

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

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Enhancing Trust

www.wflhaiti.org

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## NEWSLETTER

June 2022

## Let's Have a Party!

It was a blessed time of celebration, not only for these children who have sponsors but also for us who had organized this moment.



These children had times of singing and praise, they learned new games and they were able to enjoy a good meal and a snack. We prayed for them, for their lives, their future and for



the Lord to touch their hearts. They were also able to express their gratitude to you, dear sponsors. Thank you because this little party, which allowed them a little change in their daily lives, would not have been possible without you!

### — Attention! —

## Looking for an easier way to donate? *If you give monthly, this is for you!*

Your donation can now be taken directly out of your checking or savings account automatically each month. This saves you a stamp and Water For Life the processing fees that accompany PayPal and credit card donations. Contact our office to sign up for this service. Of course, we will be happy to continue to receive checks or online donations as always.

### Heartbeats From the Field

Water For Life Has been blessed to have great staff to accomplish the work there is to do. But to make our projects all work simultaneously—drilling, pump repairs, school, mobile clinic—takes a project manager who can "put it all together."

For the past 11 years that person has been the energetic Dr. Winnie Guerre Viard. Joining WFL, with her expertise in the medical field, she was perfect for building our mobile clinic program, and in fact, without her we would not even have attempted to do so. Of course, she had to learn



the ins and outs of drilling, pump repair and so on in order to direct them. Having grown up in Haiti, she had an inside view of the Haitian educational system which was so very helpful when she became responsible for education from an administrative viewpoint. Below is an excerpt of Dr. Winnie's testimony of the time she spent with WFL.

Winnie's words: "I rejoice that I have dedicated these eleven years to embracing the vision of providing safe drinking water as a symbol of the gospel of Christ's sacrifice for the salvation of mankind. I still remember, in 2010, how natural it was for me to throw myself headlong into this adventure. I had no experience in this field, yet I felt ready to give myself body and soul for this cause. I thank those with whom I have collaborated and who have been wonderful mentors. I have learned a lot and, thanks to them, I was able to experience the true meaning of what it is to walk by faith. Indeed, despite the difficulties related to Haiti's socio-political climate, God has always provided what's necessary to carry out the drilling, mobile clinic and school education projects. Through generous and faithful supporters, the Lord continues to pour out His blessings on the men, women and children of Haiti who, without the actions carried out by our teams on the ground, would be abandoned to their fate. Today, I am happy to give way to Sarah Cecina Joseph, whom I wish to receive as much happiness if not more from this beautiful family that is Water For Life. I pray for Leon, Edy and all board members that they will continue to be selfless stewards of this divine mission to demonstrate the love of Christ wherever WFL is called to minister."

Winnie felt her time to work with Water For Life had come to an end. We knew we'd be hard-pressed to find a replacement for her! Going to the Lord in prayer and asking Him



to lead, we were overjoyed to find another capable person, experienced in team leadership, who loves the Lord and desires to serve Him by serving others, being an important member of our team. She is from Martinique, a small country in the eastern Caribbean, and after

spending a number of her adult years in France, came to Haiti, and has learned to speak the Creole language in addition to speaking English! Having married a Haitian man, she gets an insider's viewpoint as to the Haitian culture.

*Sarah's words:* "Winnie took the time to welcome me and give me the keys to take over her position at Water For Life. Several things touched me during all our exchanges:

- Winnie spoke passionately about her mission. It was clearly not just a job for her, but a mission that she embraced with all the resources God had given her.
- She really knew all the files, all the procedures and all the people (employees, beneficiaries, literally everyone!) inside and out.
- Her skills. Winnie did a fantastic job in setting up all the procedures and running all the projects in parallel (mobile clinic, school and of course drilling and repair).
- Starting the knowledge transfer with her, I thought that the challenge would be important for me, and I took the measure of the work that Winnie had been doing every day for so many years. Winnie encouraged me with conviction, assuring me that I was going to succeed.

Several months after her departure, I continue to receive messages from people who have been impacted by her love for others, by her energy, by her motivation to accompany others to bring out their potential and by her testimony too!

Once I started, I was struck by the spirit of brotherhood and the feeling of belonging among the employees. Everyone with whom I spoke in Haiti felt good, valued and respected and they took very seriously their mission to witness to the love of Christ in all the tasks that fell to them.

All the teams gave me a warm welcome. Joy and Leon took time to know more about me, and Sara (in Iowa) is always available and patient.

Four months later, it is a pleasure for me to collaborate with everyone in Haiti and in Iowa

When Edy offered me this opportunity to serve with WFL, I didn't think long. Several avenues were available to me, but Water For Life answered the essential question of meaningful work. After leaving important functions in multinational companies in Europe, my mission for Water For Life allows me to put my skills at the service of those who need it most and to witness of the marvelous love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## I am happy and grateful for that."

### From Leon's Desk

#### Greetings to you, all our wonderful friends!

John 16:33 tells us—"I have told you these things so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take courage; I have overcome the world!" (Berean Study Bible) I don't like to start a letter talking of trouble! But all around us that is what we see and hear in this world. Russia fighting Ukraine is what is in the news most. Haiti certainly has more than its share of trouble; gangs continue to be getting stronger, destroying properties and people's lives, causing prices for necessities such as food to rise a LOT. When they invade a new area, people have to move out or get hurt. Try to imagine the stress of living in Port-au-Prince, facing the risk of kidnapping and getting shot at any time one is away from home! Many if not most schools in those areas are not able to function. We are so grateful they've not been in the area where we do most of our work, but these problems do affect our ability to get needed supplies. Our well rigs go through a lot of fuel, so we need to do our best to have fuel on hand. There are times when we order and it's weeks later till we are able to receive the fuel due to these continual problems. BUT Jesus says—Take courage!

I am told it has rained and rained in April, making unimproved dirt roads get muddy and even wash out. Most roads off the few highways are either that, or a combo of rock and dirt, such as in the mountains. This has made drilling a bit challenging. But God is still good! What work we do is for God's glory. We want to be a blessing to many communities!

As He provides, we will keep reaching out to more people! God has used so many of you to support this work both financially and with your prayers, without which we could not survive. Together we form a network to get these important services done.

I sure hope that before long we can once again encourage you to come and witness for yourselves what Haiti is like and ways Water For Life has impacted many villages. For now that is not wise.

We love you all. Please keep us in your prayers. Many have told us they pray for us every day. That is powerful!!

#### ~Leon

## April 2022 Statistics -

Wells Drilled: 4 Hand Pumps Installed: 6 People Served: approximately 2,100 Hand Pumps Repaired: 58 People Served: approximately 20,300 WFL School Meals Served: 7,661

## — Support WFL via Estate Planning —

Now is a good time to review one's estate plans. If you have already included a gift to Water for Life as part of your plans, thank you! If not, would you please consider joining other households who have done so? Contact lyle.miller@everence.com or your local Everence office for more information.

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