

CYCLING4WATER

Media Kit



Sea 2 Sea 2 Sea Cycling Ride Gives Life to Others
Through 65 Water Wells



Table of Contents

Media Release	2
Backgrounders	3
Key Person Bios	5
Statistics & Facts	10
FAQ's	11
Interview Questions & Topics	15
Tour Schedules	16
Success Stories / Case Studies	18
Photos	24
Testimonials / Quotes	25



Sea 2 Sea 2 Sea Cycling Ride Gives Life to Others Through 65 Water Wells

Langley, BC (Feb 1, 2021) - This summer, four young-at-heart old guys are cycling “Sea 2 Sea 2 Sea” for 65 days in the summer of 2021. This 8,500 kilometer ride across Canada, called Cycling4Water, is an opportunity to raise awareness and funds for 65 life-giving wells in Africa, in partnership with Global Aid Network (GAiN).

The team will leave Tuktoyaktuk at the Arctic Ocean on June 23, touch the Pacific Ocean at Prince Rupert, then finish the epic journey at the Atlantic in the Halifax area 65 days later. Their goal is to raise awareness and funds for 65 wells to help in the work of GAiN, a worldwide humanitarian relief and development organization. Their “Water for Life Initiative” has already provided 2,301 water wells, giving 2,301,000 villagers access to safe water.

It is estimated that 785 million people on this planet do not have access to clean water. As a result, around every 90 seconds a child dies from a water-related disease. This means close to 1,000 children die every day from preventable water-related diseases.¹ This is tragic! Access to clean water changes everything - especially for young girls and women. By providing accessible, disease-free water points, there is an increase in girls’ attendance in school, a drastic reduction in malnutrition and sickness, an improvement in maternal and newborn health, more time for women to focus on the wellbeing of their families and communities, an improvement in the local economy, an understanding of God’s unconditional love, leaders trained and new churches planted.

“This is hard, cycling across the country is hard,” shares Mike Woodard as he reflects on the 2014 ride with Cycling4Water team. “And then the second thought comes rushing in...’This is hard but it would be a lot harder to watch your children die because they do not have clean water!’ I revisit that thought many times. This ride is a way of helping others who cannot help themselves.”

The Cycling4Water team is looking for help from individuals who have compassion for the cause. Support can be expressed in the form of donations, riding alongside the team, hosting the riders as they come through communities across Canada and sharing this cause.

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Sources: UN and WHO

Backgrounders

CYCLING 4 WATER

The idea all started with a conversation between two longtime friends. (No drinks involved! LOL) Rob, a veteran, lifelong cyclist was meeting with Mike at a conference. Rob shared his dream of cycling across Canada and asked Mike if he would consider doing it with him the summer they both turned 60.

Mike had just started doing some short distance cycling and had never considered any form of long distance riding, let alone a ride across Canada. The idea did intrigue him; he agreed to think about it on one condition, Mike explained to Rob, "If I'm going to do this it has to be for a cause. I can't do it just for fun because I'm not sure it will be fun." Rod immediately agreed! Three months later, Mike committed to do the ride.

The search for a cause, landed with water wells because it's such a basic need, saves lives and transforms families and communities. Global Aid Network (Gain) became the cause partners and the ride started to take shape. Mike and Rob recruited two more cyclists and a support vehicle driver to join them. The team, Mike, Rob, Timo, Richard and Jacquie, also found some amazing sponsors who provided a support vehicle and the funds to cover their expenses so that 100% of the funds raised would go to Gain. The ride would be 60 days, they were turning 60 so the goal became 60 wells.

During a training ride, Mike was on a 35 km route to his office, it was early morning, there was a head wind, he was going uphill and it started to rain. Two thoughts hit him; "This is hard, cycling across the country will be hard." The second thought came rushing in... "This will be hard but it would be a lot harder to watch your children die because they do not have clean water!" That thought was re-visited many times...

GLOBAL AID NETWORK (GAIN)

GAiN is a worldwide humanitarian relief and development organization dedicated to bringing hope and tangible help to the poor and the suffering.

