



# Where There is Water There is Life Water for a Dry and Thirsty Land

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## NEWSLETTER

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### *From the president's desk—*

To all my wonderful friends!  
May the grace and peace of God be on all of you as you go through this New Year!  
We cannot see ahead of us, but we can look backwards, and we see once again that God is faithful! And He WILL be faithful for each of us for whatever this New Year holds.

The reason we are here is to touch people's lives, whether by giving them water, showing them Respect, showing Kindness, showing Patience, in effect demonstrating God's love.

Pray with us that our understanding may be to love people. All over this world, people are crying out for Respect, for Love, for Kindness. By the grace of God, wherever we are, we can give others these things. None of us can give another person all he might need or want at the moment, but we can show God's love! So keep on loving people! Jesus loves us even when we are not very loving. If we give people water without showing the love of Jesus, we become nothing more than a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

With Valentine's Day as a reminder, let's each of us take time to love others far and near; in our own homes first, and then to the uttermost parts of the world! I am praying for a better revelation to understand the Love of God. God is Love. Let's stay in touch with the One Who is Love.

Be encouraged... God loves YOU. — *Leon*

### Water Scarcity Burden on Girls



Right now in the 21st century, 40% of the Haitian population living in remote areas get their water from unprotected water sources.

Unfortunately, at most water sites that are exposed to the surface, the water teems with microscopic life that brings sickness, fatigue and death through dysentery, typhoid and cholera. Furthermore, waterborne diseases will result in absence from work, maintaining the cycle of poverty.

This reality of scarcity of potable water complicates the situation of children in Haiti, of whom Haitian society still harbors very little consideration. See this disturbing image of this little girl drawing water under the impassive gaze of a man.



In this country, girls are more often tasked with collecting water. Water sources are often far from the village, and women and girls often must walk for hours to fetch water daily. Some families even keep their daughters at home so that they can help collect water. Instead of going to school, these girls follow their mothers and walk the long miles on uneven and rocky roads, hauling 5 gallons of water on their heads.

Carrying such heavy loads over long distances has detrimental health effects, including back and chest pains, developmental deformities, arthritic disease, and miscarriages. All this in a country where health facilities are scarce and poorly furnished with necessary supplies.

While walking to get water, particularly when they must walk alone before or after daylight hours, women and girls are vulnerable to rape and other violent attacks.

Because of the time spent bringing water back home, girls are more likely to miss out on school, an education that could change the outcome for their future families.

When you provide these women with a well in their village, you give much more than clean water; you contribute to keeping a child in school, saving a girl from being sexually harassed or a woman from having a miscarriage, and you provide health and a secure environment. Your gift will last for generations ahead!

### Hope for Healing

*“Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:28 (NIV)*

Three hundred fifty-four is the amount of people who received free quality health care with love and respect in the village of Olivier, Petit Goâve, West Haiti, in December 2015.

Francoise is only 21, and her first pregnancy hasn't been the most joyful experience she had. Indeed, as is true for the majority of pregnant women living in remote areas, she had no access to prenatal care. Reaching her eighth month she started to lose amniotic fluid. But due to lack of



knowledge she was not worried and didn't seek any help. On the fourth day of fluid loss, she was able to see a specialized doctor, thanks to the Mobile Clinic held in her village. For the first time, she had a sonographic evaluation. The

poor young woman did not understand too well when the doctor told her that the baby's heartbeat showed a high level of stress. The baby's life was being threatened by the high risk of infection and the loss of amniotic fluid. Francoise was rushed to the hospital where, by the Grace of God, a Caesarean section was performed the same day to save both the mom's and baby's lives.

Marie is only 48 years old, and yet suffers from bilateral cataracts, making her completely blind. Added to her precarious economic condition, blindness takes away all hope of a better life for herself and her children, 8 and 9 years old, who are totally dependent on her for their subsistence.

Marilia, 67, is plunged in the darkness by cataract also. She has been abandoned by her

family who were unable to bear the terrible burden of a handicapped person, and thus she was driven into a life of begging, relying solely on the good heart of the villagers.



For each patient present in the clinic that day, you, donors, are the ones who allowed some to receive help on site, others to be referred for more advanced care in the near future (like Francoise), and others to be put on a list to benefit for future surgery to regain sight.

Fifteen persons were diagnosed with cataracts with good chances that surgery can help restore their sight. Those people need your help to bring them out of the darkness. For one person to regain sight it only costs (including pre-evaluation and traveling expenses) \$800.

Glory in life is to love and not be loved, to give and not to receive; to serve and not be served. We encourage you to keep up the good work.

### *Blessings to you~ The WFL Team*

Thank you for responding to our need for baby layettes! They are such a blessing to have on hand to give to expecting mothers at our Mobile Clinics!

If you are interested in putting some layettes together please contact our office.

(319) 656-5433 or [waterforlife@hotmail.com](mailto:waterforlife@hotmail.com)

Nikki would be happy to assist you 😊

### Statistics for December

New wells drilled-- 23

Persons served--8050

Pumps repaired—14

People served-4900

Mobile medical clinic- people served- 354