

WATER FOR MALAWI NEWS

Water For Malawi Inc.

PO Box 8,

DUNCRAIG EAST WA 6023

Ph/Fax: 08 9447 3263

www.waterformalawi.org

admin@waterformalawi.org

October 2010, Issue Number 6

Nothing is Impossible! By Beryl Schairer

In June 2009, Water For Malawi chose to no longer build their own wells in Malawi (which used to cost us A \$1400) but to solely concentrate on raising funds for wells --- which have been sent to Marion Medical Mission (MMM) in USA. MMM has the same vision we do, and its approach and ethics are exactly ours. As well they have the advantage of a more long term experience (20 years building wells in Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia) and they have local Field Staff working over there, to directly oversee the work. Not only that but wells built by MMM are costing only about \$A 355 at present--- and so through MMM we are providing water to a lot more people. To know more about MMM, please check out their website – www.marionmedical.org. It's a wealth of interesting information. One of its founders Tom Logan – got the

Shallow Well program going in 1990 with 13 wells built that year. Tom Logan has great faith and vision, and this year MMM is aiming at a target of building 2500 wells over September/October (happening now !) and of these more than half are built in Malawi . In 2009, 1270 wells were built in Malawi, each serving up to 200 people. This year MMM celebrated 10000 wells built since 1990, 20 years doing it, and over 2 Million people getting fresh water ! Tom Logan often likes to say that these challenges are impossible – the sheer number, the cost... the hardship of driving over rough terrain with equipment... But it becomes possible only through reliance on God. Indeed, this has proved true time and time again. God brings many people together to do the seemingly impossible – villagers who help build the wells, field staff to help coordinate, staff in America, Water For Malawi here in Perth making our contribution, many many donors, and the

volunteers who are there now (in 2 teams, 3 weeks per trip) who help bring the final pump, pipes and cement to complete the wells, and dedicate them to God.

— Our Treasurer Matt King has just returned from Malawi , where he joined the 2010 MMM Mission trip. He went out to villages 100-200 miles out of Lilongwe, and helped to deliver concrete and pipes and celebrate the wells.



Meg Presley with village women in Malawi 2009

Miracles in Africa

By Meg Presley

Here Meg shares about her 2009 trip as a Marion Medical Mission (MMM) volunteer –

Dawn is just breaking and I am behind the wheel of a 4-wheel drive truck loaded up with pipes and pumps and headed off into Malawian bush to install shallow water wells in remote villages. I probably won't return until well after sundown. A granola bar for lunch, hikes up and down mountains in intensely hot African sun, driving conditions that defy description, only to return to sleep in accommodations that are, at best, sketchy. So why return year after year to this boot-camp existence? There's something about working with a wonderful team of volunteers under MMM in an effort to bring clean, safe, sustainable sources of drinking water to African villages suffering from devastating waterborne diseases. This year alone, MMM worked hand-in-hand

with thousands of Africans to install over 2000 shallow water wells, bringing clean water to over 400,000 people. What a privilege to be a part of such an effort !

And there is so much to be learned from these wonderful people . Like just to be with them. Walking among these wonderfully warm, hard-working people in their villages ,spending time with them on their terms, in their homes and sharing meals in their mud huts -- is an incredible honor. There's lots of life lessons to be learned: patience, perseverance, hope, gratitude, dignity, joy, simplicity, hospitality, family and community. Every time, I am overwhelmed by their genuineness and inner beauty.

And then there's being able to participate in a miracle. The installation of more than

2000 wells in ridiculously remote African villages in less than two months can be called nothing less. I get a lot back too – and this keeps me returning year after year.

Empowerment. Imagine driving a big truck loaded with pipes, pumps and workers over incredibly steep mountain roads and bridges made of sticks. And to feel what its like to hike with villagers up and down mountains, through valleys, banana groves and maize fields, to reach a well-site. All your nerve cells are alive. Your eyes and ears and heart are receiving sights, sounds and emotions you've never imagined. The intensity of the experience -- the hard work, concentration, heat and exhaustion -- is staggering. Yet when you go to bed at night, you feel totally satisfied, reflecting on what you accomplished that day and feeling stronger and more capable than you ever dreamed possible.

Renewal. You are hot, tired, dirty and you've been rattled by the hour-plus drive over ox-cart paths to the village. But then you dance and sing and laugh with women celebrating the first clean water they have ever had in their village. And you watch the magical scene of children rushing to put their hands in the sparkling clear water flowing out of the pump. It is impossible to leave that village without a complete replenishment of your physical and spiritual energies.

Perspective. No one can walk away from the experience of working with MMM without gaining a broadened perspective of the world community. Walking to the well-sites surrounded by African villagers, it is all but written in bold letters across the blazing African sky: We are all one. It is a message that gets more deeply ingrained in my heart each year, and I am ever so thankful for it.

