

Water of Life

NEWSLETTER OF
Living Waters For The World

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Rick Ufford-Chase (left), moderator of the 216th General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), reviews operation of the LWW water purification board with the Rev. Wil Howie, the mission's founder and missionary-in-residence.

PCUSA gives nation-wide boost

The Living Waters for the World team that went to the 216th General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in Richmond, Va., in June was expecting big things.

It got more even than it had hoped for.

LWW put a full-size water purification board in its booth on the assembly's exhibition floor, which was stocked with promotional materials.

What it didn't expect is that the assembly's new moderator, the denomination's highest elected official, would promote Living Waters for the World on the floor of the assembly.

In his "campaign" address with other candidates for the two-year position, Rick Ufford-Chase of Tucson, Ariz., prominently mentioned Living Waters

for the World as an example of the church's vibrant mission projects.

"I had planned to devote a whole paragraph to it, but because of time restraints I had to make my reference brief," he said during a visit to the LWW booth.

Partly as a result of the new moderator's support, the booth had a busy time during assembly week. More than a hundred people signed up to receive additional information.

Interest was expressed by people who wondered aloud about putting water treatment systems in Siberia, in India, in Africa and other far-flung points. Early conversations are in progress about putting permanent displays — and perhaps, eventually training schools — in other parts of the country.

Mississippi Presbytery team installs Brazil's first system

By Dr. A. M. "Bubba" Martin

The first Living Waters for the World installation in Brazil — indeed, the first in South America — was installed June 6-19, 2004, by a team of 12 from eight churches in the Presbytery of Mississippi.

The site of LWW system No. 19 is Patos, a city of about 100,000 in the state of Paraiba in northeast Brazil.

The team leader was George Bates of First Church, Natchez. He and his wife Linda, together with the Rev. Michael Herrin and Dr. Betsy Lipscomb of Port Gibson, Lee Watson of Westminster Church, Natchez, Bill Cook of Grace Chapel and Betty Hanawalt of Bay St. Louis conducted classes in health and hygiene instruction, together with spiritual emphasis.

The others made up the water installation team: Rev. Ted Hanawalt and his grandson, Ian, Bay St. Louis; Bob Friley, Yokena Vicksburg; Janice Jackson, Briarwood; and Dr. "Bubba" Martin, Trinity. They were assisted by Raimundo Couto, who with his wife, Valdivia, are the Brazilian missionaries at the preschool.

Joining us in Brazil was Dayan Paiva, a Brazilian student who had recently attended one year at Chamberlain-Hunt Academy who assisted us as one of our translators. We were also joined by Debbie Hammett and her son, Matt, from First Church, Smyrna, Tenn.

Part of the trip was devoted to a Mission Network Conference attended by about 45 Americans involved in mission partnerships within the Sertão region (comprised of the northeast 9 states in Brazil) and by about 32 Brazilian pastors and missionaries from this region. Also participating were the President, Stated Clerk and Secretary of Missions of the National Independent Presbyterian Church of Brazil, located in São Paulo.

The Mission Network Conference had workshops and lectures relating to the progress of the various mission projects in the Sertão, both past and present, and the potential for future mission partnerships in one of the most arid, poverty stricken and poorly evangelized regions in Brazil.

One such project is the Cistern Project that churches of the Presbytery of Mississippi have been contributing



Above, children at the Linda Bates Preschool get their first taste of purified water from the LWW system with the help of Raimundo Couto, and his wife, Valdivia, Brazilian missionaries at the school.

At right, Bubba Martin and friends.



to for the past several years. The conference meetings were held at the newly constructed First Presbyterian Church of Patos, a beautiful sanctuary seating 350 plus.

The remainder of the trip was involved in the installation of a water purification system at the Linda Bates Preschool in the São Sebastião neighborhood in Patos and providing health and hygiene instructions for teachers and other

adults from neighboring communities with specific emphasis on water-borne germs.

The lack of availability of pure water is a major problem in this part of Brazil, in both urban and rural areas.

After installation, the water was determined to be pure and safe and was shared at the dedication service with about 60 adults and children, both Brazilian and American.

Second CWU session graduates 37

The second session of Clean Water U, held September 15-19, produced 37 more graduates with training in how to deliver clean water to a thirsty world.

A few of them had taken other courses in the initial session last March, but the new crop of trainees means that at least 80 individuals from across the nation have come to northern Mississippi for the unique lessons at Camp Hopewell.

