

# Water of Life

NEWSLETTER OF  
**Living Waters For The World**

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## LWW to share in PW's 2007 'Birthday Offering'

### Women's groups providing nationwide promotion

In one of the most significant gifts in the history of Living Waters for the World, the national organization of Presbyterian Women has named LWW to share in proceeds of this year's Birthday Offering taken by women's groups across the nation.

The amount of the contribution is impressive — up to a quarter-million dollars, depending on

offering receipts — but the larger impact comes in the information about our mission that will be shared with women's groups across the denomination.

For the first time, a nationwide unit of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will be promoting Living Waters for the World, making Presbyterians from coast to coast aware of the life-saving mission to bring clean water to

those in need.

The grant, to be distributed in payments from October 2007 to May 2008, was announced by PW's Creative Ministries Offering Committee.

It will underwrite the work of Clean Water U, LWW's training school.

"We are pleased to participate with you in ministry," wrote the committee chair, Gloria Straub. "May you be blessed as you continue to serve those in need."

Presbyterian Women within the Synod of Living Waters strongly supported the grant application. Martha Knichel, synod PW moderator, wrote:

"For a long time, Presbyterian Women (PW) have been interested in all kinds of missions. The connection with Living Waters for the World and PW is somewhat like a love affair. There is a common interest, and both have the desire to spread the gospel message and help God's people.

"PW love to tell the stories of the missions that we have been involved in, whether that involvement is hands on work or fundraising. We are great at both!

"Without a strong love of God and a very strong faith, this project would not even have gotten off the ground. Now, just look at all of the accomplishments! Bless Wil Howie's [see back page] heart for having the dream so many years ago. His passion and leadership have brought the project forward, and with the help of all of the others involved, the sky is the limit."



LWW Committee moderator Bill Williams (left) and administrator Steve Young rejoice over news of the PW Birthday Offering.

**Installed units now:  
127**



## The first two (of five) Clean Water U classes of 2007



The March CWU class had 51 students (!) from 11 states as well as Haiti and Guatemala attending.



April saw 40 students enrolled from 13 states as well as Madagascar (distance champs!) and Taiwan.



# Advent team has water, will roll

## Church builds two-unit trailer for emergency

Advent Presbyterian Church in Cordova, Tenn., near Memphis, has begun work on the final version of a trailer portable emergency water system.

The trailer will be completely self-sufficient, with a generator and an external pump to allow water to be siphoned from a creek, pond, or lake with a standard garden hose.

An awning on the side of the trailer with the door will provide shelter for the operators and the people who are filling water jugs.

With two complete systems operating, the trailer will be able to fill water jugs on both sides or to fill on one



**Advent Church's Floyd Graves examines the new trailer, which contains two complete standard water treatment boards on slide-out stands. The vehicle is designed for emergency and training use.**

side while making water for storage with the other side.

Advent Presbyterian Church has donated the first standard operating system, and Living Waters for the World is providing the second standard system for the trailer and will coordinate use of the trailer.

The trailer has a two-fold purpose. One is to provide clean water at an emergency site area (such as the tornado in Caruthersville, Mo., the hurricane on the Gulf Coast, a flood, or any other type of disaster where clean water would be needed immediately).

It also can be used for demonstration purposes by any church or other activity that is interested in developing a clean water outreach/interest within their organization or area.

## This is a tale of two streams: One runs in Appalachia, and the other is the Amazon, and there's a connection

Buffalo Creek in the mountains of eastern Kentucky may seem to have little in common with the mighty Amazon River, but there is a connection.

The link is group of Presbyterian churches in Kentucky and Tennessee that are collaborating in a series of inventive water treatment projects in both places.

Home treatment systems in the iron-heavy ground water of the Buffalo Creek community required additional steps such as a "green sand" filter.

Special treatment also was needed for hospital boats on a tributary of the Amazon that is so loaded with tannin that it is called the Black.

The Lancaster and Bardstown Road churches in Kentucky, with help from several other churches and residents of the Buffalo Creek community, so far have installed five units that are working well.

