

Water of Life

NEWSLETTER OF
Living Waters For The World

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Sustainability effort leads to new support for networks

Initiating partners being asked to help

By **WIL HOWIE**

Sustainability — it could be called the acid test for Living Waters for the World treatment systems.

LWW has wrestled with the challenge of sustainability since its beginning, and now it is turning an important new page and calling on our Initiating Partners for help.

With 313 systems now operating in 23 countries and more going in almost every week, sustainability is one of the biggest challenges LWW faces:

How do we — and our initiating and operating partners — insure that the vast majority of these systems will still be delivering clean water in ten or twenty years?

Several years ago, we incorporated into our organizational structure a Sustainability Task Force charged with finding an answer to that question.

Without clear and intentional strategies, our clean water systems are as vulnerable to early obsolescence as any worthwhile mission project that has ever been done. LWW, however, wants to be different.

The key: Networks

Early on as the number of systems began to grow, regional and country networks were our first response. In 2005 the first two were formed in the Yucatan of Mexico and in Guatemala,

Since then new networks have continued developing and we now have eight functioning and four “emerging” networks.

By having a network coordinator — and, in many countries, an in-country coordinator, — we have been able to support and expand the number of systems in these places.

In addition, in four of our networks, much of the necessary installation hardware is purchased in-country and mutual assistance between operating partners is regularly happening.

New policy initiated

And yet the search for a more complete answer continues. As a result, in August 2009 meetings, the LWW Field Operations Team recommended, and the mission’s governing committee approved, several important new initiatives with our networks, both organizationally and financially.

As our largest networks grow in size and complexity, it becomes harder for a single coordinator to oversee and manage everything effectively. To that end, LWW is now implementing the move toward each network forming a Coordinating Team of four to six members to be responsible for all the organizational details for each network.

These changes have financial



Wil Howie

implications. Currently our network funding — which continues to grow each year as we add new networks — comes from general giving. We have long wrestled with how to develop a stable funding source to undergird the long-term and sustainable operation of our clean water systems.

At the August 2009 cycle of meetings, LWW

was instructed by the committee that beginning January 1, 2010, a Network Development and Sustainability Subsidy will be implemented. The subsidy will be tied to each Initiating Partner/Operating Partner covenant signed after that date.

The subsidy will not be retroactive, but we are inviting existing Initiating Partners to tithe a portion of each project every time a new IP/OP covenant is signed.

All funds from the subsidy and from voluntary IP tithes will go toward sustaining our existing networks and funding new networks as they emerge.

The subsidy amount, not yet determined; will be announced after the November 2009 meetings.

It my deep hope and prayer that you, our partners, will find joy in joining with us in these new ways as we work toward building a solid foundation in support of this work the Lord has given us to do, both now and into the future. Let clean water flow!

.The Rev. Wil Howie is founder and director of Living Waters for the World.



With its new building not yet complete, Calvin Crest Conferences in the California mountains housed its initial CWU-103 class in a tent in early October.

Success in the Sierra: First CWU-West session

By **SCOTT HENDERSON**
and **JANET TUCK**

Under a dazzling blue sky and bright sunshine, with a sprinkling of snow on opening day, the first Clean Water U session at Calvin Crest Conferences in Oakhurst, Calif., was a resounding success.

Without even being marketed, the event drew a capacity 48 students, who were aided by 20 interpreters, staff and instructors.

Students from Laos, Cameroon and Yucatan, Mexico, joined others from California, Idaho, Nevada, Washington, Oregon, Florida, Virginia and Alabama for training October 4-9 in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Establishing a second CWU training center and having full attendance at the first session demonstrates the mission work that can be done when we come together as partners. Hopefully, this will encourage us to explore opportunities to establish international training sites in the future.

Calvin Crest's new building is still under construction, so the CWU-103 training boards were set up under the "pavilion," a 40' x 40' tent. This gave mission teams easy access to the systems to plan their system selection and installation trips.

As part of the closing ceremony CWU students, staff and instructors dedicated the site where Calvin Crest's new building is being built and will be available for the August 2010 CWU West.

CWU 101 student Wendy Gist of San Gabriel Presbytery was quite impressed with the instructors. "They worked so well together as a team," she commented. The fact that international partners

were next to her in the classroom was a bonus to Wendy. "It was so nice to learn more about their context. Their participation and sharing of their experience really added to what I learned."

