

Water of Life

NEWSLETTER OF
Living Waters For The World

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Yucatan operators and coordinators gathered for a class photo.

LWW training goes to Mexico

On August 3-4, 2006, Living Waters for the World training went international.

After months of planning, LWW's first group training event ever held outside the United States took place for system operators and network coordinators in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico.

The event was so successful that participants agreed to make it an annual occasion.

Attending were more than sixty representatives of congregations of the Mexican National Presbyterian Church's Synod of the Peninsula, which has a sister relationship with the PCUSA's Synod of Living Waters, the parent body of LWW.

Participating from the United States were the Rev. Wil Howie, LWW director; Joanie Lukins of Danville, Ky., LWW's coordinator for Yucatan systems, and a visitor, Ron Miller of Natchez, Miss.

"The strong opinion of all present was that this was an excellent experience," Mrs. Lukins said. "Many questions were proposed and answered, with evidence of good understanding on the part of the operators."

The training took place at the Seminary San Pablo in the Yucatan metropolis of Merida.

The seminar began with lunch, fellowship and worship. After some preliminaries, operators and coordinators then divided into two workshops:

For operators, equipment dealer Carlos Castilla of Campeche presented a detailed discussion of the chemical and mechanical principles of water softening and reverse osmosis. Those processes are required in virtually all water purification systems in the region.

Meanwhile, Presbytery coordinators reviewed their responsibilities and issues of compliance

with health department regulations. Among the questions they addressed:

- How can we gradually become financially independent of the U.S. partners?
- How can we best continue the education of our communities?
- Should the price of water be limited? (Consensus: Yes, at 6 pesos for five gallons, equal to 55 cents.)
- What are the proper uses of income from water systems, given that LWW systems are a ministry rather than a business?

The second day, a plenary discussed contents of the Covenant agreement, the process of taking ownership of the network, becoming interdependent rather than dependent, and more technical instruction.

The workshop ended with Holy Communion.

Most of the costs of the seminar were borne by Mexican churches. LWW provided for travel expenses of coordinators and defrayed seminary expenses with a \$500 gift.

September, October Clean Water U classes, Nos. 8, 9



September — the most diverse group yet: 17 states, 3 foreign countries, 7 faith traditions.



October — the biggest class yet, whose 52 students included five from other nations.



At the October 2006 CWU session, Synod of Living Waters executive Terry Newland (second from right) greets fellow pastors and international students Ramon Garcia of Chihuahua, Mexico, Kofi Amfo-Akonnor and Samuel Nympong of Ghana, and Horacio Quiroz, native of Oaxaca, Mexico, now residing in Birmingham, Ala. Also attending was John Mwenje of Kenya.

CWU running just to keep up

As the demand grows for training in how to deliver clean water in the name of Jesus Christ, Clean Water U is trying to figure out how it can keep up.

There were two CWU sessions in 2004, the first ever, then three in 2005 and four in 2006. The calendar for 2007 calls for five sessions, including our first-ever November session.

That pace can't continue

Five, count 'em, CWUs in 2007

March 21-25

April 25-29

September 12-16

October 17-21

November 14-18

without major change, and the CWU faculty is planning a weekend retreat in January to

grapple with the issue.

It's a wonderful problem to have, and LWW rejoices in the growth.

The September 2006 CWU had the most diverse student body yet. They came from 17 states and three foreign countries and represented seven different faith traditions — all one in their desire to provide the holy cup of clean water.

The October CWU brought

our largest class ever, with 52 students and 2 observers, representing 10 states and the countries of Ghana, Kenya and Mexico.

Our international students have been more than excellent students in their own right: they have added an ever-present sense of relevance to the training, and serve as flesh and blood reminders that we are all truly brothers and sisters in Christ.

A testimonial —

CWU 'a spiritual experience I did not expect'

I would like to thank you and all of your team for the incredible effort they put into this and my guess is all of the sessions. It clearly deserves the name university as the quality was very much university level.

I went with expectations of learning the training part, which I knew we were weak in, but came away with something much more valuable and totally unexpected.