First Presbyterian in Oak Ridge, Tenn., and Farragut

Presbyterian in Knoxville have indicated an interest in that project, and the Oak Ridge Rotary Club has made a hefty contribution.

East Tennessee Presbytery has been instrumental in support of the project.

Some of those involved in Buffalo Creek also are interested in the Brazilian hospital boat project.

One medical services boat was equipped last fall by Reedy Creek Presbyterian Church and Holston Presbytery, with LWW help.

The reverse osmosis system on the boat filters out dark tannins in the water and makes it possible for the boat to generate its own

potable water.

Before the system, operators had to pay the equivalent



**The Brazilian hospital boat, Zany Silva, is next in line to get a LWW treatment system allowing it to draft water from tributaries of the Amazon River.**

of some 300 U.S. dollars per week for bottled water.

This October, another boat is scheduled for a similar installation led by John Gramling of First Presbyterian in Bowling Green, Ky.

Later in the fall, if all goes well, a third boat will get a system installed by Bob Friley of Vicksburg, Miss., and Billy Weaver of Jonesboro, Ark.

That work would leave sponsors needed for two of the five hospital boats that ply the Negro and Solimões rivers.

Tom Carroll of East Tennessee Presbytery, the sparkplug in both projects, said, "This whole team has burned the midnight oil on these projects in the first 11 months since we first met and are in the process of evaluating all facets of the work," he said.

The Rev. Djard Moraes, a graduate of Clean Water U, is director of the hospital boat mission for the Presbyterian Church of Manaus in Brazil.

# LWW devotional guide will appear in June

*Watermarks*, a devotional guide featuring the poetry of Rev. Phil Leftwich, executive presbyter of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, and published by Living Waters for the World, will debut at the Synod of Living Waters Presbyterian Women Gathering, June 6-9, in Franklin, TN.

The 32-page book features poems centered around the theme of "living water," each based on selections of scripture. Accompanying the poems are pictures of those helped by the gift of clean water via a LWW water system.

The guide contains pages for journaling, and may be used individually for personal reflection, or in group study.

Rev. Leftwich, who has written the poems over the past several years, holds

the conviction that "mission is why the church was called into being" and that missions like Living Waters for the World are "the engine that drives the church to fulfill the Great Commission."

*Watermarks* is dedicated to the Presbyterian Women organization in gratitude for their partnership throughout the life of the organization, evidenced most recently by LWW being named a recipient of the 2007 Birthday Offering.

The guide will be available for sale via the LWW web site, starting in June.

Individual copy price is \$8, and volume discounts are available. Contact LWW for details – all proceeds benefit the mission training work of Living Waters for the World.

## An excerpt:

God of the atom and the whale...  
God of pruning hooks and sword beaten plowshares...  
Of lions and lambs who together lie...  
What shall we call you?  
Creator? Maker? Breath of life?  
Father/mother of all that lives?  
S/he who spangled the universe with the tumbling stars  
And lifted wo/man from the sea?  
Birthed with the salty taste of labored sweat and  
oceanic tears,  
How does your creature say praise?  
How does your creature say awe?  
How does your creature cry life?

— Rev. Phil Leftwich



Brad Van Demark's camera equipment gets some intense interest in Mexico.

## New video on DVD coming out in June

"Clean Water for All of God's Children," the new video presentation promoting Living Waters for the World, will be available in June.

The production, nine months in the making and filmed in high-definition digital format, features footage from the October 2007 session of Clean Water U and the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico, filmed in April of this year.

"The footage we have is compelling," says Brad Van Demark, of Nashville, Tennessee-based BlueSky Filmworks.

"It really covers the full scope of the Living Waters for the World mission from training teams through to the impact in the field."

Written and co-produced by LWW Administrator Steve Young, "Clean Water for All of God's Children" will be available at no charge on DVD, and will contain bonus features, including extended versions of the Clean Water U and field segments, as well as a PSA intended for use on local cable television channels and internet sites such as YouTube.



# Networks: Where the action is

## El Salvador follows a new path; Guatemala has a new in-country leader; Yucatan feels new pressure

### El Salvador: Small, but lots of opportunity

The newest and smallest of the national networks of Living Waters for the World projects is in El Salvador, which has only three active water systems and four installations in prospectus.

