



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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A Divine Promise

Dear Sponsors,



Haiti is going through very dark days. As of this writing, the country no longer has a government, and the future is uncertain. The gangs are literally burning Port-au-Prince. The distress and suffering of the population is immense. As we move forward in our mission despite everything, we remember the promise Jesus made to us by challenging us to be his disciples: *"...I am with you always..."* Matthew 28:20

With this certainty, we know that even in the worst moments, the Lord does not abandon us. And we see despite this crisis, the departments of the Great South—the southern peninsula—remain spared from the violence of the gangs. In addition, thousands of people are fleeing the capital to seek refuge in the provinces. Water needs are increasing, requests for Water for Life wells are coming from all directions.

Two weeks ago, we drilled a well in an area where the population has been struggling for a long time. We knew drilling would be difficult because the area is mountainous. Finally, after four days of work and 650 feet of drilling, we found 20 gallons per minute! Hallelujah! God had made provision for this neglected area.

Last week, one of our teams repaired 28 hand pumps in five days in the area surrounding the city of l'Asile. We estimate



that around 1,000 people have had their access to water restored.

We thank the Lord for allowing us to continue bringing the water that is life to all those who had lost hope. There are still many challenges on the road ahead, but we know we can count on your support and on God's.

New Children at Divine Help School

Although some children have left the Divine Help School area because they and their parents left the country in search of a better life, we also receive new requests for student registration, even this late in the year. Many families have also fled Port-au-Prince to find refuge in Passe Bois D'Orme. Daily life is not easy for them, but at least they have the assurance of being able to allow their children to attend a good school. The children will then be able to have the most normal education possible without having to fear gang shootings. Indeed, it is common in Port-au-Prince for classes to be interrupted by gunshots and sometimes bullet holes are visible on the classroom walls.



We pray that the Lord will give us the means to care for these new students who so need peace, hope, and love.

Heartbeats From the Field: Edy Gehy

Q. When did your story with Water For Life begin?

A. I was introduced to Joy in 2006 by pastor Eris Labady. Later the same year I met Leon in a seminar in a village near Paswadom. I was teaching about the gracious love of God. After the seminar, Leon introduced himself to me and shared about Water for Life and some cultural issues he was going through. Without hesitation I offered myself to help him understand Haitian culture and how to deal with the issues. Quickly we became friends, and I started helping with some difficulties in the church and

the school in Paswadòm. In 2009, Leon introduced me to the Water Life board members and invited me to become part of the board, as I understand Haitian culture and know how to deal with the staff and the community. After the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, Leon asked if I would be willing to get involved in the management of Water for Life and help with the legal issues due to my law and business background. At that point, as a volunteer, I got involved full-time in management, along with my wife Elsie in administration and accounting, for three years until March 2013. Then the board proposed that I become a paid employee, and I accepted my current position as the administrator of WFL operations in Haiti.

Q. How do you understand and appreciate the mission of Water For Life?



A. During my time as a volunteer, I was really touched by the sacrifices of Leon and Joy leaving their home country to live and serve in a place like Paswadòm, and all the difficulties they had to deal with in the communities. From there, as a Christian and a church pastor at that time, I understood through Leon and Joy the manifestation of the sacrificial gracious love of God in people. I highly appreciate the mission of Water for Life, because it's not just talking about God, but it is a visible living demonstration of the love of God toward the needy people of Haiti.

Q. How do you understand your participation in this mission (this ministry)?

A. After living in Miami with my family since 1988 and accepting Christ in May 1999, my wife and I felt the calling of God to move back to Haiti to share salvation through Jesus Christ and the grace of God. In that regard, my main mission at Water for Life was, and still is today,

to create a working environment where peace and love abound among the staff, and compassion and respect is extended to the communities we serve.

Q. What impact has this mission had in your life?

A. Through Water for Life, I have opportunities to experience daily the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-24, to serve the poor in basic needs such as water, education and healthcare. In one word I learn the gracious love of God through Jesus Christ, my Lord and my Savior.

From Leon's Desk

Greetings again to our wonderful friends! I am sure you have been hearing a lot of what has been happening in Haiti most recently, with lots of tumult and violence. It seems like it's gone from bad to worse. I only pray that till you receive this, there will be some decisions made that can help the country get back on a better track.

Our team seems to be safe at this point. Our base is far enough away from Port-au-Prince that the terrible violence is not in our area. But it causes lots of problems anyway, in the lack of food, fuel, and other needs, so that many families do not have enough food.

We continue to ask you to pray for the safety of our staff, as they need to travel to do their work; also, for the container that remains in customs. Right at this moment it isn't even a good time to take it out in the street because of lack of security. But as soon as it's possible, we really need it! Hopefully till you receive this letter things will have improved, and conditions will be safer. Presently, airports are closed, so people can neither enter nor leave.

We ourselves had had a plan to go visit Haiti by the end of March, but once again our plans are not going to happen.

Please pray with us that people will turn their hearts to the Lord and that Haiti could experience the miracle of a heart change that would change the country!

John 3:16 tells us, *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* (KJV) God gave His Son so we could have eternal life. What a blessed gift!!

Please also pray that our team can keep sharing God's love with the people they come in contact with, especially as people are in the most desperate need ever.

Once again, thank you so much for your prayers and support. Thank you for your phone calls telling us you are praying! That is always so encouraging. We praise God that He still is in control, and we can trust Him to take us to the end. We cannot do anything without your support. Together we are serving the Lord.

So let's not lose heart, but keep pressing on to see what God has in store for us all.

Thank you again. God bless you all.

~Leon

— February 2024 Statistics —

Wells Drilled: 9

Hand Pumps Installed: 1

People Served: approximately 350

Hand Pumps Repaired: 50

People Served: approximately 17,500

D.H. School Meals Served: 5,480

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