These included the Rev. Khampheng Mitpasa of Laos, Orlando Cab of the Yucatan, Mexico. Also participating were

Continued on next page



Calvin Crest's first CWU-West class makes history in California.



Above, CWU-West students dedicated the Calvin Crest site where a new building is being erected.



At left, these were the instructors for the first-ever CWU-West class in October.

CWU-West

Continued from Page 2

immigrants to this country: John Bosavanh and Tony Bounthapanya, originally from Laos, and Gideon Ticha, originally from Cameroon.

The fact that LWW is a relationship-based organization is what struck Wendy most deeply. "This is a mission model I really believe in, that these relationships are over the long term," she said.

People in San Gabriel Presbytery are excited about the possibilities, she said. They haven't made any definite plans yet, nor have they invited a partner into the mission, but "people are calling, asking to get involved," said Wendy.

The Calvin Crest staff thanks the Synod of the Living Waters, the Living Waters for the World staff and Clean Water U staff and instructors whose hard work, mission partnership and open hearts made CWU West possible.

Together, we have created an opportunity to expand the number of mission teams trained each year. We will offer CWU West sessions August 14-19 and October 2-7 in 2010. We hope to offer three CWU West sessions in 2011.

Scott Henderson is executive director of Calvin Crest Conferences. Janet Tuck is editor of The Voice, newspaper of the Synod of Living Waters.



CWU No. 23, the first-ever July session at Hopewell, had 33 students from 12 states.



CWU No. 24, in September at Hopewell, went down in history as the water class. Thirty-nine students from 12 states endured a solid week of rain.



University of Mississippi civil engineering students and instructors working at CWU's Hopewell campus: First row, from left: Shannon Wilson, Pablo Mariaca, Emily Woolsey, Lorena Lica, Timothy Richardson, Cris Surbeck, Harlon Mills, Joseph Murphy. Second row: Wil Howie, Floyd Groves, David Parks, Frank Roecker, Nick Farney, Keah Lim, Aaron Pullen.

University engineering students tackle technical issues at Hopewell campus

By WIL HOWIE

So many wonderful and surprising things keep appearing in the life of LWW. This past January I received a call to present Living Waters for the World's technical and hardware aspects to the February symposium of senior level and graduate civil engineering students at Ole Miss.

The presentation was well received and afterwards Dr. Cris Surbeck, associate professor, stated that of all the humanitarian groups doing water projects, LWW was the first she had ever seen that 'knew what [they were] doing.'

She also wanted to learn more later.

She called back in mid-July, perfect timing as our 21st CWU session was meeting the following week. She jumped at the invitation to come and check it out. Spending Thursday morning with us at worship, CWU 101 and 102, most of the morning with the 103's at the water buildings and on through lunch.

She was impressed with our equipment and processes so much so that weekend, that her head kept spinning with ideas and possible collaborative efforts.

Of all the humanitarian groups doing water projects, LWW was the first she had ever seen that 'knew what they were doing.'

The very next week, the CE department had reviewed the teaching assignments and Cris discovered she now had an elective course (instead of Fluid Dynamics) to develop and teach this fall. 'Why not something with LWW?' she thought. And it has worked!

Her course is titled "Service Learning in Water and Sanitation Engineering" and has eleven students participating.

Not only are the students spending time in the classroom, they are also learning how to fully operate our Standard ozone clean water systems.

This is being done through the gifts of several of our CWU 103'ers from Advent Presbyterian Church in Tennessee: Harlon Mills, Dave Parks and Floyd Groves,

who come from Memphis on many Friday afternoons to provide the students with real-time, hands-on experience with our small-scale, community-sized clean water systems.

But there's more. Because this is a "service" course, in conjunction with our Design sub-team, they will also be studying, testing and reporting on several important technical questions we have formulated with Dr. Surbeck.

Major aspects include reviewing and updating all of our instructions and charts regarding chlorine use. The other primary work will be involved in scientifically testing the ozone production of our Standard system in many different configurations.

Their final exam will come on December 10, 2009, when as a group they will present their semester-long report and their technical findings. We have been invited to be a part of this, and nothing will keep us away.

Who knows where all of this is heading, but without a doubt, the winds of the Spirit are certainly blowing through it all.

The Rev. Wil Howie is founder and director of LWW.

Appalachia network wins \$100,000 grant, plans November training event for teams

By **TIM MYRICK**
and **BILL BOWMAN**

The Appalachian Network of Living Waters for the World has been notified that it has been awarded its second U.S. Department of Agriculture grant for its Household Water Well Systems program.

