

DOWN to EARTH

Emmanuel International UK News
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Water and Life

Water is commonly known as the 'essence of life'. From the thousands of creatures that call rivers, lakes and oceans their home, to the countless trees whose roots search for it deep into the soil, water is the common thread that all life needs to survive. People in the developed world are incredibly blessed with our abundance of clean, fresh water; but in our blessing, it can become difficult to remember the thousands of people who go without sufficient clean water every day.



One such country is Malawi, Africa. Named one of the poorest nations in the world, Malawi faces the crisis of poverty,

famine and a desperate lack of clean water. Just as the presence of suitable water sustains life, the absence of it results in disease, sickness and death. Villages throughout Malawi are feeling the effects of this harsh reality, as access to functional, sanitary wells are limited.

Emmanuel International has come to action, passionately working to provide villages in Malawi with access to clean water. By installing new boreholes, rehabilitating dysfunctional wells, and digging latrine systems, Emmanuel International is effectively working towards its mandate of 'transforming lives'.

But their work doesn't stop with providing access to clean water. Emmanuel International is a firm believer in making these villages self-sufficient, which means that along with new boreholes, or rehabilitated wells, the people are provided with a training program. These sessions not only help the villagers understand the proper methods of cleaning and fixing their boreholes but also show them the importance of sanitation and hygiene.

As a result, thousands of lives are touched - dirty water no longer making them susceptible to deadly water-borne diseases. One borehole can provide clean water to a whole village;



one sanitation platform (latrine) can encourage hundreds of children to attend school. As Emmanuel International works within Malawi to provide clean water, their influence and service for Christ is evident.

Emmanuel International does not simply work in Malawi, but seven more countries world-wide, their projects expanding from water and sanitation to children's ministries. Collaborating with churches, Emmanuel International works not simply to administer to the physical and emotional welfare of those in poverty, but tends to their spiritual needs as well.

Though water might be known as the 'essence of life', we know that only God is the Provider of life, and through Emmanuel International's ministry, many people are coming to recognize God as their Provider too.

Naomi's Watering Hole



Meet Naomi. A joyful young girl who has just reached her 9th year, living in the small village of Ungwe, Malawi. Naomi has thus far spent her life alongside 550 villagers under the hot Malawi sun working persistently to help provide for her family in every way she can. Since the year she could walk, Naomi has been utilised to help with various chores throughout the village, including the collection of firewood, helping in the garden, and most importantly, fetching the water.

For all villages like the one Naomi lives in, water is the essence of life. It is the element that allows for the cooking of food, the growing of vegetables, the washing of clothes and body, and the survival of their animals and of themselves. Without proper access to sanitary water, the fate of such villages is imminent; water based diseases spread much more rampantly, and hygiene is diminished excessively.

It has been three years since Naomi has seen running water in her village. Many of the younger children will not even remember a time when their well was in working order. To reach their alternative source of water, Naomi would venture over a kilometer past the dysfunctional pump to a small river teeming with bacteria and waste. Carefully balancing the full vessel of water atop her head, Naomi would then begin the long trek over rough terrain back toward the village.

In light of this common occurrence within villages, Emmanuel International has been working hard to rehabilitate as many wells as possible. The need to provide clean and sanitary water to people throughout Malawi is pressing, especially with the resurgence of diseases since the flooding in early 2015.

Emmanuel International was able to pay Naomi and her village a visit recently, and within one short hour, the well was releasing fresh, cool water for the first time in three years.

“It is now much easier to get our water,” Grace, a mother in Naomi’s community expresses. This not only means that less time and energy is wasted in retrieving the water, but much more can be done with it. For instance, Grace explained that it will be easier to plant vegetable gardens because the close supply of water allows for the plants to be nourished. Naomi will reap the benefits to the renewed well as sanitation and hygiene will be exceedingly increased.

But before any work is to be done with the water of the now operative pump, Naomi celebrates beneath the clear, flowing stream. With a genuine smile that makes the sun look dim, the bright young girl’s gratitude is heard through her laugh as it collides with the sound of running water.

Article by Caitlin Bouwma

More on the author

This past year my eyes have been opened to see more of God than they have ever seen. From the opportunity to finish high-school early leading to the experience I had with EI in Malawi,



Tanzania Short Term Mission Team 2015

God's hand has never been more visible to me. It was six weeks from March to April that I was able to stay with Paul and Helen in Malawi, and while I had no idea what to expect at first. By the end, I did not want to leave. Officially, I was meant to visit the many projects that EI Malawi is involved with and write articles about it for EI Canada, but I also spent a lot of time building relationships with the incredible mentors in Malawi, and deepening my relationship with God. When I came home, EI Canada offered me a summer internship before I head to university for journalism in September. It's been a blessing to work alongside dedicated servants of Christ, and promote EIC's mission this summer through my job in media relations.

Caitlin Bouwma

André Porto graduates



André Porto, son of Jurema and Tarcisio Porto (working with Emmanuel International in Brazil) graduated on Friday 24 July 2015. Congratulations!

Dates for your diary

Board of Trustees Meeting:
30 October 2015



A team of 13 from the United Benefice of St Stephen's Church, North Mundham and St Leodegar's Church, Hunston (and Sue, the teamleader), spent some time this summer in Ibumu, near Iringa, Tanzania. Here the team is posing for the 'traditional leaving photo' on the steps to the Wingfields' house in Iringa.

A detail report on their experiences will be published next month in the BushNet.

The VanWoerdens



The VanWoerden family (pictured above with the rest of the EI Tanzania team) arrived safely in Iringa at the end of July. They are exploring Iringa and vicinity and learning kiSwahili. We pray that they settle into their new life quickly.