Retreat and advance

Forty top LWW leaders peer into the future

By TODD JENKINS

Celebrate the past, evaluate the present and plan for the future. Those were the aims of some 40 leaders from across LWW who gathered for an annual planning retreat January 28-30.

The site was NaCoMe, the camp and conference center west of Nashville that is shared by the Presbytery of the Mid-South and Presbytery of Middle Tennessee — deep in the woods of Middle Tennessee, far from the nearest cell phone signal, but well-fed and cared for by the camp’s staff and cooks.

Since its inception, Living Waters for the World has continually sought to adjust and adapt to changes in circumstances as well as to learn from its diverse experiences in partnering to provide clean water at (so far) 349 sites in 20 different countries, one community at a time.

The message and methods of the organization have spread across the globe through a thousand or so volunteers who have been trained and equipped to spread the gospel via one of earth’s most essential building blocks, clean water.

LWW leadership constantly seeks to simplify and improve its structure, from leadership teams and committees to training curricula and instruc-

Water systems helping to fight cholera’s rampage in Haiti

By CHRIS McRAE

Hurricanes, earthquakes and now cholera are the plagues of Haiti. One must wonder what disaster must “Ayiti” endure next. There is a saying in this Caribbean nation, “Lapenn Profité,” which means “misfortune abuses us.”

In October 2010 cholera broke out in the Artibonite River region near St. Marc, a town about 50 miles north of Port-au-Prince. Spread by infected food and contaminated water, the disease quickly spread throughout the region and has been blamed for over 2,000 deaths to date.

Continued on next page

Appalachian Factoids

* 54 systems installed
* serving 58 families
* 18 churches currently working in 5 areas
* 3 new installations finished in January

Continued on next page

In this issue:

Clean water vs. cholera
Yucatan independence
Returning to India

Warmth at 10 below
Obama likes ‘Wildcat’

No. 8 for Visalia
One drop: A poem

CWU Who: R. Young
Spreading the word
Four systems so far in Haiti’s cholera area

Since this insidious disease has not been present in Haiti for over 100 years, the locals believe that it was brought in by UN troops from Nepal. Tests are being run, but no conclusion as to the source of this strain has been determined. Rumors, though, are running rampant and all sorts of allegations are being leveled at foreigners.

Jerry Goode and I might have been the targets of such rumors on our last trip to Haiti in January. We were invited to survey a public well at a place on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince going toward Léogane called Carrefour. We met with the officials who invited us and started testing the well.

A crowd quickly formed, and I assumed that it was out of curiosity. Ancy, our guide and interpreter, came up to me and said that it is time to go now. I was miffed because we had not completed the survey. Nevertheless, Ancy insisted and we followed his lead.

In the vehicle, as we were leaving, Ancy explained that many in the crowd were angry that we were there and that they were insisting that their water was good. Some in Haiti think that foreigners are poisoning their water in order to kill off the population.

There can be many side affects to the cholera outbreak that are not caused by the disease itself. This is one of them.

In this case LWW will not be listing this water location as a possible future system. This is sad because this water tested very bad for bacteria and is most likely the cause of much water borne related sickness in the area.

There is some good news in all this misfortune. The LWW Haiti network has four systems located in the region where cholera was first reported. These systems have reported an increase in use since the outbreak of cholera. One system at Croix des Bouquets has communicated that area residents are using LWW water in which to take baths. That’s got to be a first … for Haiti, anyway.

From cholera to clean water, maybe we are making a difference one treatment system at a time. Our 102 training has much more impact now that Haitians realize that what you drink can kill you.

The people who took the health and hygiene training at Blanket this January understand.

Chris McRae of Fort Smith, Ark., cochairs LWW’s Haiti Network Coordinating Team.

Retreat asks leaders: What lies ahead for LWW mission?

Continued from front page

Bill has served since before the inception of CWU in numerous capacities, including a three-year term as LWW Committee moderator, CWU-101 lead Instructor, catalyst for his own congregation’s LWW mission team, and editor-in-chief of “Water of Life” newsletter.