Currently working in the country are teams from Historic Franklin Presbyterian Church in Franklin Tenn., and a team that is a joint effort between Trinity Presbyterian Church of Starkville Miss., and First Presbyterian of Columbus, Miss.

We work a little bit differently from the other networks in that we have been dealing with community organizations called ADESCOS instead of with churches. Each ADESCO is an organization of local business and other leaders chartered by the national government and tasked with community development.

ADESCOS often focus on water systems, but they also might have projects in schools, health and sanitation etc. When we survey a site in El Salvador, we give preference to a site with an active ADESCO with a track record. Dealing with the ADESCO also means that the water system is going to be run as a business, but not necessarily for profit. They want to provide clean water at the lowest price, so that the system can pay for itself, and no one goes without.

The El Salvador network is also blessed with an excellent working relationship with the Peace Corps. Trinity Presbyterian Church originally went to El Salvador because the Mike Wise, country director of Peace Corps El Salvador, is a home-town boy.

He gave us enormous help at the beginning by putting us in touch with potential sites and providing volunteers as translators. Mike has since retired, but we continue to enjoy the support of the Peace Corps in our work.

I would encourage other Living Waters teams to get acquainted with their Peace Corps volunteers and officers. They are glad to help their villagers get water projects, and having them as local contacts is very handy.

El Salvador is a small country, but there is plenty of demand for clean water systems. Other teams are welcome to contact me for advice on getting started.

—Nancy Losure, network coordinator

*Clean water systems continue to deploy at an ever-increasing rate, with 24 systems installed thus far in 2007. This time a year ago, we had put in 13, also a record. Of particular note are first-time installations in Thailand and new installations in Philippines, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Ghana and the United States. "In 2003, we wondered if we'd ever install 12 water systems in one year," marvels Bill Williams, moderator of the LWW Committee that oversees the project. "Truly, the Holy Spirit is at work."*

### Guatemala: Coordinator working in-country

The Guatemala Network now has an in-country coordinator. The Rev. David Clipson has been working in Guatemala since last July with the Diaconia, the Christian Service organization of the Guatemala Presbyterian Church. He will attend Clean Water U in September, and we look forward to his assistance with Living Waters for the World projects in Guatemala.

Ixim, an organization based in Omaha, Neb., is expanding its activities in the Huehuetenango area of Guatemala. They have installed two clean water systems and have firm plans for five additional systems and projections for the installation of two to three units each year beyond that.

Curé D Ars Catholic Church in Leawood, Kans., is continuing to develop plans for installations in the San Juan Ixtapa area just northwest of Guatemala City.

A team from Shepherd of the Hills Church in Austin, Texas, and Memorial Presbyterian Church in Fredericksburg, Texas, is working with the Kansas group on the installation of a system at San Bartolome Elementary School, a private school with about 500 students.

We are working with Habitat for Humanity in Guatemala to install clean water systems at new colonias as they are built. Currently, three installations are in the partnership development stage with two additional locations to be finalized soon.

Luis Samoya, the Guatemala Director for Habitat Guatemala, has attended Clean Water U and is enthusiastic about participating in the initial installations at these Habitat sites in Guatemala.

—Katy BeDunnah, network coordinator

### Yucatan: State applies heat, and so do partners

Our partners in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico are not only *feeling* the heat, they're also *adding* heat!

The heat they're feeling is from the state health departments, being pressured by other bottlers of water to make the Living Waters for the World systems comply with all of the state regulations.

This is an indication that we are making an impact, which is a *good* thing. However, it also means additional hoops through which we must jump to remain in operation. It has been gratifying to see that our operating partners in Mexico are rising to the challenge and making the necessary modifications, and the initiating partners in the U.S. are supporting them financially as they do that.

The heat our partners are *adding* is in the form of more requests for water systems than we have U.S. teams to install. Of the 11 presbyteries in the Mexican church's Synod of the Peninsula, only 5 currently have systems (we have a total of 32 systems in the peninsula, with 4 more scheduled this year). The directors of the Synod have set a goal to expand into all 11 presbyteries!

