



Water of Life

No. 23 October 2010

Clean water hauled through flood by hand

Partners team up to meet emergency need in Nicaraguan water crisis

By DOUG SULLIVAN-GONZALEZ

Heavy rains lashed Nicaragua's regions in late May and early June 2010, damaging or destroying many bridges and roads. Municipal water usually available for consumption in the small town of El Tuma became quickly saturated with mud and debris, and even the very successful LWW water purification system at the Pentecostal Church in El Tuma shut down with clogged filters.

How would such a successful team handle the increased demand without replacement filters and a needed sand-barrel filter to pretreat the dirty municipal water? Look how the Spirit moves in mysterious ways!

Great Bridge Presbyterian Church, Chesapeake, Va., had established a covenant with the Pentecostal church in El Tuma in November 2009, working through the Accion Medica Cristiana (AMC) (Christian Medical Action), a group of Nicaraguan doctors and public health volunteers and workers committed to improving the health of remote communities.

Within days of installation, the water became the talk of the town. Cases of diarrhea plummeted, and the fine-tasting water became a hot item for El Tuma and its surrounding communities.

AMC organized volunteers with-



Youngsters of the "Fountain of Living Water" Church in Mexico typify the spirit of LWW.

Their church provides Living Water

By JOANIE LUKINS

Along a dusty road just south of Campeche City in the Yucatan peninsula of Mexico sits a little blue Presbyterian Church by the name of "Fuente de Agua Viva" or "Fountain of Living Water." The church was named when it was constructed many years ago, long before anyone could have imagined how appropriate that name would come to be!

Behind the unimposing structure there is a Living Waters for the World

clean water system that has become a fountain of clean water for the people of that rural community.

Installed in 2005, the system cranks out several hundred five-gallon bottles each week. The three brothers in this photo come to the church twice a week to pick up bottles of the affordable water for their family, carted home on their "tricicleta" — a three-wheeled bike with a cart in the front.

With over 40 systems now operating in the Yucatan peninsula, more and more children are happy and healthy like these little boys. Thanks be to God, and to all who support this vital ministry. 🙏

Joanie Lukins of Danville, Ky., is moderator of the LWW's Yucatan Network Coordinating Team.

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in the Pentecostal Church and also included community leaders outside of the church. The official accountant of the El Tuma project is not even a member of the church but has become a vital part of the team.

The broad based nature of the working team improved the water's accessibility for all of those not directly associated with the local church and has enhanced its sustainability tenfold.

When the rains hit in late May 2010, though, the local team worried that they would not be able to provide for the needs of the community. They put out a call to another LWW-AMC team located 20 minutes away at the Campamento Santa Luz, the AMC retreat center which provides clean water for the Nicaraguan Ministry of Health clinic, local schools and families.

In April 2009, AMC had established a partnership with LWW and the Panola Presbyterian Partnership in north-western Mississippi. Given that the rains had weakened the bridge separating El Tuma and Santa Luz, the AMC team at the retreat center organized four truckloads of bottled water, carrying almost 100 five-gallon bottles over the week's time until replacement filters could be found to restart the El Tuma station.

AMC pickup trucks drove to the bridge and neighbors

from El Tuma crossed the swollen river on the weakened bridge by foot, carrying the bottles by hand to the other side of the river.

Great Bridge Presbyterian has since returned to bring needed parts for a barrel sand filter, and Panola Presbyterian Partnership helped finish the project the first week of September 2010.

Ironically, team members from Great Bridge and Panola Presbyterian Partnership had met each other in March 2008 at Clean Water U at Camp Hopewell. Who would have ever thought that they would meet again in the far hills of Nicaragua?

Together, all four partners – El Tuma Pentecostal Church, AMC, Great Bridge Presbyterian Church, and Panola Presbyterian Partnership — have come together in the mountainous region of Matagalpa, Nicaragua, providing spiritual and physical relief to a stricken region. Living Waters for the World has touched lives once again. 🌍

Doug Sullivan-Gonzalez, a University of Mississippi dean, serves LWW as the moderator of the Nicaragua Network Coordinating Team.