Four new states — Arkansas, Georgia, Kansas and Missouri — were represented. Class members plan to install systems in Guatemala, India, China, Ghana, Cambodia, El Salvador, Sierra Leone and Mexico — truly a world-wide mission!

The faculty was the same as in the spring session: Wil Howie, LWV's missionary in residence, teaching CWU 101 in survey and water testing; Joanie Lukins of Danville Ky., regional coordinator for projects in the Yucatan, teaching CWU 102 in health and spiritual education of water users; and Remi van Compernelle of Houston, Texas, the mission's chief water engineer, teaching CWU 103 in system installation and operation.

Emily Clarke Dunbar of the Synod of Living Waters staff again served as registrar, and stewardship counselor Pierce Buford was the master materials clerk, chief gofer and social coordinator.

The event caught the attention of regional news media. The Oxford Eagle sent a reporter-photographer team that prepared a front-page report with a photo of trainee Gerald Socha of Bartlett, Tenn., hooking pipes to a rooftop water tank.

Errol Castens, religion editor of The Tupelo (Miss.) Journal went even further, enrolling, as a student. He is preparing an in-depth report,



On the dock at Camp Hopewell's Lake Andrew, Jim Murphy of Campbellsville, Ky., explains the solar-powered pump that sends water up the hill for training.



CWU 102 students puzzle out how the parts of a purification system fit together.



Under tree shade, students build relationships.

and also planning a mission trip.

Some registrants were unable to attend, which put CWU in a financial crunch because it has to arrange for rooms and meals, plans which can't be altered at the

last minute. For that reason, the staff recommended that in the future, applications be accompanied by a transferable but non-refundable \$100 fee and to require that the entire course fee be paid in advance.

Potential new teaching staff

members are in training, and dates have been established for 2005 CWU sessions: March 9 - 13, April 13 - 17, and September 21 - 25. In addition, a "graduate school" for previous participants in water mission trips is tentatively planned for October 2005.

2004 Giving Sunday Offering sets record; changes announced for 2005 distribution

Giving Sunday, the annual offering taken within the Synod from which LWW derives the majority of its support, thus far stands at \$75,000 received for 2004, the most in the organization's history.

The gain mirrors increased participation in, and awareness of, the LWW effort by SLW presbyteries and churches.

Due to the significant increase in the number of clean water teams being assembled at presbytery and local church levels, the Living Waters for the World committee has voted to reserve a portion of offering funds taken in 2005 and beyond and use the funds to directly support the financial needs incurred by these teams.

A presbytery with an active water team may, beginning January 1, 2006, request up to 25% of 2005 Giving Sunday offering proceeds received from that presbytery for use in support of their clean water team.

Likewise, a local church with an active water team may request up to 25% of 2005 Giving Sunday offer-

ing proceeds received from that church. The funds may be used to offset travel, equipment or other related expenses.

An active water team is defined for this purpose to mean a group assembled to bring clean water to a mission partner, via Living Waters for the World, within two years of the date of application for the funds.

It is the committee's hope that this distribution of offering proceeds will further stimulate the desire and ability of Presbyterians through SLW to bring clean water to the world.

Look for LWW in pages of PW magazine

Horizons, the magazine for Presbyterian Women, plans to feature the work of Living Waters for the World and Clean Water U in its March/April 2005 issue.

Six pages are planned for an in-depth article, an overview of the world water crisis, and profiles from both sides of the clean water equation — a church mission team providing clean water and a partner church receiving this precious gift.

The article will invite Presbyterian women to serve as clean water liaisons at their respective churches, greatly expanding awareness and the opportunity for service.

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of Living Waters have long been a key part of the growth and success of Living Waters for the World, providing financial support and promoting awareness at presbytery and church levels.

Through their efforts, the national office of PW became aware of LWW, leading to this tremendous opportunity.



Ministers discussing "sister synod" relations in Merida, Mexico, are (from left) Miguel Sansores, David Snellgrove, Edwin Tun Canto, Wil Howie and Amos Cahuich Yam.

'Sister' synods talk of clean water

Taking steps toward adopting each other as "sisters," the Synod of Living Waters and the Synod of the Peninsula, and the Synod of the Yucatan of Mexico, have begun talking about how the relationship might work.

The kinship might involve exchanges of information and visits, assistance with ministry to Hispanics in our synod, help for Mexican pastors wanting to study in U.S. seminaries, and other people-to-people matters.