Their mission is to reveal hope by sharing God's unconditional love and restore life by demonstrating the gospel through compassionate action to those who are living in poverty, injustice and crisis around the world.

They are a registered non-profit organization. From their humble beginnings they have grown to become part of a diverse, global network with offices in Canada, United States, Germany, Australia, Austria, South Korea, Holland and Spain. With distribution networks established throughout Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and the Americas, their compassionate reach is truly global in scale.

Since beginning in 1998, they have mobilized resources to help people in over 40 countries around the world:

- Water for Life Initiative – transforming a village through the provision of a water well, community development (hygiene and sanitation, gender sensitivity, water committee training, community health), ongoing monitoring, and church structures (as needed)



- Economic Empowerment - resourcing and empowering women entrepreneurs to start income generating activities through projects such as agriculture, farming and gardens
- Disaster Relief & Preparedness - coming alongside vulnerable people in crisis to meet their immediate needs and alleviate their suffering

WATER FOR LIFE INITIATIVE

GAIN's water strategy began as a small well-drilling project in the villages of southern China, and has since grown to include a variety of nations throughout the developing world where clean water sources are few. In Africa, they have already witnessed hundreds of villages throughout Benin, Sudan, Tanzania and Togo literally transformed by the power of fresh disease-free water.

Once a deep-capped well is drilled, villages can get involved with additional opportunities that continue to enhance and improve their community.

- **Water Committee Training**
In every village where GAIN drills a water well, a water committee is elected with at least 50% of the committee being female. GAIN provides training for the committee in well maintenance, repair and best water-use practices. Establishing this group encourages community ownership, sustainability, and provides citizens an opportunity to govern the gift of water that has been given.
- **Hygiene & Sanitation Training**
Often, many people in developing nations do not understand what causes their illnesses. To improve the overall health of communities, GAIN deploys a team of trained volunteers to educate people about sanitation and hygiene practices.
- **Handwashing Stations**
Regular handwashing is perhaps one of the most effective ways to prevent waterborne diseases. We provide a simple handwashing station, complete with soaps and skilled in-country facilitators who educate villagers on handwashing and sanitation issues.
- **Gender Sensitivity Training (in Benin only)**
In many developing countries, women are viewed as second-class citizens. Even though women often have a heavier workload as caretakers of the home, they have very little influence or authority in their house and communities. This unbalanced societal power often leads to fewer opportunities for women for education and work, and can also lead to domestic abuse. GAIN's training is designed to open up communication between the sexes, to bring mutual understanding and respect of each others' roles.
- **Family Health Training (in Benin only)**
Every year in Benin, approximately 1,500 mothers die from preventable complications during pregnancy, birth, or in the six weeks following birth. The root cause of many deaths is the lack of clean water and an ignorance of basic health and hygiene practices. GAIN's health teams are designed to encourage, educate and advise families in basic health and sanitation practices. They are trained to recognize, treat, and prevent various ailments that can come up in a families daily life, from pregnancy to childhood.



Bio: Mike Woodard



Mike would describe himself as a novice cyclist even though he cycled across Canada in 2014 from Victoria to St. Johns. His cycling really only started in 2010 while training for a sprint triathlon. Before that, running and backpacking were more his preoccupations until he experienced knee problems.

This journey across Canada is a way to celebrate 67 years of life and give a gift to those in profound need. Mike will never forget the first time he walked through a slum in Mexico. He wept over what he saw. This ride is a way to do more than weep for those in need.

He's a small town boy who grew up on a hobby farm in Michigan. After finishing a science degree at Central Michigan University in 1977, he moved to Canada to begin working in university student ministry. He married Karen in 1978, after years of friendship that started in high school.

Edmonton was their home for 11 years. Their son and three daughters were born in rapid succession. Home base moved to Ottawa and then to their current home in Abbotsford, British Columbia. Since then, two grandsons and a grand daughter have been added to the family. His work has given him the opportunity to visit 40 countries. Mike currently serve with FamilyLife Canada.