Dr. Francisco Gutierrez, AMC executive director, and the Rev. Wil Howie, LWW director, use a transportable system as a tabletop to sign one of the first-ever LWW-IP covenants with an international organization.

Nicaraguan group becomes an LWW Initiating Partner

By WIL HOWIE

Christian Medical Action (AMC) of Nicaragua is a powerful example of how the Living Waters for the World mission is expanding and changing to meet needs.

Beginning two years ago when AMC came to Clean Water U with their Initiating Partners, the Panola (Miss.) Presbyterian Partnership, two standard systems and one transportable system were soon established.

But AMC quickly discovered that being an operating

partner was too limiting, so it began installing systems themselves as an Initiating Partner. Now the vision is of providing transportable clean water systems if future hurricanes strike the Nicaraguan coast.

Working through our Nicaragua Network, planning and future trips are now under way in preparation for the beginning of the 2011 hurricane season. 🌍

The Rev. Wil Howie of Water Valley, Miss., is founder and director of LWW.

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California church seeking other partners to meet pressing need in Guatemala region

By MARK VANCIEL

Years of ministry to a church camp in Guatemala and to the churches that support it have blossomed into an ongoing water mission that so far has reached some 3,000 families and serves a combined community of 50,000.

In January 2005, the First Presbyterian Church of Visalia, Calif., embarked on a mission partnership with 32 Central American Missions (CAM) churches in the Sololá District of Guatemala, who had joined together to build a youth camp — much like Camp Hopewell in Mississippi.

Over the following three years, the Visalia church sent two teams each year to help in the construction of the camp and to build relationships with the people in those churches.

More than 90 percent of Guatemala's available surface water is contaminated, and unfit for human consumption. This was true in the district where the camp was being built, so it was decided that a water system needed to be installed at the camp to provide its users with clean drinking water.

In October 2007, First Visalia sent to Clean Water U at Camp Hopewell five people who in the following month of November were part of a team that installed a clean water system at the camp. At the dedication service the assembled pastors of the 32 partner churches were reduced to tears, recognizing that this new Clean Water System had the capability of reducing childhood illness and death that resulted from drinking contaminated water. Each of the pastors



Tomas Nimakachi and Dr. Barry Smith working together to build the churn.


present asked if similar systems could be installed at their churches.

Since 2008, First Visalia has returned two and three times each year to help church members build additional LWW clean water systems at their churches. To date systems have been installed at CAM churches in Panajachel, San Pedro La Laguna, Santa Lucia Utatlan, San Andres Semetabaj, Nahuala, and San Lucas Toliman. Together those churches have combined memberships of approximately 3,000 families, and together they serve a community of approximately 50,000 people.

In June of this year a member of the Visalia church was hired to serve for six months in Guatemala as a full-time system operations trainer and development coordinator. Since then three additional church sites in the communities of Bue-

na Vista, Sololá, and Pamebasa have been identified for future installations.

In November 2010 a Visalia team plans to return to Guatemala to install system No. 8, and next June the church plans to install No. 9. But, since the Visalia team can only accomplish two or three installations each year, it will take approximately 10 more years to complete the task of installing a system in each community that has asked for one — unless other churches can be persuaded to join in the venture.

If your church is looking for someone to partner with to install a Living Waters for The World Clean Water System, call First Presbyterian, Visalia (559-732-8627), and they'll help set you up! 

Mark Vanciel is Missions Elder and Guatemala Mission Coordinator for First Presbyterian Church of Visalia and a CWU-103 instructor.

WHAT LIES AHEAD

- CWU No. 28 — October 3-7
Calvin Crest Conferences, Oakhurst, Calif.
- LWW Team Meetings — Nov 3-5
Historic Franklin Presbyterian Ch., Franklin, Tenn.
- LWW Committee Meeting — Nov 15
Historic Franklin Presbyterian Church
- Appalachian Conference — Nov 19-21
John Knox Center, Ten Mile, Tenn.



