



*Where There is Water There is Life
Water For a Dry and Thirsty Land*

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NEWSLETTER

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Happy New Year 2014 to each of you!

Once again we can only bow our heads before God in amazement as we see Him constantly doing His work—in us, through us and through you! Last year was one of many changes and lots of good results; this year promises more changes! Already we have our first two groups that have come to help us; tomorrow will bring more! Wow! ☺ Plans are for two teams to be going to Paswadôm and replacing the roof on our house that is closest to the ocean. It has been patched many times,

so replacing the metal after 25 years seems a realistic move. And the big storm has affected two of our groups' arrivals.

I have asked Julie Landes, one of the work team members who came in November with Jim Frankenfield, to share Austen and her story; their whole team was such a huge blessing, and we want you to be blessed with us! Leon

Life was near-close to perfect. High school sweethearts, married with two beautiful daughters, a mortgage on a cute rancher, private Christian school for our kids, secure jobs, living the American dream. Through a series of events, our fruit basket of life

was turned upside down. The random nudging we had felt on our hearts, things we had been feeling and thinking for years, were brought to the surface. When we skimmed them off, we found a calling to serve NOW. Amidst busy schedules, careers, parenting, lack of experience, maxed finances...God called us to invest our time, money, and resources into our lifestyle in a faith-in-action way. This journey has been one of reckless belief and trust in Him, into the unknown and uncomfortable, and life has never felt more perfect.



"So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless."
James 2:17 (NLT)

I first traveled to Haiti in January 2001, and spent a week in Passe Bois d'Orme serving with Water For Life. While I was impacted and impressed by Water For Life's mission to provide clean drinking water, my limited life experience as a high school student numbered

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the full effect of my surroundings. I saw poverty for the first time, and while it did not feel real, Haiti and Water For Life became a part of the fabric of our lives and part of our faith story.

Shortly after we were married, we were asked to be youth advisors at our church (Souderton Mennonite Church in Souderton, PA). Our event planning skills were quickly utilized, and we found our niche

leading service projects with the youth for the next seven years. We thoroughly enjoyed traveling with groups of people, living and serving with them for a week. It was a blessing to see how God worked on our hearts, in our relationships with others, and in the lives of those we were serving. Once our time with our youth group ended, we felt led to intentionally continue serving, but were not sure how.

Austin and I traveled back to Haiti in February 2011 and spent another week serving in Passe Bois d'Orme with Water For Life. We refer to this week as "the trip that wrecked us". Coming home, our lifestyle felt sick and excessive, but it was easy to fall back into our normal routine. We went with the intention of making a difference, and quickly learned that it was us that needed changing. God was at work on our hearts.

In the summer of 2012, we felt led to start a non-profit. Although completely out of our realm as a plumbing estimator and stay-at-home

mom, it was a calling that we could not shake. We tried to talk ourselves out of it, but the thought remained constant. With a little research and months of late night processing, God blessed us with the courage to start, and Make It Rain, Inc. was born. Over the next few months, we began meeting and dreaming with others. God literally pulled people out of the woodwork that shared this vision He had laid on our hearts and they crossed our path.

To us, Make It Rain means "make it happen!" It is so easy to become consumed with life and forget who we are here to serve. Our team's goal is to connect people with service opportunities and help them integrate service into their everyday lives. It will look different for everyone: maybe one week a year, one Saturday a month or an evening here or there. It doesn't matter. Being part of the body of Christ means giving of your time and talents, and we want to continue to encourage and help people make that a consistent and integral part of their life.

This past November, with Jim Frankenfield as our fearless leader, Make It Rain volunteers participated in their first international trip to Haiti, partnering with Water For Life. We were so very excited to see the progress on the new compound in Les

Cayes! We were left with a profound effect on the selfless mission Leon and Joy and many others have committed to in serving with Water For Life. It is not about what they have done or will do, but about how God is at work. Our group of 14 from Pennsylvania, California, Texas, and Delaware, though quite a motley crew, worked incredibly hard to get primer on the walls, lights and ceiling fans working, kitchen cabinets mounted, and plumbing installed. We spent a week heavy on work, light on sleep, laughed a lot, and learned from each other. We left feeling inspired and hopeful and amazed at the work God is doing in us and in Haiti.



After a long hard day of working, nothing was better than eating Mme. Junel's yummy Haitian meals!

Serving is worth the expense. It is worth the blisters and sacrifice of your time and your finances. It has strengthened our marriage and united us as a couple. It has helped to adjust our perspective. And there is something about traveling, living, and serving with a group of people that is just plain fun. If you ever get the chance – whether it's serving a zip code or a country away – take it, you will be

blessed. Here's our challenge for the New Year, borrowed from Jim Frankenfield: "If not you... who? If not now...when?" In 2014, be open to God's calling: You are the Who and the time is Now.

Julie & Austin Landes
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January 12 marked 4 years since the earthquake in Haiti ! Four long years for those still living in tent camps; thankfully there are not too many anymore. But life is difficult for so many. Some have been moved to areas devoid ofanything ! especially of employment. ☹ Please pray for those who are still in need of adequate housing and employment. You may know that unemployment here is something like 70%, so those who do have jobs many times are taking care of extended family in addition to their own children and spouse. At the same time we know that Jesus and His love are even more needed than physical things like water and food and housing. We appreciate your continued prayers for all of us at Water For Life to hear God's voice as we serve others.

Leon and Joy