I did gain the training knowledge and picked up some more ideas on building the systems and a better appreciate for the whole process from start to end. But I also walked away with a spiritual experience I did not expect.

For me it was similar to a Cursillo or Emmaus Walk weekend. Here we all are, some 50 or so of us from around the world, different cultures, different faiths, different creeds, different walks of life that have come together for a common purpose of helping put clean water in various parts of the world.

But it seemed to me that it became much more than that. It was a period of five days where people all worked toward the common good of each other. I don't

think there was one selfish bone in the body of anyone there. Everyone seemed to be pulling for each other.

I don't think I have experienced a Christian community quite like it. Yes, it is one thing to have a group like this out of your own church, but the complexity of the dynamics of this group struck me as this is what the community must have been like in the early days after Christ's death and resurrection that is described in Acts.

Just think, if the world could all come together as we came together this past week, I believe we would have the beginnings of Eden again. We'd never achieve Eden because of our original sin, but just think of how much closer to God we would all be because we are closer to Him through our brothers and sisters.

God be with each of you and thank you so much for all of your efforts.

Peace,
Bob McCoy

Bob McCoy, a communicant of Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Huntsville, Ala., took the CWU 102 course in September 2006.

A 'miracle' on Amazon hospital boat

"Praise the Lord! I saw with my own eyes the miracle happened!" proclaimed the Rev. Djard C. Moraes, missions pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Manaus, Brazil.

"Dirty water from the Negro River became a pure and drinkful water. Alleluia!"

Moraes was exulting over the installation in early October of a specially modified Living Waters for the World purification system on the medical service boat, J.J. Mesquita. And indeed, there was much about the project that suggested miracles.

Two years of planning had sought water purification capability for "hospital boats" that cruise rivers of the Amazon region to give medical and dental services to people in riverside villages. Churches supporting the mission had been spending some \$300 a month to buy pure water in five-gallon bottles.

Spearheading the project was Tom Carroll, an elder in Reedy Creek Presbyterian Church in Kingsport, Tenn., and a member of the LWW Committee.

It wasn't a matter of simply plugging in a standard LWW board. The system had to be specially redesigned to cope with the heavy dissolved tannins that give the Rio Negro (black river) its name. What emerged is a compact reverse osmosis system producing 29 gallons of purified water per hour.

Bob Friley of Vicksburg, Miss., who with John Gramling of Scottsville, Ky., supervised installation, ticked off the elements of miracle:

- Just over a month before the U.S. team was to leave, they were warned that customs duties in the range of a thousand dollars might be imposed on materials taken into Brazil, and the sponsors didn't have the money. Three



From left (standing) are John Gramling, Djard Moraes, Bob Friley, cook Amarias, maintenance specialist José, and (kneeling) captain Raimundo, nurse assistant Célia and nurse Nete.



The JJ Mesquita is docked with other medical service boats on an Amazon tributary.

days later, Presbyterian Women of Holston Presbytery reported they would like to send a contribution, which turned out to be in the amount of some \$1,400. In the end, a sympathetic customs agent declined to assess any duty at all.

- The team anticipated a wooden structure on the boat

to house the system, but the boat is all steel, and the deck where the system is located has no cover at all. A welder with skills and vision secured the system and designed a permanent structure to protect it from the weather.

- The team brought one-inch PVC fittings, but plumbing on the boat was

all 3/4 and 1/2 inch. Just in case, Friley had collected all the spare fittings from his home workshop. They turned out to be the right sizes, and every single one he brought was used.

- The job turned out to require 20 feet of wire, the exact amount Gramling brought. Of all the electrical gear he brought, he returned home with just two wire nuts and one plug.

- Each man thought the other was bringing tools. The crew had a limited supply, and it turned out to be just enough.

- A fitting brought by mistake turned out to be the exact one needed to connect to the boat's plumbing.

- A thousand-liter tank purchased without measuring the boat's tank stand turned out to fit with no room to spare.

"God provided whatever we needed," Friley said. "It was plain from the beginning that God left the heart of this project in place; to cheer us on, to encourage us and to challenge everyone he knew to pray for our safety and success. That heart is Tom Carroll."



