrine use
• Small kitchen gardens
• Tree planting in schools
• Establishment of community tree nurseries

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Mr. Joseph Mtesia
Headmaster, Misiani Primary School
I attended sanitation and hygiene training at Lira town. Every morning there was a devotion. Verses were also used in the course. I came back and also watched the Jesus Film. I got a lot of important messages. It changed me from being drunkard to normal life. I used to drink local liquor and disturb my family and neighbours always. People laughed at me. Now after stopping drinking, I am sending my children to school, living healthy life, and being trusted by the community. And I am the chairman of our WASH Committee.

Ogwang Tom, 35
Odode village, Owalo Parish
Lira District, Uganda

Funded activities
- 95 shallow wells drilled
- 9 deep wells drilled
- 60 hand pumps repaired
- 144 local health workers trained
- 31 school teachers trained and supported as they established student WASH clubs

Project highlight
Uganda

Name: Project Restoring Hope (June 2009 to July 2012)

Location: Lira District in northern Uganda, a region rebuilding from decades of war

Goal: Provide clean water, bathrooms, WASH training, and integrated water management education for communities in Ogur and Abako Sub-Counties. Inspire neighboring communities to seek the same improvements.

Improvement | Beneficiaries
--- | ---
Adequate supply of clean and safe water | 110,000
Increased access to clean and safe water | 17,178
Adequate bathrooms and good sanitation practices | 65,560

"I attended sanitation and hygiene training at Lira town. Every morning there was a devotion. Verses were also used in the course. I came back and also watched the Jesus Film. I got a lot of important messages. It changed me from being drunkard to normal life. I used to drink local liquor and disturb my family and neighbours always. People laughed at me. Now after stopping drinking, I am sending my children to school, living healthy life, and being trusted by the community. And I am the chairman of our WASH Committee."

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Lifewater’s volunteer field trainers learn to adapt training sessions to faith-based, interfaith, and secular environments.

"I have learned so much from [Lifewater field trainers’s] commitment, patience, faith, and determination. When I hear them refer to God’s love as their drive to continue volunteering, I just get encouraged... Working with you guys is one of the best things that has happened in my life. You have really improved my skills as a Sanitation and Hygiene Officer."

- Irene Ojuok
Sanitation and Hygiene Officer, Kenya

**LIFEWATER TRAINING COURSES FY 11-12**

- Principles of Effective Community Development
- Water Development (Well Drilling, Hand Pump Repair, and Biosand Filtration)
- Sanitation (Latrine Design and Construction)
- WASH in Schools
- Community Health through Hygiene

**TRAINING FY 2011-12**

- 10 International volunteer field trainer trips
- 150 International workers trained as WASH trainers
- 8 Stateside training workshops
- 86 North Americans trained as trainers

**Photo:** Kenyan classroom

International volunteer field trainer trips
150 International workers trained as WASH trainers
8 Stateside training workshops
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**Lifewater’s Volunteer Field Trainers’ Impact on Training Sessions**

Photo: Kenyan classroom
but let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!

Amos 5:24

Interested in learning more? Please visit www.lifewater.org for details and financial information.