

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

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Enhancing Trust

## NEWSLETTER

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### *A Brighter Future for Mailloux*

The children of the national school of Mailloux, Camp Perrin, Dept. of South, Haiti are enjoying the fresh water coming out from their newly installed pump.



Before their well was drilled each child used to come to school with half a gallon of water to quench their thirst during the day. The water they needed so badly had to come either from the nearest village which is 45 minutes away or from the unprotected river close by.

Diarrhea caused by impure water, plus lack of sanitation and hand hygiene used to keep them from attending school, and many of them suffered the loss of a sibling whose immune system was too weakened to fight deadly bacteria. When children are forced to miss their classes, many experience a decrease in their learning potential, which in turn leads to stunted development, lower concentration and poor academic performance.

At school the children are educated on hand washing and its importance in health maintenance. However, for lack of water this simple hygiene principle could not be practiced at Mailloux. So, together, students and teachers prayed fervently to God each morning before class started that one day they would have clean water available at their school.

Their prayers found their way to the heart of God's servants who did not hesitate to donate for a well. Since then their school has seen dramatic changes. Because of the new pump another organization responded to their request for more classrooms and a cafeteria.

They prayed and God used his faithful servants to impact their lives in ways they could have not imagined. With access to clean water, opportunities are growing, kids are healthy with a school absence rate at its lowest, economic activities are improving and there is a glimmer of hope in everyone's eyes.

A tiny flame can ignite thousands of hearts. Thank you, generous donor!

### *Reading: Gateway to a Better Future for Girls*

Francesca and Edialineda, both in kindergarten, are best friends. They often stay after school, not to play together but to review the lessons learned in class. They have been introduced to an important skill: READING, which will change the outcome of their future. They will therefore leave the ranks of illiterate people.



Illiteracy plagues many women in their families; their mothers do not read fluently, and their grandmothers not at all.

For any country, schooling for girls is a gateway to all progress. By becoming educated these two girls will become: more fulfilled, capable of better managing their life and their family; they will be able to provide a better education to their children, and more capable of earning a better living.

At Divine Help School in Paswadòm, having dedicated and skilled teachers is of utmost importance for these children. In addition to academic classes, girls also benefit from Christian education and the promotion of hygiene principles that will enable them to build a strong family for themselves one day.

By supporting a child in the Water for Life school you are allowing these girls a chance for a better future. Your engagement bears fruit in their lives!

Thank you for giving these girls the best opportunity.

### *Smile, God Loves You!*

Lissa, 19, is in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. She is doing well at school yet she was different from many other girls in her class. She smiled very little and when she did, she hid her smile behind her hands. When the mobile

clinic came to her small village at Sucrerie Henri in southern Haiti, her only request was to see the dentist. At the triage area, with a barely audible voice she asked the nurse doing the screening, "Miss, are the dentists able to fix teeth?"

The poor girl was suffering from multiple cavities of the anterior teeth. The appearance of her bad teeth caused her to be constantly harassed, taunted and bullied at school. They called her "rotten teeth Lissa" and she would cry in despair and ask her mom to send her to a doctor, dreading the tooth aches that would keep her up at night, suffering.



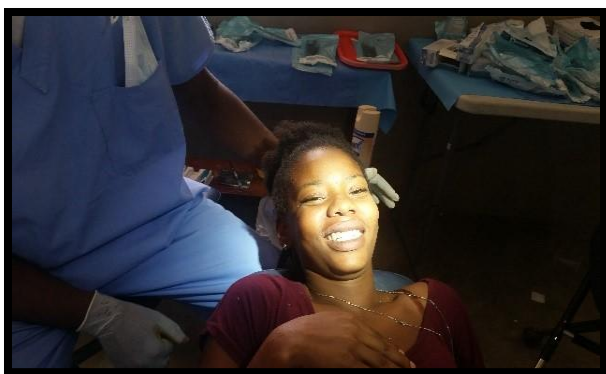
Unfortunately, poor living conditions in small villages like Lissa's makes even basic health services unavailable. Without electricity and running water, no dentist will come to settle there. In fact, dentists are found mostly in the metropolitan areas or the main cities. The ratio for dentists in Haiti is 1 per 50,000 inhabitants (International Dental Office /ICO).

Moreover, when they are available, dental care is above the budget of many households, and most people consult a dental specialist only when they need to extract a tooth that torments them. Dental hygiene education is rare knowledge in remote villages, and families often don't have toothpaste.

Lissa's mom did not have the means to send her daughter to a dentist, having to deal with school tuition and food costs; it was more than her crop-selling at the local market could afford.

When Lissa heard of the news that the WFL mobile clinic would include dental restoration, a ray of hope began to shine in her heart and she showed up early at the site waiting long hours, skipping school until finally she could access a dentist.

After restoration when she was shown how beautiful her smile was, her heart burst with gratitude, and tears of joy ran down her cheeks.



That day Lissa received more than her smile back; she received confidence as the beautiful masterpiece God created her to be.

Because you support the Water for Life mobile

clinic activities, young women like Lissa can access a doctor or other specialist who often is lacking in remote villages.

With a donation of \$8 you can help one person access quality health care in our mobile clinic.

### *From the president's desk*

Greetings to all our wonderful friends! Another year is underway; isn't it wonderful that each of us who are believers can rest in the One who was, and is, and is to come! And that we can KNOW that all things work together for good to them who love the Lord! Our hope and faith are in the Lord. I was reading in Micah 7:7-- "*But as for me, I wait in hope for the LORD: I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me.*" (NIV) My, we all can be encouraged as we keep our hope in the Lord! Hebrews 10:24-25 say, "*Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He Who promised is faithful, and let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.*" (NIV) I just want to thank you all for your faithfulness in supplying what we need so we can respond to needs of people all around us; that as we share with you the needs you have been so responsive in meeting needs of people here. We see the needs but we can't do anything about them without your help. So thank you so much! As we continue on in this new year our hope is in the Lord, and He is faithful to remind you to pray and to give support for the wonderful gift of WATER to the people. So we look forward to giving many more people good clean water. We cannot do so without your help. There are many MANY requests from villages across southern Haiti who are desperately waiting till we can come. As we go to see their needs we can understand why they are constantly getting sick from water-borne diseases and not doing well. But as we drill and find good clean water right in their village, it is a wonderful blessing to them, to see God's provision of good water that was right there, under them!

When we have groups come, we take them to see the wells they helped to drill, and they too can drink the water from the pump the village people use. There aren't that many places in the developing world that foreigners are able to drink the same water as the local people; they usually have to carry their water with them. One thing we need to do is to make sure the well is not too shallow as it could eventually become contaminated, and then we would not have been of any help at all.

So do keep us in prayer as we share God's love with the people. ~ Leon

### *December Statistics*

Wells drilled: 6

Hand pumps installed: 5

Population served: approximately 1,750

Pumps repaired: 17

Population served: 5,950

Mobile clinic: 649 people served