But here's the really *cool* news: in November, system operators and coordinators from across the peninsula will gather in Campeche at the newly installed Monte Moriah site for the second annual Continuing Education Seminar for Operators and Coordinators in the Yucatan.

They will discuss technical details, record-keeping, business practices, ministry of water, and health department compliance. Once again, we see our partners taking ownership and catching the vision of Clean Water for All God's Children.

—Joanie Lukins, network coordinator

# Teen's science project helps remake LWW board

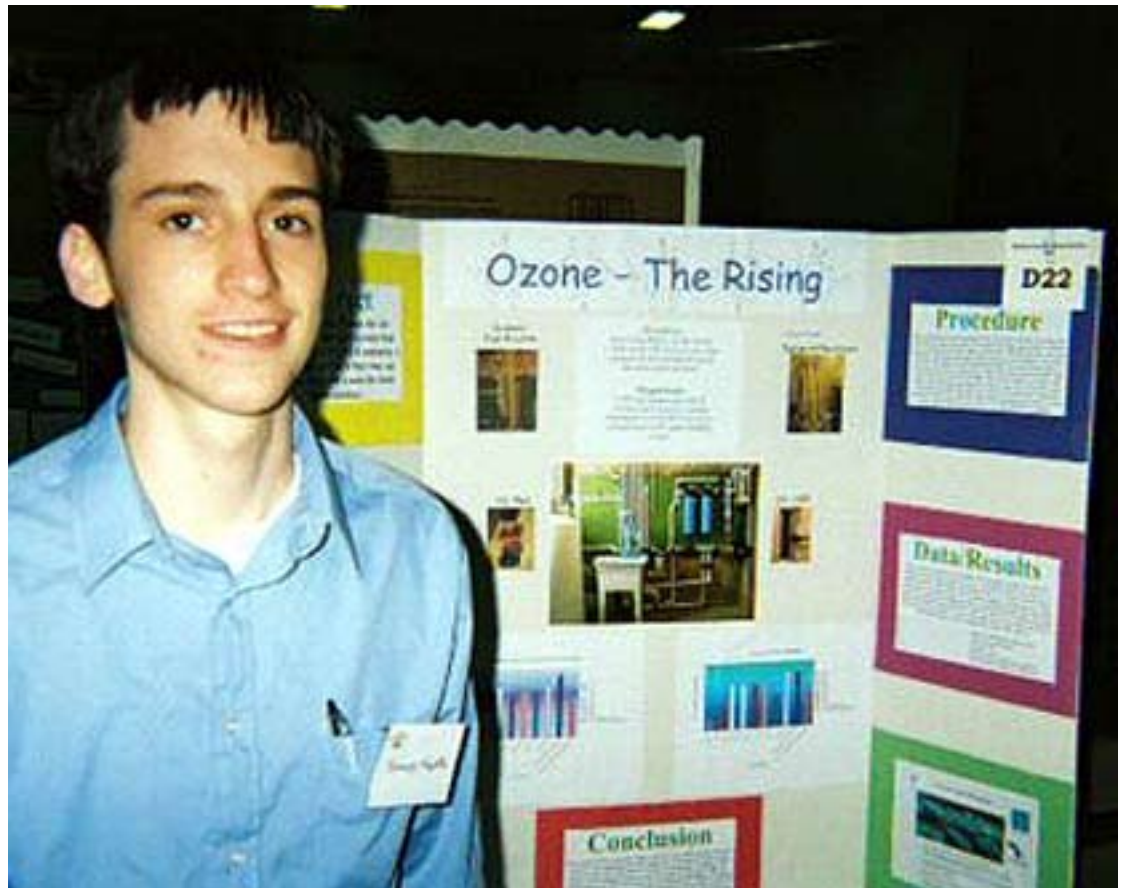
This winter a home-schooled senior high schooler sat around a space heater in a cold cellar conducting experiments on a prototype of the LWW's system board for a science fair project. His endurance paid off when Sam Plouffe won first place in the New Hope Tutorial Science Fair on March 22.