The Rev. Todd Jenkins is pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville, Tenn., and a CWU instructor.
Installation marks earthquake anniversary
Solar-powered unit is part of Haiti Relief Project

By TIM MYRICK

“Greater things have yet to come, greater things are still to be done…”

When Chris Tomlin wrote those lyrics to “God of this City,” it was as though he was speaking directly to the people of Haiti.

A year after the January 12 earthquake in Haiti, little has changed, but there is a great amount of hope and faith that greater things are still to be done in Port-au-Prince, Leogane and beyond.

An across-the-USA team of LWW volunteers honored the January 12 anniversary of the earthquake by installing a solar-powered water treatment system at Blanket Baptist Church and School, about 26 miles northeast of Port-au-Prince.

The team, led by the Herndon Methodist Church of Herndon, Virginia, successfully completed the installation as part of the Haiti Relief Project of LWW.

While the Blanket School was out of session all the week, in remembrance of the earthquake, our team was working in the 90-degree heat alongside the children and interested community members to repair their well and pumping system, complete the solar power unit, and assemble the filters and ozone treatment train.

With school on break, the teachers and young adults easily and enthusiastically attended the clean water education class, which is so important to the distribution and use of that coming clean water.

As Ashley Broadhurst, the 101 Team Leader, stated at the end of our efforts there, “This was the best of my four installation trips to Haiti, in terms of installation schedules, community partnership, and everyone staying healthy.”

Our team attributed that to her excellent leadership skills, the local Haitian support team, and the fact that we were staying at a church served by clean water from LWW’s first solar installation in Haiti!

Blanket is a community of about 500 people, living on the deforested hillsides of central Haiti. Most of the community is made up of subsistence farmers, who
trek down the dusty gravel road to the main highway to sell their wares each week, and depend on limited rainwater and a few local hand-pumped wells to provide their freshwater needs.

The Blanket Baptist Church, led by Pastor Cherenfant Evens, is the Operating Partner for this installation. The congregation of about 150 people covered us with joy and love as we did our work.

They’re also providing the operators for the system and began distributing the clean water throughout the community following the dedication service on Sunday, January 16.

The 13-person LWW team for this installation was joined by Chris McRae, the Haiti Network Co-Coordinator and Jerry Goode, the Haiti Relief Project Manager, as they were in-country for additional site surveys and to host the first-ever Haiti Network Operator’s Conference, where some 45 Operating Partners and system operators gathered for a two-day sharing.

Broadhurst reflected, “This trip will go down in the books as a textbook installation. It really could not have gone better. It gives me hope that month-by-month, installation-by-installation, Living Waters is bringing greater things to Haiti and its people.”

Tim Myrick of Oak Ridge, Tenn., is moderator of the Living Waters for the World Committee.
It’s bitter cold, but really warm in Kazakhstan

By STEVE YOUNG

Greetings all from Northern Kazakhstan, where the highs are -10 F., the people are warm, the meals always contain cabbage and the scenery is jaw-dropping.

Tonya and I are here on the first of two trips to adopt our second child, Sam. In the fall of 2008, we were here to adopt our first child, Lily Grace, who is being cared for by our family back home while we’re away.

This first trip is typically the longer of two required, and in our case, much longer. We arrived on December 27, and attended court February 11. I will return for about a week to bring Sam home—probably in the latter part of March.

We visit the baby house (orphanage) for two hours every day, bonding with Sam. He is a brown-eyed, sandy-haired nine-month-old with an infectious grin and a lot of heart. He has overcome much, thanks to the help of his wonderful caregivers.

We so look forward to bringing him home to meet his new “Sissy” and beginning his new life in Tennessee, surrounded by a large extended family.

The experiences we have had here, as the last time, have been varied, educational, inspiring, and just all-around wonderful. From walking on frozen lakes surrounded by pyramid-shaped mountains, to becoming friends with the woman who brought jazz music to Kazakhstan, to eating borscht and more borscht, to attending a torch relay ceremony for the Asian Winter Games—complete with a chance to dress like Kazakh warriors of old—there has been no shortage of experiences we will share with our children.

