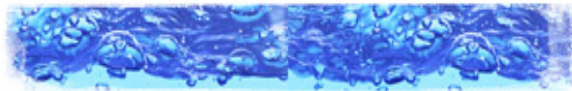


Encounter Uganda Well Health



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The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving

There is the same amount of water on earth today as there was when the earth was

WE ARE MADE OF WATER!

- 💧 Newborn infants are made up of 78% water
- 💧 Adults are approximately 60% water
- 💧 To maintain good health a child should drink 9 cups of water per day
- 💧 An adult should drink 11-16 cups of water per day.
- 💧 American use five times the amount water that Europeans use
- 💧 Two-thirds of the water used in an American home is used in the bathroom
- 💧 To flush a toilet we use up to seven gallons of water
- 💧 In a five minute shower we use twelve gallons of water
- 💧 An adult human can go about one month without food, but only about one week without water

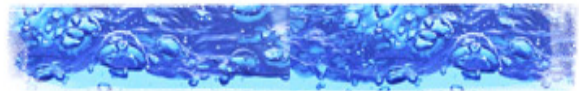
DOESN'T EVERYBODY HAVE CLEAN WATER?

***1.1 billion people in this world have no access to improved water sources.**

****Over 2 million people, most of them children, die each year of preventable dysentery and cholera type diseases directly linked to inadequate and polluted water supply.**

***Access to clean water is a fundamental human right**

*World Water Day 2001
** World Health Organization



WATER CRISIS IN UGANDA EAST AFRICA



Uganda is in sub-Saharan Africa and is one of the poorest nations in one of the poorest parts of the world.

*“Children pass away every minute because they don’t have access to clean water”
Maria Mutagamba, Minister of Water, Republic of Uganda*

One of the UN’s Millennium Goals is to increase the number of people having access to clean water by the year 2015. The latest statistics show that not only is Africa failing to achieve this increase, it is in fact falling further and further behind and unless drastic steps are taken, no significant improvement can be expected before **2050!**

The water crisis and the accompanying health crisis in Uganda is caused as much by cultural as physical reasons. In the past ten years the Ugandan government and various major charities have drilled literally hundreds of wells throughout the rural regions, and yet the people are still without clean water, and the children are still dying. The Well-Health project of Encounter Uganda is taking a new approach to this problem with a long-term in-depth study, innovative engineering solutions, and pilot projects that encourage communities to be pro-active in solving their own water problems.



The Lord said to Moses “Gather the people





The Well Health Project

Encounter Uganda's Well Health project is centered in the town of Hoima, which is in the Bunyoro-Kitara region of Uganda in the Great Rift Valley geological system.

Encounter Uganda has been working in this region since 1999 and has made an in-depth study of the many factors that have resulted in a water and health crisis for this rural population.

In rural Uganda village populations have out-grown their initial water sources, and the fetching and purifying of water has become a burdensome task that takes up many precious hours every day. Village women and children walk miles to find water for their families to drink. Often they draw polluted surface water from a stream, or pond that they share with cattle and wild animals. After a long day at school, with homework still ahead of them, children, some as young as 4 or 5 drag jerry cans of water and risk their lives as they scurry along the dirt roads amidst speeding trucks, and impatient taxi drivers.

Although the people know that water should be boiled for at least fifteen minutes, as night draws in they become impatient. Often they have had nothing to drink all day, and they no longer have the energy to gather firewood to boil the water, or the patience to wait for it to cool down. And so they drink the polluted water or they continue in a state of dehydration. Whichever way they choose, the cycle of sickness continues.

Amazingly enough, even while the women and children are walking miles to collect water, there may be a government bore hole just a few hundred yards from their village.

One of the first initiatives of the Well Health project was to find out why these bore holes are not being used.

The answer is that in most locations the water tastes nasty!