Sam's interest in LWW's system board began when he and his whole family attended the first Clean Water U in 2003. Subsequently, Sam was part of a team that built the first sytem using a water softener in Suc Tuc, Mexico, that June. Since then, he has been experimenting on a prototype in his basement in Haverhill, Mass.

His father, George, is a member of LWW's design team.

The particular project that won first place had a goal to increase the amount of ozone measured at the end of a run by changing the venturis, ozonators, configuration of the pipe structure and experimenting with different methods of releasing the water into the holding tank.

The maximum amount of ozone produced in the water was achieved using the



**Sam Plouffe experimented, and LWW changed its standard board.**

combination of PZ-4 Ozonator, PZ-584 Venturi, a newly designed four-way up pipe structure and outlet pipe that released water at the bottom of the holding tank.

This system — which does not use a compressor — creates six times the ozone of the previous standard LWW system without a working compressor and almost three times the ozone of a standard LWW system with a working compressor. He did not notice any significant differences in the amount of ozone injected between the PZ-2

and PZ-4 ozonators.

Now, thanks in large part to Sam's research, the PZ-4, improved venturi and other features of his project are part of LWW's standard board.

Sam attended the Massachusetts State Science Fair in May. He will be attending Eastern Nazarene College in the fall studying enviromental science.

## At last, some time off the job for LWW Director Howie

Some people never thought they'd be able to get Wil Howie to take time off from the job that is his passion.

They were wrong.

The Rev. Wil Howie, founder and director of Living Waters for the World, has been granted sabbatical leave from April 2 – August 14, 2007.

"This is an indescribable blessing," said Howie, who has had no significant time off since founding the organization in the early 1990's.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to recharge the batteries, spend time with family and hopefully almost finish build-



**Howie**

ing our house — a project that I started over 20 years ago!"

In Wil's absence, the primary bulk of his workload has shifted to

key volunteers, led by Ralph Young of Paducah, Ky., with coordination by Steve Young, the organization's administrator.

We wish Wil and Michele a wonderful respite and look forward to his return in time for a busy fall.

## LWW's Summer-Fall Calendar

August 14-17	Task Force meetings
August 27	LWW Committee meeting
Sept. 12-16	Clean Water U
Oct. 17-21	Clean Water U
Oct. 30-Nov. 2	Task Force meetings
Nov. 14-18	Clean Water U
Nov. 26	LWW Committee meeting





**Mike Moore (center), Carolinas MED1 maintenance specialist, and LWW's Bubba Martin examine the water utility truck, including the water treatment system visible at left.**

## **Mobile hospital in N.C. gets water system**

After about a year of planning and work, MED1 at last has a fully operational Living Waters for the World treatment system.

Dr. Bubba Martin, an instructor in LWW's CWU 103 course at Clean Water U, was a key to making it happen.

Carolinas MED1 is a fully operational emergency mobile hospital designed by and built for Carolinas Medical Center, operating out of Charlotte/Mecklenburg County, N.C.

Dr. Tom Blackwell, an emergency medicine physician, is the medical director of Carolinas MED1.

The hospital had its initial deployment to Waveland, Miss., immediately after Hurricane Katrina in September 2005.

For six weeks Carolinas MED1 provided the only hospital facility for all of Hancock County, Miss., since the Hancock County Hospital had been inundated by the hurricane's flooding. That experience made it obvious that MED1 needed to have its own clean water producing capability.

A water utility truck was being designed that would provide lavatories, showers, kitchen and laundry needs for Carolinas MED1 personnel. Through Jim Martin, former North Carolina governor and a brother of LWW's Dr. Bubba Martin, arrangements were made to install a reconfigured system in the truck.

Preliminary installation occurred at Optima Industries in Eastman, Ga., in October 2006. Bubba provided the operation and maintenance instruction for the key personnel in Charlotte on May 29-30, 2007.

"This installation is a tremendous addition to the capability of Carolinas MED1," Bubba Martin said. "It was completed just two days before the beginning of the 2007 hurricane season."



**Pastor Isaias Cahuich (front) works with Transylvania Presbytery's Bill Harney on the new water system at Monte Moriah Presbyterian Church in Campeche, Mexico.**