This grant, for \$100,000, is for continuation of efforts to bring clean water to rural areas of Appalachia. The grant funds will be available October 1.

Under its provisions the network is authorized to drill wells and install water treatment systems in four areas in Tennessee and Kentucky.

The primary service location will be Tazewell, in Claiborne County, Tennessee, where up to 40 systems and 6 wells are expected to be installed for low-income families.

The network also will begin work in Morgan County, Tennessee, and Pike and Perry Counties in Kentucky as part of this 12-month grant.

Living Waters Appalachian Network will be contributing \$25,000 of matching funds, and \$5,000 is being contributed by the Claiborne County



Appalachian homeowner Michelle English of the Buffalo Creek area displays clean water that now comes from her well.

government.

When completed, this new grant will more than double the number of water systems installed in Appalachia, a good test for the network's growing team of covenant

churches and volunteers.

Evidence of that growth is seen in the upcoming gathering of network friends for training November 6-8.

A group of about 60 is expected to come to Henderson

Settlement, in Frakes, Kentucky, that weekend to discuss water issues, make new friends, and help the network get ready for 2010 activities. Devotional activities are also being planned.

Since many church groups will be represented, it's hoped that other church members will learn about the network through reports back to Sessions and Mission Committees.

Plans for the weekend include discussions about how the network began its work and how it relates to LWW in its international mission. Participants will learn about what kinds of water contamination problems are found around the region, and what kinds of equipment can alleviate the problems.

They will also have an opportunity to see existing treatment systems in the Buffalo Creek area, and to assemble a system from individual components.

Tim Myrick of Powell, Tenn., is a member of the LWW Committee. Bill Bowman of Louisville, Ky., is coordinator of the Appalachian Network.

Getting the word out —

Speakers battery spreads the LWW story

LWW's Development and Awareness Team knows that getting the word out about the world-wide need for clean water is an important part of expanding our mission. Many LWW supporters have signed up as advocates through the website and lots of folks are out telling our story.

For some years, led by Pierce Buford, we have had display booths at many major events. This year was no exception, participants at the Big Tent meeting in June, the Presbyterian Women Church-wide Gathering in July, and the World Mission Celebration in October all had a chance to hear our story.

Also, we try to provide regular updates in various forms to meetings of the presbyteries that our within our home synod, the Synod of Living Waters (PCUSA). Finally, 2009 has seen an increased number of presentations in other venues, and more are in the works. Recent ones include the following:

- Global Health Symposium of UC Denver, October, Wil Howie
- Heartland Presbytery, September, Kansas/Missouri, Wil Howie
- Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery, August, Missouri/Illinois, Ralph Young
- Western North Carolina Presbytery, October, Asheville, N.C., Tim Exley

- Donegal Presbytery, Pennsylvania, October, Bill Reed, Kary Lafors
- Mission Presbytery and Red River Presbytery (Cumberland), Texas, September, Katy BeDunnah
- Tennessee Garden Club, October, Tim Myrick
- Kentucky Governor's Scholars Conference, August, Joanie Lukins
- Rotary Club, Hopkinsville, Ky., August, Bill Jansing and friends

Bill Reed is coordinating LWW speaking engagements. We like to do this in a fairly organized way and to keep track of who is speaking where. So if you make a presentation please send Bill a quick note at willmreed@aol.com. Also contact Bill if you know of a group that would like a speaker.

LWW 2010 calendar

January 25, Synod of Living Waters, First Presbyterian, Franklin, Tenn.
March 10-14, CWU No. 26, Hopewell Camp and Conference Center, Miss.
April 21-25, CWU No. 27, Hopewell Camp and Conference Center, Miss.
July 3-10, 219th General Assembly, PCUSA, Minneapolis, Minn.
August 15-19, CWU No. 28, Calvin Crest Conferences, Oakhurst, Calif.
September 15-19, CWU No. 29, Hopewell Camp and Conference Center, Miss.
October 3-7, CWU No. 30, Calvin Crest Conferences, Oakhurst, Calif.

For helping bring gift of water, we thank these, our contributors

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For more information: www.livingwatersfortheworld.org or phone 615-261-4008



Epiphany in the shower stall: A Clean Water U experience

Doing mission work, any volunteer knows, almost always involves some privation. The conveniences of home are absent, but the satisfaction of doing something with others in need is worth the inconvenience.

