

## Temporary LWW units ease hurricane's blow

### Mississippi presbyteries swing into action

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#### By WIL HOWIE Missionary in Residence

Over the years LWW's work has been oriented toward small scale, community-based water purification systems for developing and third world country situations. We have talked over the years about developing a disaster response capability, but it had not materialized.

Then Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast! Guy Gillispie, an elder at First Presbyterian in Oxford, Miss., and a graduate of Clean Water U, called during the first week afterwards burning with the desire to do something.

Through his energy and through our wonderful connectional system, the first unit was soon installed on an outside wall of the Diamondhead Community (Presbyterian) Church and began producing clean water.

The second unit soon followed at the shelter opened at the Second St. Elementary School in Bay St. Louis and our team — now headed by long time volunteers from Mississippi Presbytery, Bob Friley and Bubba Martin — began surveying for the next location. The team was also blessed with the addition of John Foutch, a young man from FPC in Lebanon, Tenn., who volunteered to come down to help.

By the time the third site was identified in Pearlinton, Miss., a small community in the southwest corner of the state, the city water system in Diamondhead was reha-

bilitated and deemed safe, so the unit at the church was moved to Pearlinton, where it is still providing water for that community.

The unit at the Second St. shelter was operational for over four weeks until the Bay St. Louis city system was once again brought on line and it was no longer needed. Our water was certified safe by both the Mississippi State Department of Health and the U.S. Air Force.

How much we have learned about working in disasters!

One of the real benefits coming out of this work has been the result of several of our Kentucky volun-

teers who took our standard board — normally mounted on a 4 by 8 foot sheet of plywood — and folded it up (one person said “shrink wrapped” it) into a functioning unit in a box 38 inches by 32 inches by 18 inches for easy transportation and quick set up time.

In addition, valuable connections were made with the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program.

In the future, it is not clear what our role in disasters here or abroad will be, but how grateful we are that when Katrina struck, members of LWW's team jumped into the destruction to help clean water flow.



**An outdoor water treatment system? Sure, if it's only going to be used for a short while and no other site seems suitable, as at Diamondhead Community Church near the Mississippi coast.**

# ***Designers produce simplified boards***

Simpler is better.

That guiding principle has led LWW's designers through a tumultuous and massively productive year in the development of our purification systems.

LWW now has three different systems not only for purifying water contaminated by bacteria but also for the treatment of calcium, magnesium, brackish water and heavy metals.

All three types of systems are now operating with partners in the world.

One of the great gifts growing out of all this dedicated thought and work under the continued leadership of Remi Van Compernelle and Bob Friley has been the increasing simplification of operation and improved functioning of our standard board.

Fueled by Remi's white paper, "Technical Summary of Filtration, Microfiltration and Ozone Treatment" (available at [www.livingwatersfortheworld.org](http://www.livingwatersfortheworld.org) under the 'Download Files' section), our core board now features just one pump, one tank and three valves for its complete operation.

More details will be available in our next newsletter. Let clean water flow!

# **Rotary, LWW forging links toward joint water efforts**

The links between Living Waters for the World and Rotary International are growing stronger.

As we reported in August, LWW attended Rotary's centennial celebration in Chicago June 18-22, 2005. Some 45,000 Rotarians and guests attended this largest convention in the club's history.

A major emphasis for Rotary International in 2005-2006 is the delivery of clean water to the world. LWW was one of five clean water organizations that had booths at the convention's trade show.

Interest was high throughout the five days, and as a result, over 400 individuals, representing clubs from 53 countries, signed up to receive more information.

Since that time, we have communicated with these individuals, inviting domestic and international clubs to "opt in" to have their information shared via LWW with one another, as a first step in partnering to work on a LWW project in an area of need.

To date, 30 clubs – about evenly split between domestic and international clubs – have given permission to have their information shared.

Rotary International's water projects coordinator has recently returned from a scouting trip in Africa, and has reported on several sites in need of clean water.

We are now in dialog with the RI representative on which of these sites may be best suited for a LWW project, and will then contact our opt-in prospects to begin the linking process.

It is our hope and prayer that this effort will result in greater involvement of Rotary with LWW in 2006 and beyond.

# **LWW gears up for 2006 offering with new name**

Giving Sunday, the annual offering taken within the Synod of Living Waters to support Living Waters for the World, has put on a new dress.