We invite you to learn more about this fascinating multi-cultural country, once a part of the USSR and now a burgeoning democracy, and to learn more about our own journey, by visiting our blog at http://trueloveandhomegrowntomatoes.blogspot.com.

Steve Young of Franklin, Tenn., serves full-time on the LWW staff as Director of Development.

Yucatan operating partners go independent

By JOANIE LUKINS

Imagine our surprise when we arrived in San Antonio Cardenas in the Yucatan peninsula to find a huge welcome banner spread across the road!

The host church (El Buen Pastor, or Good Shepherd) had gone all-out to make this fifth annual Yucatan Operators Continuing Education Seminar a memorable and profitable experience for everyone who attended.

Ninety men and women from across the peninsula, some having driven hundreds of miles, gathered to share experiences—problems and solutions—and to learn more about operating their clean water systems.

Highlights of the seminar included:

• For the first time, the entire seminar was led by experienced operators from the Yucatan, rather than our Living Waters engineers or the local equipment supplier.
• The body set up a fund for emergency repairs; all systems will contribute, and any system can borrow from the fund and repay as it is able.
• An executive committee was created to make policy decisions (e.g., maximum pricing and standardization of bottle labels).
• A covenant was formed between the Synod of the Peninsula and the Synod of Tabasco (next state west of the peninsula, very poor and vulnerable to flooding) whereby the experienced Yucatan operators will assist that synod in establishing relationships for the purpose of installing water systems there. This is very exciting, as it represents a “pass it on” mentality.

At the end of the conference, two communities offered to host next year’s seminar, so there was a vote to see which would be honored!

It is encouraging to see the Mexican brothers and sisters taking ownership of this network, and understanding it as a ministry that they can offer to their communities in the name of Jesucristo.

Joanie Lukins of Danville, Ky., is moderator of LWW’s Yucatan Network Coordinating Team.
Telling the story —

**Presenters travel across America**

By BILL REED

Literally coast to coast, people with a passion for Living Waters for the World are telling the story with personal presentations at a variety of venues.

Significant presentations/exhibits in recent months include Kary and Nanette LaFors at the annual convention of the American Public Health Association, Maggie Hendrix at Cascades Presbytery in Oregon, Wil Howie at Pittsburgh Presbytery and a coalition of LWW-active churches in the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia.

Numerous additional presentations have been made at individual churches and other local venues.


Wil Howie recently presented at the Presbytery of Pittsburgh. Other presbyteries will have LWW presentations in the near future.

In July of this year, LWW will be represented at the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Nashville.

If you are making a presentation somewhere, or generally have a desire to help out, please keep Bill Reed informed at willmreed@aol.com.

Bill Reed of Dover, Del., coordinates volunteer and staff LWW presentations for the Development and Awareness Team.

**CWU Who —**

**Old pro Ralph Young has many LWW jobs**

By KENDALL COX

Ralph Young’s involvement in LWW goes back to the early days.

In 2002 an LWW flyer came across his desk, and one phone call to Wil Howie was all it took to get him on the Technical Committee, on which he has served ever since, 2003.

He’s also the moderator of the Design Sub-team and provides support for Field Ops and the Network Sub-team. He has been a CWU-103 Lead Instructor for several years and usually teaches 1-2 sessions per year.

In 2007, Ralph retired from his day job as environmental manager for the Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. plant in Calvert City, Ky. He has been working as a staff support contractor for LWW for over two years now. While this is supposed to be a part-time work assignment supporting the LWW Network Coordinating Teams and the Technical aspects of LWW, it usually turns out to be more.

Asked what lessons Ralph would like to share with future water teams, he replied, “I can’t over-emphasize the importance of being flexible and creative. No matter how hard you train and plan for the trip, you will forget something or something will break.

“When it happens, stay calm, think through the problem, get input from your OP, and move on as best you can. There are very few deal breakers in the LWW Clean Water System, and you would be surprised at how teams overcome seemingly impossible problems. Trust in your faith and the faith of the members of your team.”

Ralph’s wife, Stephanie, is also very involved with LWW and is a CWU administrator. They have been married for 39 years and have two grown children and seven grandchildren.

