



Where There is Water There is Life

Water for a Dry and Thirsty Land

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Enhancing Trust

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NEWSLETTER

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The Gift of Water Brings Back Childhood!



In Haiti, 12 percent of the population of children aged 6 to 12 (about 200,000 children out of 1.7 million) are not attending school. There are high drop-out rates (an average of 12 percent in the first six years of primary school, peaking at 26 percent in the sixth year).

Whipping and beating is widely practiced in Haiti. Eighty-six per-cent of children aged 2 to 14 years are disciplined by emotional, physical and psychological abuse. According to the International Labor Organization, “the term ‘child labor’ is defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. It interferes with their schooling by depriving them of the opportunity to attend school, obliging them to leave school prematurely, or requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work.” This is very different from children working to help their parents around their home or in their business, or earning pocket money by offering their services to others, etc.

Almost 50% of children aged 5-14 in Haiti are involved in child labor; this proportion reaches up to 64% in some parts of the country.

The children of Bois Rouge in southern Haiti do not escape the statistics. Beating is one of the ways parents use to ensure obedience and child participation in household tasks. One of the tasks that are especially conferred on children is that of going after water. Indeed, the supply of water in homes is the responsibility of children and women but mostly children, even if this task is a difficult one as water is a commodity not always very accessible. Many of those kids must walk regularly for one or two hours before reaching the nearest water source. Too often, they have to suffer the reproaches and whippings of teachers and parents when they fail the duty in a timely fashion, most times through no fault of their own.

Fortunately, thanks to you who contributed to build a well in their village, Marie and her little sister, along with many other children, are able to bring fresh and clean water to their home without having to walk numerous kilometers. From now on they can draw water from their new well without fearing the reprisals of parents or school teachers for taking too much time.

By sponsoring wells in villages in Haiti you bring back serenity and childhood to thousands of kids by protecting them from violence, abuse and exploitation.

Lack of Health Care Leads to Dramatic Consequences!

Accessibility to care, which depends on the availability of health services, can be understood as “the ability of patients to obtain, in a timely manner, the care and medications necessary for treatment by a health professional.” This ability itself depends on the economic power of the patient. So, the poorer we are, the less access we have to health care. And the lower the access to health care, the greater the risk of serious illness leading to higher morbidity and mortality. Louise, 60 years old, and baby Macha, 12 months old, have experienced this sad truth.

First, Louise, with a husband paralyzed for more than 25 years from a terrible work accident; she had to give up sending her 7 children to school in order to keep the little she earned to feed them. For the past almost 2 years she has been suffering from bleeding without being able to see a gynecologist. When she learned that the mobile clinic would be in her village, she rapidly came. Unfortunately, it was too late, for she has already developed a cervical cancer. She wishes she had had the means to go to the doctor sooner! Louise has never felt so desperate in her life. And yet, she has had a lot of hard times. In addition to fatigue and feelings of failure to cope with the illness, Louise feels guilty thinking of her children and disabled husband whom she will leave behind when she dies. Even though they are all grown up (except for the youngest who is still a teenager), the poor lady continues to accept all sorts of little jobs to continue supporting them.



Second, baby Macha; she had been lying sick in bed for a week. Unfortunately, her parents’ precarious economic condition did not allow little Macha to go to the doctor. When she was received by the pediatrician at our mobile clinic, the child was sluggish with cold hands and feet. Obviously the child had sepsis. Immediately we tried to place an IV line before

referring her to the hospital. Alas. Help had come too late.



Indeed, access to health care could have prevented these two people from falling seriously ill. In a country like Haiti, where the majority of people living in

remote areas cannot afford to travel tens of kilometers to see a doctor, mobile clinic activities save thousands of lives.

We thank you for all the support you give so that even more people have access to health care. Certainly you are like guardian angels of thousands of poor people in Haiti to whom you give the chance to see a health professional who can diagnose an illness, hopefully in time to prevent a fatality.

Hello and Good-bye!

Both in Haiti and at our office in Iowa, we have been blessed to have wonderful people working with us! Dr. Vadna Georges has been indefatigable in all her efforts, whether being in charge of the logistics for our mobile clinic program or keeping track of all materials needed while we were constructing housing for people who'd lost their homes in the hurricane. She's been a power house for getting things done! And now she's told us she has plans to move and get married! We wish you all God's blessings, Vadna, and hope you'll remember to come visit us from time to time!



At our office in Iowa, it's been Nikki Helmuth (right) who's been taking care of things, and has done a great job! She has decided she wants to be home full-time with her family, and so the search was on to find a replacement. We wish you well, Nikki; thank you for all your efforts!!! Happily we found Katrina Beachy (left) to replace her! So if you call our Iowa office, it will likely be her voice you'll be hearing. Welcome, Katrina!!



From the President's Desk

Greetings of love to all our wonderful friends!

It is such a joy to write to you each month and share with you what has been happening in my life and also in Water For Life! We just finished with our board meeting, which takes place every 6 months, one in the US and one in Haiti; this one was in Haiti. It has been such a blessing to be a part of the board and to experience the unity of the brotherhood within that group. Psalms 133:1 says, *"How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity."* We sense God has some wonderful things planned for the next year. As things unfold, I will share them with you. But that is what is so wonderful—to see how God has put it all together, and how He uses each of us in building His kingdom for His glory!

It is so wonderful to see how God touches people's hearts at just the right time. God's timing is perfect. That's when we see and know He is in control; we just need to rest and not be anxious about anything. But I find myself having a hard time to wait on the Lord! I start to find ways in my own strength to make something happen. Then He tells me, "Just rest, and I will show you a better way." Psalm 32:8 says, *"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you."* (NIV) He loves to show us what all He wants to do through us. So let's keep our eyes on Jesus, or as Hebrews 12:2 says, *"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfector of our faith, Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."* (NIV) God loves us so much. He sent His Son to die in our place. That's some Big Love. What does that love look like? We who have experienced His love—how do we let it flow through us? We can only give what we know we have received. Do we understand the immensity of the love He has for us? As we open ourselves up to receive His love, I know it will flow through us. And it has been flowing through you to the Haitian people. Please keep us in your prayers as the year unfolds. Pray that His love that we have received will flow like a mighty river through us!

We love you all and are praying for you too!

~Leon

— December 2018 Statistics —

Wells Drilled:	15
Hand Pumps Installed:	14
People Served:	approximately 4,900
Hand Pumps Repaired:	41
People Served:	approximately 12,300
Mobile Clinic Outreach:	600 people served
WFL School Meals Served:	approximately 6,452

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