Beginning in 2006, it will be known as **CLEAN WATER SUNDAY**.

"It is our hope that this more 'to the point' title will help church members keep the plight of half the world's population without clean water top of mind and heart," said Steve Young, the mission's administrator.

The requested date for churches to take the Clean Water Sunday offering is February 19, 2006, but any other date during the year also could be used. The offering is the largest single source of support for LWW.

"With the growth we are experiencing, we need across-the-board support from our synod's churches more than ever before," Young said.

This year's Giving Sunday has thus far raised some \$70,000 toward its \$85,000 goal.

Said Young: "We encourage churches that have not yet supported us financially this year to prayerfully consider receiving an offering before the end of year. With their help, we can reach this year's goal."

For more information about the Clean Water Sunday offering, including ordering complimentary offering materials, please contact Emily Dunbar at the Synod office, 615-261-4008.

# **LWW attends Norcross mission event**

Living Waters for the World had the honor of being asked to participate as one of 30 mission initiatives featured as part of the Norcross, Georgia, United Methodist Church Global Impact Celebration in October. Longtime LWW volunteers Don and MaryAnn Shillington, who attend Norcross UMC, extended the invitation.

The conference, which spanned five

days from October 19-23, fully engaged the church's 4,000 members and offered several opportunities for Steve Young to speak to various groups about our work.

As a result, the church, which has already installed one water purification system in Nicaragua, is gearing up to install several more in the coming years.

Thank you, Don and MaryAnn!



These people made up the fifth CWU, held September 21-25 at Camp Hopewell, Miss.

## CWU keeps growing; fees increased

As Clean Water U continues to grow and equip more and more groups from across the country to work with mission partners to bring the gift of clean water, changes are inevitable.

Some call them growing pains.

The fifth CWU session, held September 21-25, had 43 students from 12 states.

They plan to install water purification systems in nine countries: Honduras, Madagascar, Sudan, Philippines, Ghana, Guatemala, Panama, Mexico and Haiti.

With completion of the September session, some 200 students have been taught since CWU's inception in March 2004.

So many students enrolled in September's CWU 103, the installers' course, that two additional temporary bays had to be added to the water

### 2006 CWU Dates

- **March 8-12**
- **April 19-23**
- **September 6-10**
- **October 18-22**

building to provide enough room for all the students to work.

Plans are under way for construction of a second training building just a few feet downhill from the first.

LWW is increasing the number of CWU sessions per year. Two were held in the first year, 2004, and three this year. Four are planned in 2006 (see list of dates at left).

The gains have made it impossible for LWW to continue its previous practice of underwriting CWU costs in order to lower tuition fees. The LWW Committee has directed that CWU fees be adjusted to cover actual costs.

As a result, the enrollment fee for CWU has been raised to \$550, which covers all training materials, housing and meals for the five-day course.

To ease the impact of the increase on mission trip partners, LWW has created a package deal: Three CWU slots (one in each course) and the basic set of parts for a standard water purification system for \$3,305 — a 10 percent discount.

## How you can deliver living water

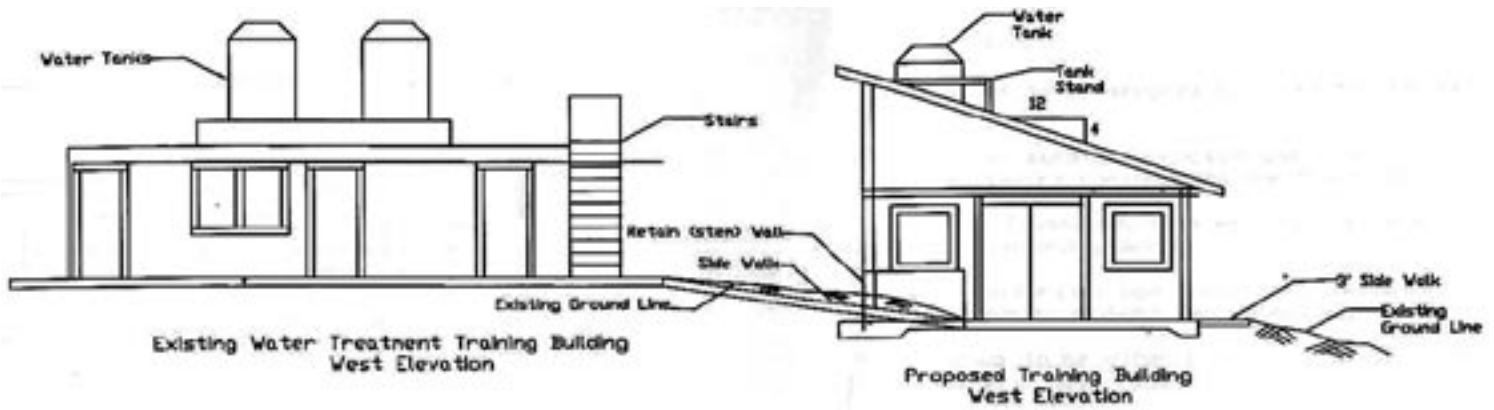
• **Pray.** You can provide prayer support, especially for children whose very lives depend on being rescued from germ-infested water that runs through the poor neighborhoods where they live.