Ralph and Stephanie have been members of First Presbyterian in Paducah for 25 years, serving on the Session as well as various church committees, and teaching Sunday School.

Kendall Cox of Greeneville, Miss., is program director of Clean Water U.
By MARK VANCIEL

In November 2010, First Presbyterian Church of Visalia, Calif., sent a small team to Guatemala to install a standard ozone Living Waters for the World clean water system.

That was at the Monte de los Olivos (Mount of Olives) C.A. Church in the community of Paraje Buena Vista, high in the mountains of the Sololá district in central Guatemala.

Ten team members from First Pres Visalia were joined by one from Grace Presbyterian Church in Plano Texas, and one from the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church in California.

This was the eighth system installed in the district, the result of a partnership that has developed over the years between the Visalia church and a group of 32 Central American mission churches that had joined together to build a youth camp in the district.

The first system “First Pres” installed was at the youth camp in November 2007, and that installation in turn led to seven other installations in seven partner churches.

The installation at Paraje Buena Vista was the most recent, but several more are pending.

The church there was selected for this installation because, in spite of its material poverty, it is very active in its community. The church hosts medical clinics on a monthly basis and operates the only school program for the children of the village with approximately 250 enrolled students. The system installed will provide clean drinking water for the children in that program, as well as the rest of people in the community.

Mark Vanciel is a CWU 103 instructor and leader of the mission team of First Presbyterian Church, Visalia, Calif.

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**WHAT LIES AHEAD**

- LWW Team meetings  
  March 9-11, Franklin, TN  
- LWW Committee meeting  
  March 31, Franklin  
- CWU No. 29  
  April 27-May 1, Hopewell  
- CWU No. 30  
  June 13-17, Hopewell  
- LWW Team meetings  
  July 20-22, Franklin  
- LWW Committee meeting  
  August 1, Franklin

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**SHORT SHOTS**

Presbyterian Women’s crocheted necklaces as a fund-raising project for LWW is continuing to show results — the latest from Puerto Rico.

A check for $460 recently was sent to project chairman Mary Weber of Harrisburg, Ky., by Prof. Marirosa Nazario, who wrote, “women are enthusiastic and have ordered more yarn to continue crocheting. This means I will be sending more funds. . . .”

Information about the project is available from Mary Weber at Mary Weber, <hillsidetwo@roadrunner.com>

Next time you need to shop or go on-line to Amazon, think Living Waters for the World. We have a deal for you!

Anytime you go to Amazon through the LWW website, we get 5 percent of the proceeds of your sale. Fund raising for LWW has never been so simple.

So, next time you need to purchase something from Amazon, remember to go to the Living Waters website, www.livingwatersfortheworld.org, and click to the Amazon link at the very top of the page.

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The congregation of the Monte de los Olivos Church celebrate the delivery of clean water.
By KARY LaFORS

Return to India—it sounds like the name of a book or movie, but for Lower Providence Presbyterian Church of Eagleville, Pa., it’s mission work through LWW.

As February began, a team of six from the church was back in Vikarabad, India, for its first follow-up visit to the system installed early last year at the Bridge of Hope Ministries (BOHM) school and orphanage, and also to install a second system near the city of Hyderabad.

This second system will serve over 300 in a school, a medical clinic, and another 400 in the adjacent village.

The BOHM system is able to meet the needs of the school and orphanage and also the 300 people of the adjacent village.

India is the second far-off mission point for the Pennsylvania church. The first was in August 2007 to the man-made floating islands of the Uros people near Puno, Peru.

Kary and Nanette LaFors of LPPC are leading the current team, as they did last year’s group of nine members, including Gabriel Devathala, an elder at Central Presbyterian in Norristown, Pa., and founder of BOHM.

Gabriel has lived with part of his family in Norristown while the other members, including his wife, live in India.

He and an associate had previously completed water tests, a community survey, a site survey, and reached a covenant agreement with LPPC, LWW and BOHM for system operation and upkeep.

