



# Where There is Water There is Life Water for a Dry and Thirsty Land

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Enhancing Trust

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## NEWSLETTER

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### The Joy of Reuniting at School!

Separated for five months without any means of continuing their academic training nor their daily meal, it is with deep relief that these students have returned to school.

Unlike in developed countries, the children of Paswadòm have neither electricity nor access to personal computers with internet that would allow them to continue their school education.



Your unconditional support has made it possible to keep the teaching staff. The teachers have until the end of October to complete the 2019-20 school year and lead their students to success in the academic official tests, before proceeding with the 2020-21 school year. They are going to have to work harder. But they keep trusting because until now the Lord has helped us!



Despite this pandemic situation these children experience every day, thanks to you, the love of God for them. Thank you to all the sponsors who support their children. We ask more than ever for your prayers to raise the necessary funds to keep this school for the benefit of more than 500 children in economic, social and health distress.

### Your Gifts Bring Joy

Representatives of Water For Life, through our well program, had the opportunity to visit the little village of Ka Altida, located near Les Cayes, South of Haiti. This picture can give an idea of where millions of people in Haiti are getting their daily water supply when it is not from a river. Instead

of “water” we can substitute the phrase, “all kind of diseases and sickness in a contaminated liquid.”



Such were the conditions for Suzette, age 45, living there since birth, who explained to us, with tears in her eyes, how difficult it was for the 400 people living in this village, especially for her and her six children (Shnaïda, Josette, Anna, Pierre, Rodrigue, and Jeff), to find “water.” In addition to the enormous threat that this hole represented for children and even adults who were in danger of falling in and even dying, the water there was constantly mixed with garbage and pathological germs. Episodes of dysentery, other water-borne diseases, and skin disease were very common.

The presence of this well (see photo on previous page) is for these villagers a priceless gift and a daily miracle in view of the terrible conditions they experienced for years with all the consequences we can imagine, even death.

Today Suzette and her children, along with all the other people in this village now have access to a sanitary and secure well.

We want to express great gratitude to all of you who have faithfully contributed for many years with your prayers, your financial gifts, and your time to keep helping the Haitian people. We highly appreciate all the very sacrificial donations we have received from you during this time of financial crisis. We keep counting on the Lord through you donors to help us go through these financially difficult times we are facing to keep providing the supplies needed to keep on with the work in Haiti.

May the Lord richly bless you all and take great pleasure in your generous and sacrificial giving.

### From Leon's Desk

Hello to you, our faithful friends!

It is always good to take a look back and see the faithfulness and goodness of God and how He guides all of us along the way when we ask Him to. For those of you who have joined us along the way, I'd like to recount the story of Water For Life's beginning.

My dad, Willis, who'd spent many years drilling wells in Iowa, had become a driven man, so to speak, to help provide water to people in Haiti because it was something he could do that few others could. He had been coming from time to time to Haiti and using his talents helping organizations by drilling where they asked him to go. He spent time in north-west Haiti, on the island of La Gonâve, and in the south of Haiti over a period of 10 years. But whenever he returned on his following trip he'd find out the wells he'd drilled earlier had broken down and there was no plan or infrastructure in place to repair the well, so there it would sit, useless. He became discouraged to see all his hard work and the resources it had taken to drill the well wasted like that and decided he would quit.

But God had other plans. The last well he had been asked to drill was in the south of Haiti, close to the ocean in a very dry area. While he was working, people from a neighboring village walked the nine mile distance to implore him to try drilling a well for them too! They were desperate! But he said no, this is his very last well. So they returned home, dejected. When he'd done what he could to get water where he was working—a place notorious for its salty wells—he took off, headed back west on the terrible road. In doing so they came to the village where the group had come from. The people flagged them down and wanted to show them where they got their water. Now along with my dad was another

man, a farmer from Iowa who'd come along on that trip to Haiti. Together they took the time to go see. It was a good distance from the village, up in the mountains. Finally they got to the place, a contaminated hole in the ground. Dad and Ken couldn't believe their eyes. The men once again told the villagers they were sorry, there was nothing they could do, and they went back home to Iowa, where they had everything they needed to live. But Ken couldn't sleep at night thinking of the people who needed water in that village, and many other villages just like it. He couldn't get it out of his head. God put it there.

God touched Ken's heart so strongly he had to do something! So he sold his farm equipment, rented out his land, and came knocking on Dad's door with money in hand, saying, “We have to get us a well rig and go find good clean water for those people.” Dad replied that this is a big thing; they'd need to start a non-profit organization to ever do that. And that is when Water For Life got its start.\*



The reason I am telling you all of this is that the same need still exists today for hundreds, even thousands of villages in Haiti. For 37 years God has kept on supplying the needs so that today there are more than 2,000 wells we have drilled! And the wells that were drilled more than 30 years ago are pumping water today, praise God, due to our pump repair program and teams.

Our hearts still go out to the many villages whose leaders come to ask us, Can you come find water for us? You see, most wells we drill go through hard rock, some for more than a couple hundred feet, so it would be impossible for them to try digging a well for themselves by hand. One of our co-workers goes to see the terrible places people go to for their water needs, and once again hearts are touched and we know that people shouldn't have to live like that. If it wouldn't be for your prayers and gifts of love this work would not be taking place. Thank you for your partnership!!!

~Leon

\*This version of the event barely scratches the surface of the whole intriguing story. If you're interested, write to our Kalona address, enclosing \$10 and your address, and request Dad's book, *Water for Haiti, a Dry and Thirsty Land*, his life's story, to read the more complete version!

### — July 2020 Statistics —

Wells Drilled: 20  
Hand Pumps Installed: 12  
People Served: approximately 4,200  
Hand Pumps Repaired: 75  
People Served: approximately 26,250

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