Clockwise from upper left:
 Children wait to use a drinking fountain at San Lucas Tolman.
 Mark Vanciel demonstrates the Bubba Pose.
 Sam Gilman and Johnny Coker complete the covenant with Pastor Tomas Morales of the Bethel CAM Church and School..
 Waite Dwellle observes installers at the Bethel church.
 Claire Prewett instructs an education class at Emanuel CAM Church in Panajachel.



Guatemala diary

Appalachian network plans November conference

By JEFF WAGNER

After a slow start this year, it looks like 2010 will finish in a flurry of activity for the Appalachian Network.

The renewed pace makes timely the 2010 Appalachian Network Clean Water Conference, scheduled November 19 – 21 at John Knox Center on Watts Bar Lake near Ten Mile, Tenn.

Continuing the theme of “In Our Own Backyard,” the focus of this year’s conference is developing new service areas and providing sustainable, clean water in Appalachia.

The first track will include a discussion on what it takes for a development partner (DP) to develop a new service area (a community in need). This track, facilitated by Jane Higgins from the Brushy Fork Institute at Berea College, will include lessons learned by the developing partners in the areas where Living Waters is (or was) active.

The second track will look at the re-

sponsibilities of covenant partners, reviewing the technology used in Appalachia to treat water issues and include hands-on experience with water testing and system design/layout/assembly.

We encourage covenant partners to attend the conference as we need new communities in which to work and are looking for teams who might help the network develop new areas for service.

Likewise, the emphasis on sustainable clean water is an opportunity for partners to brush up on skills and learn about what’s changed as they prepare to install their next clean water system.

Seventeen teams have signed multi-year covenants to help bring God’s gift of clean water to communities in the region.

Latest covenant partners are Swan Creek Branching Out in Bell Buckle, Tenn., and Sequoyah Hills Presbyterian Church, Knoxville.

Teams from Westminster Church in

Nashville, West Emory Presbyterian Church in Knoxville, FPC in Cookeville, Tenn., and FPC Paris, Tenn./Trinity Presbyterian Church, Martin, Tenn., recently installed systems in Claiborne and Morgan counties in Tennessee, with more installations scheduled, including Laurel Fork, Ky.

During July and August we proactively made the LWW presence known in Claiborne County through newspaper articles and direct mailings to homeowners. Through that outreach, families who truly need clean water are contacting us for assistance.

To further its ministry, the Appalachian Network received a \$5,000 grant from Hope Through Healing Hands, a non-profit group, as part of its Water=Hope Campaign. The grant is to be used to directly fund water treatment systems for families in Appalachia. 💧

LWW staff member Jeff Wagner of Louisville, Ky., is coordinator of the Appalachian Network.

General Assembly getting used to LWW

By PIERCE BUFORD

When the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) General Assembly met in Louisville, Ky., in 2001, Living Waters for the World had its first-ever exhibit there. It has been present at each General Assembly since — Columbus, Denver; Richmond; Birmingham; San Jose, and this year at Minneapolis.

This year’s GA theme, “Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living waters,” was used in designing the booth.

What a change since 2001! In that first year, most attendees at GA looked at the LWW booth casually, if at all. Each year since has seen more interest and more knowledge of Living Waters for the World and of Clean Water U.

More visitors are people who have attended CWU and/or been part of an installation. More persons intentionally looked for the LWW booth for information. Numerous persons did not fill

out the information card because they are already on the mailing list or are participating in LWW/CWU programs. More visitors filling out the forms were interested in becoming involved in various ways.

Ecumenical delegates to GA confirmed that LWW/CWU is filling a definite need in their parts of the world. Some came by the booth to say “thank you” because there was an installation in their village. Some came intentionally to receive information on how their area could obtain a clean water system.

For the first time, GA attendees had the opportunity on two nights of the meeting to come to the Synod of Living Waters suite for additional discussion.

As at past General Assemblies, the moderator, elder Cynthia Bolbach, made an intentional visit to the booth. The GA moderator is valuable in talking about LWW/CWU in the moderator’s travel.