The health, hygiene, and spirituality training was a great success. After a meaningful celebration ceremony at the school, the team became tourists visiting Delhi, Agra, the Taj Mahal, Jaipur and the Amber Fort and Pink Palace.

Kary LaFors of Eagleville, Pa., is co-leader of his church’s LWW mission team.

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A banner and a parade with flags greeted the Lower Providence Presbyterian Church’s team upon its arrival at Vikarabad, India.
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Phone ____________________ E-mail _______________________________________________

Amount ❑ enclosed or ❑ pledged $_______________ (Pledge to be paid by date: ______________)

Given ❑ in memory of or ❑ in honor of ________________________________________________

Please send acknowledgement to: ____________________________________________________

Mail to: Living Waters for the World, 5016 Spedale Court, #399, Spring Hill, TN  37174
or send by E-mail to: infolww@livingwatersfortheworld.org
For more information: www.livingwatersfortheworld.org or phone 615-261-4008

On-line gift message wins nation-wide plug

LWW's 2010 year-end project to recognize honorees of alternative-gift contributions has achieved national recognition. The Presbyterian News Service distributed this report, by Bethany Parkin, on December 20, under the heading, “Give the Gift of Water.”

For Presbyterians rushing to find last-minute Christmas gifts, there's a better option than fighting the crowds and heading out to the nearest big-box store. Living Waters for the World, a mission resource of the Synod of Living Waters, will provide an e-card for each donation made as an alternative gift for a family member or friend. …When you make a donation to LWW in the name of someone on your gift list, they’ll get a personalized e-card from LWW, explaining how the gift made in their honor helps bring clean water to those who need it. (LWW’s e-card program remains in effect. Check it out and honor a friend by visiting the LWW home page, livingwatersfortheworld.org.)
President praises students’ treatment board

President Barack Obama personally inspected and, in a speech, praised an Oak Ridge High School’s water treatment project displayed at the White House.

The occasion was the first-ever White House Science Fair on October 18, showcasing innovative projects by students selected from across the nation. Three Oak Ridge students traveled with the exhibit and spent about five minutes talking with the president.

The exhibit model, called the Wildcat Water Purifier (named for the ORHS team mascot), was based on LWW’s Appalachian system, using a trash filter, two “big blues” and a UV lamp. Its unusual aspect was that it was powered by a water wheel that generated electricity to run the system.

Accompanying the exhibit were two ORHS students, Sam Snodgrass and Mattie Lloyd, and a graduate now attending Georgia Tech, Sonja Solomon.

They were part of a team organized by physics teacher Peggy Bertrand Terpstra, wife of CWU 101 lead instructor Dan Terpstra, and coached on water board specifics by Tim Myrick, LWW Committee moderator.

Newsweek sees ‘global freshwater crisis’

The world water crisis continues to make headline news.

In the wake of National Geographic devoting its entire April 2010 issue to water, Newsweek magazine made privatizing of water sources the cover story of its issue of October 18, 2010.

“Everyone agrees that we are in the midst of a global freshwater crisis,” Newsweek declared.

“Around the world, rivers, lakes, and aquifers are dwindling faster than Mother Nature can possibly replenish them; industrial and household chemicals are rapidly polluting what’s left.

“Meanwhile, global population is ticking skyward. Goldman Sachs estimates that global water consumption is doubling every 20 years, and the United Nations expects demand to outstrip supply by more than 30 percent come 2040.”

Against that backdrop, the magazine detailed a variety of efforts to turn water into a commercial commodity. Hundreds of U.S. cities, including Pittsburgh, Chicago and Santa Fe, are looking to privatize.

That can make commercial sense, the article said: If people had to pay more for water they’d use it more carefully.

“But water is not like other commodities — it’s not something people can substitute or choose to forgo,” an official of the antiprivatization group Food and Water Watch was quoted as saying.

In July, the U.N. General Assembly declared water to be a basic human right.

In some situations privatization of water has its place, the magazine suggested.

“With the right incentives, [industry] can develop and supply the technology needed to make water delivery more cost effective and environmentally sound. … Unless we manage our water better now, we will run out. When that happens, no pricing or management scheme in the world will save us.”