Compact RO unit purifies river water.



Ramon Garcia and Francisco Govea of Berith Presbyterian Church in Chihuahua, Mexico, with Cynthia Robinson of San Antonio, Texas, serving as interpreter, are interviewed in front of the water training building at Clean Water U.

Filming begins for new LWW video

The beautiful fall woods at Camp Hopewell served as the perfect backdrop as filming began for LWW's first video in three years.

Brad Van Demark of BlueSky Filmworks in Nashville, along with soundman Steve Lepard, added a new dimension to the October session of Clean Water U as they spent two days filming the various aspects of the CWU experience.

In addition, other video segments are planned, including short pieces about each of the CWU courses that will be accessible via the LWW web site.

This footage, combined with footage to be shot in Mexico

in Spring 2007, will be edited down to a new 20-minute video due for release this coming May. The video will be available on DVD, VHS tape and online.

"We're very excited about the quality of the footage we got at Camp Hopewell", said Van Demark. "We believe it's of award-winning quality."

Steve Young, administrator of LWW and producer for the new video, added, "This will be the first time that we are able to show the full Living Waters for the World experience — from training to partnering in the field. It will be an invaluable awareness tool."



LWW administrator Steve Young (second from left) asks questions of CWU student Horacio Quiroz during the filming of LWW's new video. The cameraman is Brad Van Demark, the sound technician Steve Lepard.

Church giving, LWW backbone, at 70 percent of year's goal

As of October 1, 2006, Living Waters for the World has received \$108,000 in donations from churches toward its budgeted goal of \$154,000.

These donations are a combination of proceeds from the Clean Water Sunday Offering taken annually by churches in the synod throughout the year, and church budgeted gifts. Living Waters for the World operates solely from donations, and the majority of these monies come from churches within the Synod of Living Waters.

"We thank the many, many churches that have supported us thus far this year", said Bill Williams, moderator of the Living Waters for the World committee.

"We ask churches that have not yet partnered with us this year to please do so this fall; we need their support to undergird the rapid growth we are experiencing. Our need for their support is a good thing!"

Churches wishing to receive the Clean Water Sunday offering need simply to contact the synod office at 615-261-4008 to receive offering materials.

Offering proceeds and church budgeted gifts should be sent to the respective presbytery offices, marked for Living Waters for the World.

International units at 75 and counting

By WIL HOWIE
LWW Director

Seventy-five and counting — that's the latest tally on installations of Living Waters for the World water purification systems in other countries.

The installation statistics completely confirm what God is doing with this new thing, directly being translated into more and more clean water flowing.

The difference that Clean Water U has made in this ministry is nothing short of astonishing.

In 2003, before CWU was created, we had our best year ever, with four units installed. Then came two CWU sessions in 2004, and in that year 11 units were completed.

We conducted three sessions of CWU in 2005 and saw 25 systems go in. Already to date in mid-October 2006, with four CWU sessions completed, 26 systems have been installed and a number more are scheduled. A best "guessimate" suggests around 35 units will be completed by year's end.

We've scheduled five CWU sessions for 2007. Only the Lord, who makes all things possible, knows how many installations may take place next year.

Kudos to the following partners — both domestically and internationally — who have successfully educated and installed new systems since our May is-

sue of *Water of Life*:

- # 60 — HAPPI (SC) in Cange, Haiti
- # 61 — Notre Dame de Loretta Catholic Church, Belle Anse, Haiti
- # 62 — Advent PC of Cordova, Tenn., at the Bayawan Hospital, Bayawan, Philippines
- # 63 — Advent PC at the Bago City Hospital, Bago City, Philippines
- # 64 — South Alabama Presbytery at the PC in Halacho, Yucatan, Mexico
- # 65 — Church of the Redeemer, Snellville, Ga., at Matagorda, Dominican Republic
- # 66 — Transylvania Presbytery in the PC in Chetumal, Mexico
- # 67 — Church of the Redeemer, Snellville, in Pedregal, Dominican Republic
- # 68 — Diocese of Omaha in Huehuetenango, Guatemala
- # 69 — FPC, Norfolk, Va., in Santa Ines, Matagalpa, Nicaragua
- # 70 — FPC, Norfolk, in Santa Carmella, Matagalpa, Nicaragua
- # 71 — Cincinnati Presbytery, in San Juan Ixcay, Guatemala
- # 72 — Diocese of Omaha in Huehuetenango, Guatemala
- # 73 — Trinity PC, Starkville, Miss., in El Pinar, El Salvador
- # 74 — Reedy Creek PC/Holston Presbytery on the Rio Negro, Manaus, Brazil
- # 75 — First Baptist Church, Byram, Miss., in Wayuu, Maricabao, Venezuela