Having a booth at General Assembly is definitely a positive tool for awareness and promotion. We listened to the attendees for ways that the LWW/CWU can better serve the denomination, as well as those receiving water systems and health and hygiene education.

This year’s booth featured a replica of the water system. Items available on line were displayed and sold, as well as the unique crocheted necklaces by Mary Weber, the most popular item.

Traveling to GA for LWW this year were Wil Howie, Ralph and Stephanie Young, Jerry and Kathy Vaughan, Pierce Buford and Ed Cunningham from Minneapolis. Ed is involved in ministry in Cuba, was the “on site” person. Jerry Vaughan drove Kathy, Pierce, the water system, and all the “stuff” needed for the 20-foot display. 💧

Pierce Buford of Birmingham, Ala., is our most dedicated promoter. She has never missed a General Assembly or a Clean Water U session.

Top focus of the year: To sustain

By WIL HOWIE

The word “sustainability” isn’t in many dictionaries, but it’s a key one in the lexicon of Living Waters for the World. It refers to keeping systems and their supporting operations going.

Sustainability continues as LWW’s primary focus this year, growing out of January’s Strategic Planning retreat. Our goals are two-fold. First is insuring the long-term operation and sustainability of each clean water system installed for many years to come. Equally important is insuring the organizational viability and vigor of our work.

Charged with incorporating sustainability in all aspects of our work, each of our five organizational teams — Field Operations, Development and Awareness, Education, Technology, and Leadership — has been busy evaluating all aspects of our common work.

Out of our initial work, six core values have been identified, we are:

Relationship Oriented — First and foremost, we work in relationships with our partners.

Operating Partner Focused — The OP’s interests and objectives are primary.

Empowerment Oriented — The process of training, equipping and sustaining our partners is designed to encourage, establish and reinforce OP independence.

Volunteer Led — Volunteers make LWW viable, providing the financial and human resources necessary.

Mission Focused — We exist to support volunteers and communities providing clean water systems where there is great need.

Network Focused — Through mutually supportive networks we increase our collective capacity to provide and sustain these systems.

Stay tuned. Let clean, sustainable water flow! 💧

The Rev. Wil Howie of Water Valley, Miss., is founder and director of LWW.

CWU Who —

A brochure hooked Joanie

By KENDALL COX

Joanie Lukins first came across LWW at the 2001 General Assembly in Louisville. In the exhibit hall, she came across a booth with a tiny brochure entitled, “Living Waters



Obed and Joanie

for the World.” It went into her sack with all the others, to sort out when she got home.

The leaflet sat on her desk for months before she finally succumbed and called Wil Howie: How could she take this clean water technology to a school in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico, where her congregational mission team had been working each summer for many years?

All the pieces fell into place, and the next year, her church installed the first water system in the peninsula — with many to follow in coming years.

During the long car trip in the peninsula, Wil talked of the new idea for a school to train others to install systems. The school would include a track for educating communities about health and hygiene, a requisite educational component that distinguishes LWW from other water solutions.

Wil asked Joanie to help with the creation of that track, now known as CWU-102.

In March 2004 Joanie was the 102 instructor for the very first Clean Water U session.

Joanie lives in Danville, Ky., where she raised two children, lived on and managed a farm, spent many hours volunteering for United Way, the Learning Disabilities Association, and especially The Presbyterian Church of Danville.

She has served LWW in many capacities, moderating both the Education Team and the full LWW Committee. She also organized in the Yucatan

LWW’s first network and has been its U.S.-based coordinator from the beginning.

The need for a network became evident, she said, when developers realized that operators of water

systems wanted to help each other and were eager to learn more. So the “Yucatan Network Operators Annual Continuing Education Seminar” was begun, and the fifth annual seminar will be held in November 2010.

To keep in touch with the “front lines,” she also participates in her own congregational team, which has installed 14 systems and has upgraded several others.

Joanie’s LWW memories revolve around people. One in particular stands out: About a year after the installation at Monte Moriah church in Campeche, she returned for a follow-up visit. The team arrived during worship, and was escorted to the front row.

After a few minutes, a beaming little boy named Obed appeared in front of her, called her by name, and crawled up into her lap for the remainder of the service.