When the poor and needy seek water and there is none and their tongues fail for thirst, I the Lord will hear them. I will not forsake them. Isaiah 41:17



There are 340 hand pump wells in the Hoima district and approximately 60% of them are not working because of lack of maintenance. They are not maintained because the people have no interest in the water from them. It tastes bad and stains clothes. Although Encounter Uganda has succeeded in its initial program which was to create a way to reduce the cost of drilling a new well from \$10,000 to \$1000, it is obvious that simply drilling new wells is not the solution. If the taste and color of the water is not changed, these wells will also be abandoned, and the sickness will continue.

THE WELL HEALTH SOLUTION



Drilling with a percussion rig

Encounter Uganda's objective is to teach people that clean drinking water is essential to life, health and prosperity and that the way to provide it is to fix their existing wells, drill new wells and to treat their water in a very simple, inexpensive and non-burdensome way.

The water tastes bad! The

problem stems from low pH (high acidity) and high dissolved iron. The solution is to raise the pH of the water by having it pass over locally obtained limestone contained in a simply designed wooden tray.



Then Elisha went to the spring and threw salt in it and said "Thus saith the Lord "I have healed these waters; there shall not be from thence any more death or barren land. So the waters were healed unto this day 2 Kings 2:21



Installing a lime tray

The pumps and pipes rust after just a short time! This is another effect of the water being acidic. Encounter Uganda has researched pump and pipe materials and is replacing metal pipes and pumps with imported urethane pumps and locally obtained pvc pipes that will not corrode and will last many years without maintenance.

Some villages have no well, or the well is broken beyond repair! Our main drilling objective is to continue to demonstrate how to dig and finish water wells for under \$1000 each. Ugandan volunteers are beginning to dig new wells on their own with no cost for labor. We are able to finish a well for about \$500.

The villagers have failed to maintain their well! This is a common problem and is usually caused by the water tasting bad, and therefore having no perceived value, or the riser pipes being broken, or the people simply not understanding the value of clean water. Encounter Uganda has prepared and distributed an education aid for village water committees that teaches the value of clean water and reinforces the need to have a strong water committee resolved to collecting a small fee for pump maintenance.

We need a year-round presence !

Encounter Uganda has employed a full time Ugandan associate, Mr. Herbert Asiimwe to oversee the program year-round. He oversees all new drilling, all repairs, and all resulting maintenance



Graham Hodgetts & Herbert

committees.

THE WELL HEALTH PLAN

Encourage Ugandan villagers to become enthusiastic about the value of clean, sweet tasting water nation wide.

Teach them to treat water so that it tastes good. Teach them to drill, finish and maintain clean water wells using their own resources.

1. Consolidate the Hoima Diocesan model by repairing 100 existing Hoima wells, treat them so they produce sweet tasting water and drill and finish 100 more wells.
2. Encourage and train technicians and community organizers to form committees to collect water well fees.
3. Train a "trainer" to implement the Hoima Well Health model in each of the other 26 Dioceses of the Church of Uganda.
4. Follow up, support, and hold accountable those groups who have committed to clean water projects in each of the dioceses.
5. Organize a competition with a substantial prize to the three diocese that re-habilitate or drill the most self-sustaining wells.

WHY?

Because 1 in 5 of Uganda's children will die before their fifth birthday.

Because dehydration lowers resistance to other diseases such as malaria and malaria kills 22

African children every fifteen minutes.

Because 2 million deaths per year from contaminated water, is 2 million too many.



Because Jesus said

"For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink... When you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me."

Matthew 25:35, 40



Encounter Uganda is an in-depth Christian mission to the Bunyoro-Kitara region of Uganda founded in 1999 by Christ Church at Grove Farm, Sewickley, Pennsylvania. Our purpose in Uganda is to share, to teach and to provide the tools necessary for progress both physically and spiritually. We believe that by returning year after year to build upon our previous efforts, we will (with God's help) make an impact which goes far beyond a temporary fix.

For more information on Encounter Uganda programs see the Encounter Uganda website page at www.ccgf.org

For information on the Well Health Project contact Graham Hodgetts, Director of Water & Business Development at ghodgetts@fidelityflight.com