A thrill seeker at heart — bungee-jumping, sky-diving, hang-gliding, and competing in a marathon and triathlon — have all been checked off his bucket list. His motto is, "Life is an adventure!" He has two books on the topic of relationships, *Love That Lasts* and *Relationship Under Construction*, both of which are a collection of insights for couples.



Bio: Rob Montgomery



Rob started running while in high school and enjoyed the sport until he developed a chronic hip injury in his early forties. He took up cycling as a fitness alternative. His passion for cycling is confirmed by the fact that he has now cycled over 200,000 km.

Riding across Canada had been a dream of his for decades. He got to live that dream in 2014. Now he's doing it again with a more ambitious plan, sea to sea to sea in partnership with GAIN's "Water for Life" initiative and his fellow cyclists.

Why is this important to Rob? In 1981 he travelled to Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo) and spent 5 weeks in Goma working with churches. While there, he had a chance to live in a rural village. Seeing the women and children go off to fetch water early each morning so that they would be able to provide for their families made a lasting impression on him. This experience helped him appreciate how fortunate we really are to have ready access to clean, safe water.

Rob is gripped with the fact that close to 1 billion people do not have this privilege! The need is overwhelming! But the thought that this ride could help bring awareness and raising funds for wells that will provide a source of water in 65 rural African communities motivates Rod.

Rob grew up in Buffalo, NY. After finishing his biology degree at Cornell, he moved to Edmonton, Alberta in January 1977 to work with a university ministry. After a move to Ontario, he met and married Anne-Marie in 1986. They live in Gatineau, QC and are the proud parents of three adult daughters and added their first grandchild to the family in December 2019.

Rod is no longer taking a salary but still works as a volunteer with the Christian Embassy in Ottawa, a Christian non-profit organisation that he served with for more than 20 years.



Bio: Timo Itkonen



Over the years, Timo (far left) had often seen long distance cyclists pedaling along the highway near his home in Mission, BC and thought that he would like to do just that someday.

Sometimes with his wife Marjatta, and sometimes with other riders, he has packed some gear, and done multi-day rides. One summer, Marjatta and Timo spent a most memorable four weeks cycling in Finland. For the last dozen years or so, he has also participated in the B.C. Lung Association's Bicycle Trek, and also recently with the Ride for Refuge.

Timo arrived in Canada in 1956 at the age of 5 when his family emigrated from Finland to Ontario. When he turned twenty, he returned to Finland and attended a bible school where he met Marjatta. They now have four grown children, and six grandchildren.

His resume includes time as a commercial fisherman and seven years with the Canadian Coast Guard. In the early 80's, he attended what is now called Summit Pacific College, and became involved in youth ministry at the Finnish Bethel Church in Vancouver. After further education at SFU and UBC, he obtained a teaching degree, and taught high school for twenty years in Mission B.C.

Timo had the opportunity to visit a long-time friend in Uganda. Africa left a deep impression on him. He saw the needs of the people, especially their hardships in obtaining clean water, and wanted to help them with something meaningful. When he heard about a couple of fellows around his age planning a ride across Canada to raise funds for wells in Africa, he was eager to find out if they needed another rider. His curiosity led to joining the 2014 Cycling 4 Water ride from Victoria, BC to St. John's NL and now Sea 2 Sea 2 Sea!



Bios: *Richard & Jacquie Blaschek*



Richard and Jacquie are both school teachers in Mission, BC. In 2014 they were approached to be a part of the Cycling 4 Water team as support crew. Although not a cyclist at the time, Richard's immediate response was that if he was going to cross the country that it would also be on a bike. A friend gave him an old steel framed road bike and he immediately started training and completed the trip in 2014 with the team. Jacquie drove the support vehicle and did a stellar job as the one person support crew! A big change since 2014 is that Richard's steel framed bike finally snapped in two. He now has a new aluminum framed bike for this trip. They are very excited to be with the C4W team for the first leg from Tuktoyaktuk to Prince Rupert.

Richard and Jacquie have always shared a keen sense of adventure. They met on a snowshoe hike in Manning Park in 2005. They have been climbing mountains and backpacking together ever since, and were married in 2011. Since then, they have had a son who will be turning six this summer.