Nice shirts!

Since the beginning of Clean Water U in 2004, Sneed's Ace Hardware in Oxford, Miss., has been a major supplier of CWU equipment, often going out of their way to be helpful. To show appreciation, LWW Director Wil Howie (that's he, second from right) provided the staff with CWU T-shirts. Wear them with pride, crew!

CALENDAR FOR 2007

Living Waters for the World doesn't just happen. It takes a lot of planning (translated: meetings). Here's the tentative schedule for next year:

- January 26-28: CWU retreat
- March 7-9: Task Force meetings
- March 21-25: CWU
- April 2: Committee meeting
- April 25-29: CWU
- August 15-17: Task Force meetings
- August 27: Committee meeting
- September 12-16: CWU
- October 17-21: CWU
- October 30-Nov.1: Task Force meetings
- November 14-18: CWU
- November 26: Committee meeting

Mobile system: water on wheels

An LWW purification system on a MASH service trailer designed to provide lavatories, showers and clean water to emergency sites — that's the vision that is taking place in Eastman, Ga.

Dr. A.M. "Bubba" Martin of Meridian, Miss., veteran instructor at Clean Water U, is the chief designer.

The trailer body is still under construction, but Martin went to Eastman in early October — at the same time another innovative system was being installed on a hospital boat in Brazil — to install the LWW system along with David Dobrick, facilities engineer at Optima Industries, and Gene Herring, Optima plumber.

The FO system, located in a cabinet at the rear of the vehicle, will supply 300 gallons of pure water per hour.



Compact unit fits on a service trailer.



As part of a class presentation at the October Clean Water U, Barbara Ingolia of Cure de Ars Catholic Church in Prairie Village, Kans., leads a discussion of what makes a good covenant.

Steering group takes a look at terms of the LWW Covenant

The Living Waters for the World Covenant agreement among the partners involved in a water purification project is a major key to the long-term success of the project, LWW's new Sustainability Steering Group has concluded.

The group has called for the organization to take a hard look at the Covenant format with an eye toward what might happen at the end of the document's current three-year life span.

The Covenant, whose

terms are detailed in Clean Water U's 101 course, is a memorandum of understanding among all parties involved in a water project. It spells out what is expected of the international partner or partners, the U.S.-based partner or partners, and LWW.

Currently, the suggested format for the Covenant calls for a three-year agreement among partners, with provisions for renewing the agreement if all parties consent.

At its October 9 meeting, the Sustainability Steering

Group agreed that defining a project's "success" is not as simple as might be assumed. The quantity of water processed, for example, isn't a measure of success if the quality of the water doesn't meet standards.

The steering group, formed this year to help assure that as many water systems as possible continue to function usefully, will meet again November 15 to continue its work. The group is moderated by the Rev. Ed Hamlett of Albertville, Ala.

Message board added to LWW's web site

A message board is now part of LWW's online site, livingwatersfortheworld.org.

Now our partners can post, download and converse on a vast number of subjects, ranging from mission trip preparation, to technical discussion, to CWU alumni exchanges.

One of the most special is a prayer request section. Thanks to volunteer Donna Burnett of

Birmingham, prayer requests are gathered and posted in this section each month, and an E-mail is sent to our friends alerting them of new additions in need of prayer.

If you would like to be added to the prayer request E-mail notification list, or if you have a prayer request to lift up, please contact Donna at lwwprayer@yahoo.com.