



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

US Address: P.O. Box 456, Kalona, IA 52247 (319) 656 5433 E-mail [waterforlife@hotmail.com](mailto:waterforlife@hotmail.com)

Haiti Address: Rte. de L' Aeroport, Charrier, Cayes (509) 2228-9259 E-mail: [wflhaiti@yahoo.com](mailto:wflhaiti@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.wflhaiti.org](http://www.wflhaiti.org)



## NEWSLETTER

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### *A Mother's Despair*



*"Can a woman forget her nursing child and have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, but I will not forget you." Isaiah 49:15(NIV)*

The Water For Life Mobile Clinic team met Michelle, 39, mother of 6 in her village of Ferme le Blanc in Torbeck, South, Haiti. Michelle's life has been a hard one; she gave birth to all her 6 children at home, having had very limited access to health care because her only income was made by selling vegetables in the surrounding villages from daybreak to sunset. That was all she had to support her family and to provide an education for her children so they may hope for a better future. Michelle did what most poor mothers in Haiti would do—neglected her own health to provide the basics for her children.

When she heard of WFL mobile clinic activities in her village she took a day off and decided to see the gynecologist for the first time in her life about the pain she was experiencing in her lower abdomen.

After educating her on the HPV virus and the consequences on women's health, she decided to be screened for cervical cancer lesions at the clinic.

Tragically the doctor visualized that Michelle suffered lacerations and severe damage from her difficult home baby deliveries without medical assistance and follow-ups, plus she was diagnosed with stage 4 cervical cancer which was causing her very severe pains.

When the gynecologist informed her about the seriousness of her health conditions, Michelle was just devastated. Without word her face was saying, "What would have become of my children? Where is that better future I was hoping for for my children, that I worked so hard for?"

Due to our limitation as a mobile clinic, there was not much we could do except to pray, comfort her that God is always at her side, encourage her and advise her to go as quickly as possible to a hospital to have the management that her case requires. It was that type of situation where we can only turn to the Lord and trust in His love and compassion.

The mobile clinic program came too late for Michelle. Raising awareness and providing access to cervical cancer screening for more rural women in the south of Haiti is of

critical importance. To save more lives we need your prayers and donations towards the mobile clinic program.

Please remember on Mother's Day the many mothers like Michelle who have limited access to health care. On behalf of all the women who will benefit from your generosity, we wish you Happy Mother's Day and Thank you for the gift of health.

### *Julain and Judson's Journey for Clean Water*

In the village of Damejour in Miragoâne, Haiti, we met Julain 7 and his older brother Judson, 12 coming from a nearby village.

Every day, up and down hills they go, traveling two kilometers to a neighboring village where a Water for Life pump was installed, their only source of safe water. Barefooted, they carry back the water in jerry cans which they load on the family donkey to bring home the necessary water supply for the large family of 10.

The boys spend much more time carrying buckets of water than doing school work that would help them to a better future.

Judson used to go alone on his quest for water. It took him longer to accomplish his tasks and often he was unable to finish his homework. When his younger brother Julain was old and strong enough to join him, together they now fill the jugs more quickly and hurry back home before sunset to do their school studies.



They enjoy helping their parents but find the long walk burdensome; the time spent and physical burden associated with water-fetching puts a daily heavy toll on their young lives. They often dream of one day to having a pump in their own village and thus having time for other activities.

Thanks to one generous donor, they have just been granted a well in their village, enabling them to drink and wash their hands with safe water, which will ensure them a better health outcome. Glory to God!

Many others like Julain and Judson continue to suffer from lack of access to drinking water and must neglect their education in favor of this quest for water.



We ask you to keep those children in your prayers so that one day thanks to Jesus' compassion, they will be able to have time not only to help their parents but also to do their homework, play with friends, or simply being kids like those who are lucky enough to grow up in other countries. Thanks for your continuous prayers and your loving gifts for the needy people of Haiti!

### *In the Name of our Children*

The school kids of Paswadòm have a hopeful gaze in their eyes. They can benefit from quality education in a small remote village of South, Haiti, a country where standard rural education is not always available.

Education is clearly one of the most powerful instruments to combat poverty and inequality, as well as to lay the foundations for sound economic growth. Coupling Bible principles with a good academic background allow these children to have the freedom to achieve one's development potential, to think broadly and to live as whole persons, having sufficient knowledge and skills to decide and act in a way that favors' sustainable development.



At the Paswadòm school our goals are to equip the students to get more interested in solving problems than just passing class, to become effective advocates of Christ-likeness, to develop their creativity and build the spirit of team work. Sponsoring a student allows this child to thrive and accomplish his God-given talents in his life and his community and to acquire the necessary skills to maintain and improve quality of life for himself and the-generations to come.

Ephesians 4:16 says, "From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." (NIV)

### *From the President's Desk*

Greetings to all our wonderful friends! We think this month of Mother's Day and mothers here in Haiti and all over

the world, holding their families together and serving them! We have an old saying—"She who rocks the cradle rules the world." The immense influence and importance of a mother cannot be overstated. My own mother died 20 years ago this month, on Mother's Day. She was a special mother and cared so much about all her children, and I used to think, especially me!! ☺ I think of Haitian mothers; the sacrifices they make for their children are amazing! So many things the mothers do here are hard—finding food, getting water, scrubbing clothes by hand, and the list goes on. About the only time you see mothers sitting is while they're washing clothes or selling their wares in a marketplace. And when children get sick, the mothers are very anxious to get them to a doctor. I remember when I was doing the drilling how, when I found clean water, the women and children would be SO very happy, jumping up and down and giving me kisses because their lives would be made so much better in numerous ways!

This past month was another difficult one for drilling. We were drilling in the mountains where we made several attempts, going very deep yet found no water for the people, which was very sad and discouraging.

Yesterday I went out with our drilling coordinator to visit potential well sites in areas where the communities have asked us for water. When I go out and see the needs, my heart is always touched, seeing where they are presently getting water, and the excitement to hear they may have a well in their area is always rewarding. That's why I wish more of you could come and see first-hand the living conditions of many people. There are so many children and without good clean water they will have a very hard life, if any life at all.. Without seeing it, you'll just have to take my word for it.

Thank you, thank you for your hearts of compassion for the people and their needs. God is using you to supply water and other needs to your brothers and sisters in the Lord and also to those who've not yet asked Jesus to be their Savior and Lord.

*"May the Lord make you increase, both you and your children, may you be blessed by the Lord, the Maker of Heaven and earth."* Ps. 115:14-15 (NIV) ~ **Leon**

***Attention, Golfers!! June 1st is the date for the Iowa golf benefit for Water For Life! It will be held in Kalona at the Kalona Golf Course.***

**If you have questions you can contact Mitch Swartzentruber- [mwtruber@gmail.com](mailto:mwtruber@gmail.com) or (319)936-0749**

***Check out the application form on our website at [www.wflhaiti.org](http://www.wflhaiti.org) See you there!!***

### ***March Statistics***

Wells Drilled: 2

New Pumps Installed: 5

People served: approximately 1,750

Pumps repaired: 48

People served: approximately 16,800

Mobile Clinic reach: 554