

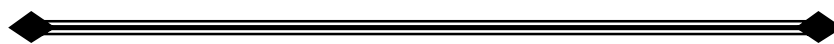


NEWSLETTER NEWSLETTER

January, 2004

Affiliated with Fellowship of Christians Fed. Reg. Charitable # 89016-9774-RR-0001

It's hard to believe that another year has come and gone. This newsletter will be an update of what the mission has been up to for the last few months and some goals for the new year.



FILTER PROJECT UPDATE

We have now trained 48 technicians and have 32 molds in the field. We have trained technicians for World Vision, Catholic Relief Service, and World Neighbors along with 14 independent technicians. In an effort to support ongoing professional development for the Filter Technicians, we will be offering a small business seminar to the existing technicians. We have scheduled these seminars for the months of January and February 2004. We estimate that between our trained technicians and ourselves, we have installed as many as 800 filters to date!!



~Community Steward Program~

We have provided two classes for training Community Stewards. This is a Sanitation and Hygiene Education Program that was supplied by the Center for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST) out of Calgary. It was designed to improve the overall effectiveness of the Biosand Filter Project. The concept of the Community Steward program is to teach the existing local health people and community leaders who in turn spread the information to the rest of the community. In our initial class we had five Community Health Information Workers come to our compound for a one-day training seminar. They then went back to their community (in this case five separate communities) and organized a one-day seminar to teach 30 community leaders. We went along to provide technical support but the Health Information Officers did a wonderful job of teaching this material. Everyone there was happy to receive the information and committed to make it known to the rest of their neighbourhoods. We are hoping in the future that other community based organizations like the Peace Corps, Rotary, The Red Cross and others will take over this training role and expand it to many areas in Haiti.

GOALS 2004

1. Establish regular financial support level (Fundraising, Grant writing)
2. Finance well drilling program (Fundraising, grant writing)
3. Teach Business classes to existing technicians (seminars and reinforcement)
4. Support existing technicians by helping with promotion in their areas
5. Drill more wells by enhancing skills and equipment
6. Two more full time volunteers to work on follow up and administration.
7. Get Non- Profit status in Canada, US, Haiti
8. Broaden the scope of the filter project with Sanitation and Hygiene training and developing a community steward program.

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We have finished a contract with World Vision to build 75 Briquette Presses. These presses are used to make Briquettes out of used paper as a substitute for charcoal. The idea is for Haitian entrepreneurs to use the presses to make Briquettes and to sell them for less than the cost of charcoal. This is indeed a win-win situation, as it will not only provide employment but it is also much more environmentally friendly. Haiti desperately needs alternatives to cutting down the already decimated forests to produce charcoal for fuel. This practice accounts for 85% of the fuel consumption and an unbelievable **99% of its natural tree cover is gone**. The environmental result is massive soil erosion and loss of agricultural land, and the silting up and disappearance of small streams. Most of the country's watersheds are bare of vegetation so that only 10% of rainfall penetrates the ground, not enough to replenish water supplies and aquifers. *Haiti ranks last in the world for access to drinkable water*, according to the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology in the United Kingdom. Therefore the briquette project fits perfectly with our mission goal of developing clean water projects in Haiti.

Current Instability

The political climate in Haiti is highly volatile. Riots and demonstrations accompanied by violence have resulted in many people being injured or killed. There is no end in sight. We were to host a research team from MIT at the beginning of January but we had to ask them not to come, as we could not ensure their safety. This is the first time we have asked people not to come which is an indication of how seriously we have assessed this situation. In a country like Haiti it is impossible to guarantee the safety of anyone at anytime but right now we preferred to err on the side of caution. Please pray that there will be a peaceful resolution to this conflict real soon!!

Cup of Cold Water Well Project Update

Working in Partnership with Cup Of Cold Water Ministries we have now supplied wells for 15 communities across Haiti. We do our drilling with an LS 200 drilling rig that was purchased by the Cup Of Cold Water ministry.

We have had great difficulty in finding pumps in Haiti so we have started to manufacture our own. It is a version of the Zimbabwe Bush Pump that has been modified to suit our needs. We not only use these pumps ourselves but have also sold some to other missions and have had many inquiries from other missions. We have become active in the St. Marc Rotary Club and have given them a proposal to do some well drilling for their projects.

We have installed a Zimbabwe pump at the mission base and have made it and several filters available to the local community free of charge.

SANTA'S VISIT

Thanks to a wonderful VAC care group, the kids associated with Clean Water for Haiti had a very special Christmas visit this year from Santa. The group assembled gift bags for 25 kids!! They are children of the people who work at the mission base. Most (probably all) had never seen Santa before (they call him TonTon Noel or Uncle Christmas there), so this was a special treat. Walmart donated a Santa suit and LouLou the well driller played the part of Santa. There was a party with hotdogs and cookies, games & songs. It was a ton of **Fun!!**



SUPPORT

Please support this project in any way that God moves you.

In Canada

Cheques can be made payable to:

Clean Water For Haiti

Mail to:

**c/o Vernon Alliance Church
2601-43rd Ave.**

**Vernon, BC,
V1T 3L1**

Website: cleanwaterforhaiti.org

Email: cleanwaterforhaiti@yahoo.com