Obed had been one of the children in their education classes the year before, and had a wonderful time.

“The fact that he felt so happy to see me again reminded me that we had forged relationships that are lifelong and precious, which is really what this ministry is all about,” she said.

“When I think of Obed, a little child of God who now, with healthy water to drink, can reach his God-given potential, I know why I am involved with Living Waters for the World. The photo is of Obed with me that day.” 💧

Kendall Cox of Greenville, Miss., is program director of Clean Water U.

Thanks to these, our contributors

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JUST THE FACTS:

357 water systems installed to date
312 international units
24 nations involved
45 Appalachia in-home units

In Haiti:

6 systems destroyed by the earthquake have been rebuilt
4 new systems installed over the summer
4 more systems will be installed by year's end

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Haiti project bustling with activity

By JERRY GOODE

Tireless efforts, volunteer contributions and monetary gifts continue to bring the gift of clean water to Haiti.

Teams have sent members to be trained at Solar Under the Sun School at Ferncliff Camp in Little Rock, Ark., in order to add solar power for water systems. At this report, there are five solar-powered Living Waters for the World treatment systems operational in Haiti. Two installations were completed near Leogane in late June servicing a community and an orphanage/school/community site. Teams are being sought to upgrade existing systems to solar power.

In August, the fifth solar powered water system was installed at the JELA school in Limbe, near Cap Haitien. This installation was a joint effort between Christ Church Presbyterian in Bellaire, Texas, St. John's Presbyterian in Houston, Bellaire Southwest Houston Rotary Club, and Houston Rotary Club.

The team consisted of Woody Speer, Liz Gentry, Karen Persely, Leonie Tchoconte, Surpris Cherazard, Don Beckner, Ashley Broadhurst, Sam Medvene and Ed Ambs. This system is now providing clean water to the school and surrounding community of approximately 1,500 people.

The next installation is planned in early October at an orphanage oper-



People line up for water at the JELA school in Limbe, Haiti

ated by the Global Orphan Project near Port Au Prince. GOP operates over 20 orphanages in Haiti and is expected to be a partner on other water projects.

In connection with another installation, near Blanket in January, the LWW Haiti Network will be holding its first Operators Conference. There operators can meet each other and exchange ideas for ways to serve the pressing need for

clean water.

LWW was also represented at the Haiti Education Foundation's Haiti United Gathering conference at Ferncliff Camp in September to discuss the possibility of providing water systems for the foundation's 40-plus schools as new prefab buildings are erected. 🌐

Jerry Goode of Laurel, Miss., is Haiti Relief Project manager for LWW.

Miriam, facing months of recovery still, wins a nickname or two

By KATY BEDUNNAH

For someone with a cast from her knee to the tips of her toes, Miriam Mazariegos has done a great job of learning how to get wherever she wants to go.

The in-country coordinator for the western highlands area of Guatemala, Miriam has several months of waiting to be sure that her tibia, badly fractured when she was hit by a car, will heal without further surgical intervention.

The first surgery, performed by Dr. William Pederson in San Antonio, Texas, placed two skin grafts to close the open wound and a muscle flap to provide a

blood supply necessary for healing. She has spent time with teams from Austin, Texas, Parkville and King City, Mo., Minneapolis, and Elizabethtown, Ky.

It may take as long as six months from the July 3, 2010, date of her surgery in the U.S. for the healing to take place.

If it does not show signs of healing in that period of time, it may be necessary to do a bone graft. Miriam has the name of an orthopedic surgeon in her home town and will arrange for follow-up care in Guatemala.

The ease with which she has been able to move around may be somewhat

due to the little-known fact that she is a black belt expert in the martial art of Tae Kwon Do. When she can't get the wheelchair to the place she needs to be, she hops — never putting weight on her injured leg.

Miriam received several nicknames during her stay in the U.S. — “plucky Miriam” for one and “Conejito” was (little rabbit) because of the way she hopped to get around. I'd like to add one more to the list; I'll call her “Courageous Miriam.” 🌐

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