Twice this year, in May and in August, delegations from the two synods have conferred in Merida, Mexico, about how to formalize the deal. A third trip is coming up in October.

Synod Executive David

Snellgrove was accompanied to Mexico in May by the Rev. Wil Howie, coordinator of the synod's Living Waters for the World project, and by elder commissioner Bill Williams, moderator of the synod's LWW Committee.

In August Howie and Williams returned.

The Synod of the Peninsula proposes to formally endorse Living Waters for the World, which already has installed eight water purification systems in the Yucatan. The synod has a goal of doubling its number of churches in the next 20 years, and it sees water projects as a plus for proposed new church developments.

The first people exchanges are expected to take place

when a delegation from each synod attends the other synod's annual meeting, the Synod of the Peninsula on October 27-29 in Ciudad del Carmen and the Synod of Living Waters on January 24-25 in Huntsville, Ala.

To help people in the pew learn more about those in the sister synod, regular exchanges of information are planned. The Synod of the Peninsula will send articles for submission to *The Voice*, our synod's newspaper, about happenings in Mexico, and the Synod of Living Waters will send Spanish language reports at intervals for distribution to churches in the peninsula.

After all, sisters have to talk to each other.



The September 2005 Clean Water U class. Nice T-shirts!

Trips, trips, trips — let clean water flow!

By **WIL HOWIE**

LWW Missionary in Residence

What an incredible year it has been with nine units installed already, compared to a total of four units in 2003! And the year is not yet over. A number of partners will be going out this fall for health education and installation trips:

- The Presbytery of North Alabama will be installing its third unit at the Presbyterian Church in Motul, Yucatan, Mexico,
- Our Methodist partners, Children of the World, will be installing two units in

In Appalachia, home units are in demand; nine on waiting list

Seven in-home water purification units have been installed in the Viking Mountain community of East Tennessee, and all are producing pure water that is within state requirements for public water systems.

Nine additional requests have been received from community residents for water testing to determine if purification units are needed.

Since all wells and springs that were “pre-installation” tested have shown some levels of contamination, it is expected that this trend will continue.

Cedar Creek Presbyterian Church, near Greenville, Tenn., continues to receive financial support from the Holston Presbytery Hunger Fund, area churches and individuals for the mission project.

partner orphanages in India,

- The Holy Ghost Catholic Church of Huntsville, Ala., installs their first unit at St. Charles Clinic in Leogane, Haiti,

- Holston Presbytery will place the first reverse osmosis unit on a hospital boat on the Rio Negro in Brazil (see below),

- Advent Presbyterian Church travels to San Isidro, Honduras, for its first installation,

- Second Presbyterian Church in Kansas City will install their first unit at Monte de los Olivios church in Almolongo, Guatemala, and

- St. Andrew Presbytery will install its first unit in Guatemala at the Presbyterian Church’s conference

center, Monte Sion.

In addition, this fall and winter, a number of survey/partnership development trips are heading out, including: Norcross (Ga.) United Methodist Church to Leon, Nicaragua; Independent (Birmingham, Ala.) Presbyterian Church to the Mwandi Hospital in Zambia; First United Methodist Church in Paris, Tenn., to Sierra Leone; Trinity (Starkville, Miss.) Presbyterian Church to El Salvador; Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys to Guatemala and other trips as well.

All this does not include a number of installations already scheduled for 2005. Truly the Lord is richly blessing us, and more and more clean water is flowing!

Hospital boats in Amazon to test first RO purifier

February 2005 has been set as a target period for returning to Brazil to install water purification units on one of five hospital boats operated by the Presbyterian Church of Manaus, Brazil.

The five boats cruise the Negro, Solimoes, Amazonas and other smaller rivers in the Amazon jungles and treat about 10,000 persons per year for medical and dental problems.

After the pilot project is installed and operating successfully and reliably, similar purification units will be installed in the other four boats.

Currently, water is pumped from the badly contaminated rivers for use in hand-washing, showering, and dish-washing.

Water for drinking and cooking is now purchased in large containers for week-long trips by up to 40 persons on each boat, many of them temporary missionaries from churches in the United States.

This project is the first of its kind for Living Waters for the World as we work with Reedy Creek Presbyterian Church, Kingsport, Tenn., the sponsoring organization. Reedy Creek is also receiving assistance for the mission from Holston Presbytery in East Tennessee. Funds have been approved by the church and presbytery to finance the pilot system.

Please keep this new and very important mission work in your prayers.