

THE SOLUTION

The Facts

The Location: Why Ethiopia?

- Ethiopia has the densest population of Lutherans in Africa with over 4.8 million members.
- Ethiopia is one of the 5 poorest countries in the world and the need is severe.

The Structure:

- Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and A Glimmer of Hope Foundation underwrite all operating and implementation costs so that 100% of donations go directly to Ethiopia and the project to be implemented.
- We work with proven partners with local management (over 2,000 wells completed to date).
- We provide a holistic solution, including management, training, well maintenance and local water councils.

The Solution:

- There are known, low cost solutions to the water crisis.
- \$3500 on average provides a fresh water well serving 300-500 rural Ethiopians
- Approximately \$7 provides access to fresh water for a single rural Ethiopian, changing that life forever.
- This is something that is completely do-able and realistic.
- These wells help to break the cycle of poverty and save lives.
- Progress to Date – Over \$105,000 = 30 wells. 12 wells completed.

With access to fresh, clean water, how can the cycle of poverty be changed?

- Women spend less time walking for hours, and can spend more time at home with the children, preparing food, working, or improving family life.
- Women spend less time carrying heavy water containers. Their bodies no longer have to survive the daily wear and tear of collecting the family's water, consumed in back-breaking labor. Their health improves.
- Children no longer have to join their mothers in the long walks each day for water. Children can instead spend time in schools, obtaining an education.
- Clean water allows for clean hygiene.
- Clean water minimizes the profusion of water borne illnesses and diseases.
- Clean water allows for the growth of crops, and a way for families to grow an income.

What does the Bible say about servanthood?

Ephesians 2:10 – “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Nobody is excluded from the call to serve. We are all called to serve God and to serve others in need. God has already identified the ways in which he desires each one of us to serve Him, and thereby, fulfill our purpose.

Philippians 2:1-11. Jesus spent His time on earth as a servant. He did not back away from servanthood, nor the ultimate sacrifice as a servant – His own sacrificial death. In fact, He considered these reasons to be his very purpose for His life and the fulfillment for His time on earth.

John 21:15-17. After his death and resurrection, Jesus was concerned with his children. During his third appearance to his disciples, He spoke directly to Peter who had denied him and called him back, telling him to Feed His Sheep.

John 4:13-14. Jesus is the water of life. (The recounting of the Samaritan woman at the well.)

What is my role?

This project is completely do-able and realistic. We can change thousands of lives! We are presented with an opportunity to give, to make a difference in the lives of God's children.

- What can you commit to give?



Water to Thrive – Lutherans Dig Deep

A guided **one-session** study of the water crisis in today's world and our role as Christians in serving God's people.

During this study, we will...

- Seek to understand the impact that access to clean, fresh water has on lives around the world.
- Take a deeper look at the opportunity for making a large impact and sustainable change.
- Ask how I can be part of the solution and what impact I can have on the cycle of poverty.

THE NEED

The Facts

A broad look at some issues facing our world today.

- A person dies every three seconds simply because they are in poverty and live with disease and starvation.
- Education, basic health services, and clean water – fundamental necessities for life – remain unknown to hundreds of millions of God's people.
- Over one billion people worldwide lack access to clean water, and over 2.4 billion lack access to proper sanitation.
- Every year over two million children die from diseases related to poor water quality or sanitation.
- The recommended basic water requirement per person per day is 13 gallons – which include drinking, cooking, and basic hygiene. In Gambia (a small country in western Africa on the Atlantic coast), the average person uses only 1.2 gallons. In Ethiopia, 10 gallons is often expected to last a family of 8 for at least 2 days. That's just over ½ a gallon per person per day. In the US the average person uses 75-150 gallons per day, depending on where you get your statistics.

Specifically looking at Ethiopia, how does lack of access to clean water impact lives?

- In rural Ethiopia, only one person in 3 has access to clean, fresh water
- Millions of women and children are forced each day to spend hours collecting and carrying water
- 52 gallons of water for a family of four (the recommended requirement) weighs 430 pounds.
- For women, gathering water can consume their lives – robbing them of the time needed to properly support their families.
- For children, time spent gathering water reduces their chance for education, keeping them trapped in a cycle of poverty.
- The lack of a sustainable water source reduces food production for crops and livestock.
- 50% of the rural population suffers from water-borne disease.
- One Ethiopian child in ten dies before their 5th birthday; 50% of those die from diarrhea.

What does the Bible say about water?

Genesis 24:14-26

Genesis 43:24; John 13:5-14

Matthew 3:11

John 4:14

What does the Bible say about water wells?

Genesis 26:12-25 about Isaac's wells.

John 4:4-26 about the Samaritan woman at the well and Living Water.

What is a well in my life?

Water-Walk Activity

The weight of water is symbolic of the weight of sin. Both weigh us down as we labor underneath the burden. Christ frees us from the weight of sin. He calls us to help others free themselves of the weight of water.