• **Learn.** Find out more about the problem and about what Living Waters for the World is doing about it. A good source is our Web site, [livingwatersfortheworld.org](http://livingwatersfortheworld.org).

• **Participate.** Help organize a project with

your church, presbytery or service club. Go on a mission trip. Spread the good news to those around you. Your time and talent can make a difference.

• **Give.** As the mission grows, so do its costs. Contributions are tax-deductible. You may give directly to Living Waters for the World or through your church, designating the gift to go to Living Waters for the World. Please let us know about your gift.



Jack Wendleton's elevation shows how the new building, at right, is just downhill from the water training building.

# Auxiliary structure planned near existing water training building

By WIL HOWIE

## Missionary-in-residence

How wonderful our first five Clean Water U sessions have been, and what a blessing the almost two hundred graduates are! Already the Lord is multiplying these beginning efforts in ways far beyond asking or imagining.

As always, however, with the blessings come the challenges. This is particularly evident with our water training building on the "back 40 acres" of Camp Hopewell.

Almost as soon as this first building was constructed one and half years ago, dedicated and immediately put

to use training folks in the installation, operation and maintenance of our small scale purification systems, we discovered that it wasn't large enough.

The demand for this training is so great that for the September 2005 CWU session two more additional and temporary training areas were built to accommodate the students, with major assistance from volunteers of Advent Presbyterian Church in Cordova, Tenn.

Recognizing this growing need late last year, plans were started for the construction of a second building ad-

acent to and on the lake side of the first building.

Jack Wendleton, engineer and long-time volunteer, provided the design work guiding the construction process for this 20 foot by 24 foot building.

Already George Hoge, another one of our stalwarts, has done the excavation work, and the building site is now graded, graveled and ready for construction.

Lord willing, the footings and slab will be poured before the new year begins. Then stay tuned: After the first of the year as we will

be announcing 'barn raising' work weekends to lift this new building up, hopefully before the sixth CWU session in March.

Come join us!

## Ministry empowers ministry

In July 2005, the mission team of Kentucky's Transylvania Presbytery added improvements to the LWW water purification system they had installed in a small Presbyterian church near Campeche, Mexico, in 2004.

In November, on a return visit, they found their Mexican partners in ministry were producing over 350 five-gallon bottles of clean water each week (more than double our fondest hopes!).

The church also provides clean water to a school and many of the elderly in the community at no charge. And they have purchased a bicycle so that they can deliver the clean water to households, saving the back-breaking labor of hauling the heavy bottles.

The most gratifying discovery was that they have been supplying water to the area that was devastated by Hurricane Wilma, on the east side of the peninsula!

## At Alumni Workshop Feb. 10-12

# Moderator to address CWU grads

Mark your calendars, make your reservations now for LWW's first Alumni Workshop on February 10-12, 2006, at Clean Water U at Camp Hopewell.

Special guest, LWW friend and Moderator of PC(USA)'s 216th General Assembly Rick Ufford-Chase will be our keynote speaker on Saturday night.

The program begins at 6 p.m. on Friday with supper and ends Sunday morning after breakfast and closing worship.

Throughout Saturday there will be



Ufford-Chase

times to introduce the latest technical and educational advances we've made, time for the 101, 102 and 103 graduates to gather and share their field experience, what they've learned, what needs to be done differently as well as time to look forward, prepare and plan for the future to which God is calling us.

Please join us for this special time; spaces are limited, the cost is \$140. Please contact Emily at 615-261-4008 as soon as possible for questions and reservations.