Even training for mission can involve some loss of comfort. That got CWU student Dr. Richard Phillips of Memphis, who in his day job is president of the Southern College of Optometry, to thinking.

"I wanted to send a note to you regarding two things," he wrote to LWW after attending the September 2009 CWU, "but primarily, I wanted you to know how meaningful, humbling and yet exhilarating this past week was. : The dedication and depth of understanding of everyone involved on the staff was truly amazing. You evangelize Living Waters in the true spirit – you show something in your life that other people want to have and ask you how to find it.

"Second, I wanted to share with you a personally humbling experience while I was there. I confess that I was NOT particularly looking forward to the week. My idea of camping out is staying at a motel instead of a hotel. The last time I camped out I was wearing a military uniform...and I didn't enjoy THAT either."

***' I had been showering
in drinking water...'***

— Richard Phillips

He was sort of grumbling about his sacrifice of conveniences while taking a shower, he said. And then a thought went through his mind that stopped him in his tracks.

"I had been showering in drinking water... something that those people we were talking about helping have none of. They would have loved to have been able to get a handful of water from that spigot...and some die because they can NOT access it. So THEN came the guilt.

"That was my turning point...that was when what James says about humility rang true.

"Of course, later on I also thought about the fact that we were flushing the toilets with drinking water, but there is only so much broadening of the mind that one can stand in one week of camp.

"Thanks for what you have done for the unfortunate in the world...and in my case, what you have done for the fortunate."



Jeff Wagner

Jeff Wagner joins staff in dual role

Living Waters for the World is pleased to announce the addition of its third full-time staff member, Jeff Wagner.

Jeff will serve as LWW's Information Technology and Appalachia Network Coordinator, a dual role that fills two acute needs for LWW and also perfectly matches Jeff's background and skills.

"It's a Godsend," said Steve Young, LWW administrator. "As we've grown, we've needed to shift information technology responsibilities from Ralph Young, so that he can focus more on our regional networks – the key to our sustainability.

"At the same time, our Appalachia program is growing by leaps and bounds, and it is no longer tenable to have an all-volunteer council administer this part of our work. To be able to bring Jeff on board, with his unique set of skills and love for LWW — particularly in Appalachia — is wonderful."

Jeff comes to LWW from a career in Information Technology, most recently with MMC Companies in Louisville, Ky., and NORTEL (Northern Telecom), Nashville, Tenn. Jeff has also served as one of the key volunteer leaders overseeing and coordinating the work of LWW's work in Appalachia.

Jeff, and his wife, Joan, a PC(USA) minister, live in Louisville, with their daughters, Abby and Olivia.

Water! is new Spanish curriculum for VBS

Are you looking for a vacation Bible school curriculum that's appropriate for your mission team to use in a Spanish-speaking community in the U.S. or abroad? Then this will be of interest to you:

Living Waters will publish *Water! A VBS for Spanish-speaking Communities* beginning in January, 2010.

Using the water stories from our Biblical narrative (creation, Red Sea, baptism, etc.) and appropriate water-related crafts and activities, *Water!* Is intended to provide spiritual instruction as well as health and hygiene information that can significantly improve quality of life. Designed to include children of all ages, it is inexpensive and easy to organize.

The new curriculum is similar in content to *Clean Water for All God's Chil-*

dren, our very popular VBS designed for Bible schools in the U.S. However, the focus of *Water!* is on improving health, while *Clean Water* addresses the world water crisis and how we can help.

Living Waters hopes that *Water!* will be used in many ways:

- By churches looking for a good VBS to use in mission in a Latin American community
- By churches with an active clean water installation, perhaps in follow-up visits
- By active LWW teams who wish to do a VBS concurrently with an installation/education trip
- By churches engaged in ministry to Hispanic communities in the U.S.

Look for this new VBS curriculum on the website soon!



This charming photo is on the cover of LWW's new Spanish-language vacation Bible school curriculum.

First system installed in Laos

A new time in history has arrived with installation of an LWW system in Luangprabang, Laos, at the Luangprabang Teacher Training College. A dedication ceremony, complete with "Use This Water" in Lao and English, drew about 150 students with multiple dignitaries giving Lao-style speeches. Nam Sa'at! (Clean Water),

Students who trained with 102 and 103 instructors demonstrated much confidence when offering explanations to the government officials following the ceremony. We also continue to be deeply grateful for the quality of the water building that greeted us upon arrival!

— Sharon Stanley, Fresno, Calif.