Fundraiser Coordinator Position Vacant

The management of Water For Malawi has streamlined our administration — so there is now so much more time to focus on Fundraising which is what we want. Fundraising events are challenging and fun, and an opportunity to meet the community and let people know about our work and what we do.

Our major fundraiser is the annual STREET APPEAL, and we are very grateful to the chaplain, Lyndon Rice of Lake Joondalup Baptist College who coordinates about 25 students each year to shake tins. They are ready to hit Perth CBD next Friday 20th October and aiming for \$2000—\$3500 for up to 3 hrs of tin-shaking! The 2011 Street Appeal will take place on Friday 20th May.

We are seeking a FUNDRAISING COORDINATOR who can get another school involved to target another area ie Subiaco. The students

love it, and get lots out of it. There is also opportunity to organise another event -- ie Sausage Sizzle, Info Evenings, Car Wash, Quiz Night, Film Night... Collection tins in shops.. Past fundraisers Beryl and Jenny are on hand to give tips and ideas.

WELL DONE WELL DONE
46 WELLS DONE & COUNTING..
 Since 2002 when a group of women began collecting money for wells, 46 have been made to date — through the kind donations of Perth people. 28 were built, up to 2008. Since supporting the construction of MMM wells - a further 13 were done in 2009, and so far 5 this year. With our street appeal this week, we are hoping for a total of 14 wells for 2010. Thanks to God who inspires everyone to make it happen.



The first water being pumped at the Marion Medical Mission's 10000th well. Commemoration Ceremony - October 2009

Shallow wells are currently costing US \$ 350 or A \$355. This provides up to 200 village people with clean, fresh water.

News & Updates

- Thankyou to all who donated since the last financial year—July 2009. Every little bit helps, many faithful people donate a precious \$5—\$20. Also thanks to all those who donated one or more wells as follows: Jan (1), Janet (3) Bill (2), Alicia (1), Beryl (1), Matt (1), Barbara (1) Lake Joondalup Baptist College raised \$2490 in the 2009 street appeal and a further \$1458 in December. Thanks to all, from the management committee! Donors who give a well or near to the amount receive a photo of a village well+ villagers, they have paid for.
- Around \$ 700 was raised through our Film Night in April—and this contributed to 2 wells.
- A special thank you to Rod White who has faithfully audited our annual accounts free of charge. Each time you help us give another well, from what we would have paid.
- Did you know? That Malawi has a 5 month wet season and water is found close the surface. People get water from streams and open, stagnant water holes. But surface run-off and animals contaminate it—that's why Shallow Wells with concrete top slabs are needed, and can be dug. Depth is usually 3m—7m. Villagers dig the well, provide labour, bricks, stone and sand and pay an annual maintenance fee. The money we pay helps to buy a pump, pipes and cement, and the organization to do it. We only do what the villagers can't do for themselves.
- Let us know of anyone wanting to be on the newsletter mailout OR wants to be taken off the mailing list. Sending by email saves costs.

Annual General Meeting and Info Evening –You're Invited !

Place: 76 Parnell Ave Sorrento (Matt's house)

When: 7.00 pm Wednesday 20th October 2010

- Hear reports about our work
- See photos from Matt's recent trip to Malawi and a DVD of the work of Marion Medical Mission.
- Enjoy a cuppa and supper afterward.
- RSVP by 18th October Ph Beryl 9447 3263.

DONATIONS

While Water For Malawi Inc. is a registered charity in WA, we don't have tax-deductibility for donors. All donations no matter how small make a difference and contribute to a well costing \$A 355 and which supports up to 200 people — a priceless gift.

Consider donating by one of 3 ways:

- 1/ Internet Payment.
 - 2/ Deposit at any Westpac Bank.
 - 3/ Post a cheque/money order made payable to 'Water For Malawi', PO Box 8, DUNCRAIG EAST W.A. 6023
- Our account details are:
 Westpac, BSB: 036027 Ac No: 290671
 Name: Water For Malawi Inc.

*Please remember to put your name in the transaction reference. Or email/phone us, so we can identify your donation. All donations are very appreciated.

COMMITTEE CHANGES

The Management Committee (currently 5 of us) would like to commend Mrs Raye Hasleby, our former Vice-Treasurer, who resigned in March. Raye kept our books and petty cash in excellent order, for a period of 3 yrs and we miss her enthusiasm and humour. Beryl Schairer, a founder and Secretary (for 9 yrs) is stepping down to pursue other commitments.

A vacancy exists for both these roles, — now so much easier due to MMM organizing the construction of wells. We welcome Tegan Parkinson who brings skills in website and Facebook advertising and her youth. It is very satisfying working together as a team, to get things done, and our meetings are great social occasions.