Jacquie has spent time in Uganda and Haiti and has witnessed first-hand the devastation of dirty drinking water. As Canadians who are blessed with an abundance of clean and safe drinking water, they feel they owe it



Bios: Gabe McCreynolds



Gabe is the newest member of the team. He took up cycling for fitness several years ago and enjoys how it always reminds him of happy boyhood days cycling around Ottawa, where he lives today. Gabe has now logged over 12,000 kms and can regularly be seen cycling around the east end of Ottawa. He enjoys riding along the Ottawa River and in the rural areas and, occasionally, meets his friend Rob Montgomery across the river to venture into the Gatineau hills.

Gabe works with Power to Change – Students and has traveled to many different countries and met people with a variety of needs. He and his family lived in North Africa for twelve years. He is excited how through Cycling 4 Water, he can combine his enthusiasm for cycling with helping a great cause: providing clean water for villages in need.

Gabe met his wife Linda while they were students at Carleton University. They have six children. Thanks to their oldest son and daughter-in-law, they are now thrilled to be grandparents! This cycling trek will be the longest he has ever been separated from his family. His motivation to make this commitment springs from his concern for other families who suffer simply because they do not have access to safe water.



Statistics & Facts

WATER

- Each year, 3.4 million people die from water, sanitation, and hygiene-related causes
- 780 million people lack access to clean water
- Today women spend a combined total of 16 million hours each day collecting drinking water and children spend four million hours
- Every day, 6,000 children die of water-related diseases
- Children lose 443 million school days every year due to water-related illnesses
- Women bear 62% of the responsibility for collecting water in sub-Saharan Africa. While children bear 9%
- 15% of the population still practice open defecation in fields, forests, bushes, bodies of water or other open spaces; representing 1.1 billion people
- 2 billion people don't have a decent toilet of their own
- 31% of schools don't have clean water
- Diarrhoea caused by dirty water and poor toilets kills a child under 5 every 2 minutes
- Around the world up to 443 million school days are lost every year because of water-related illnesses
- Every \$1 invested in water and toilets returns an average of \$4 in increased productivity

Sources:

WHO (World Health Organization)

WHO / UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme

GAiN

- Provided over 2,218 deep-capped water wells
- Over 2,218,000 villagers have received clean water
- Approximately, 194,197 villagers have attended hygiene and sanitation training
- Working in 3 African countries (Benin, Tanzania, and Togo)
- Gender Sensitivity Training occurs in Benin
- Family Health Training occurs in Benin



Frequently Asked Questions

CYCLING 4 WATER

WHEN? End of June 2021 to End of August 2021

HOW FAR IS THE RIDE? Approximately 10,000 km

HOW FAR DO YOU RIDE EACH DAY? Approximately 200km

WHERE DOES THE RIDE START? Tuktoyaktuk at the Arctic Ocean

WHERE DOES THE RIDE END? Atlantic in the Halifax area

HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE ON THE CYCLING 4 WATER TEAM?

5 riders and 1 driver/media & communications coordinator

WHAT IS THE CAUSE? Clean water through Global Aid Network (GAIN)'s Water for Life Initiative

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

1. Donate either \$1/km which would provide 1,000 people with clean water, 10 cents/km which would provide 100 villagers with clean water, 1 cent/km which would provide 10 villagers with clean water
2. Sponsor the ride for either \$2,000 (Bronze Level), \$4,000 (Silver Level) or \$6,000 (Gold Level) and have your logo placed in various places
3. Host the team
4. Share the ride with others
5. Ride alongside the team

DO YOU HAVE A COVID-19 PLAN?

In anticipation that Covid will still be a significant concern we have established a plan to reassure host communities that we are being diligent in protecting them and ourselves.

So here's a draft of our guidelines. Our team will:

1. Follow the all local covid guidelines for group events.
2. Be prepared to do presentations/interviews through zoom or other media platforms.
3. Practice social distancing and/or wear masks.
4. Track with health and covid symptoms.
5. Have had a Covid Vaccine. (Assuming one is available.)



GLOBAL AID NETWORK (GAIN)

WHO IS GLOBAL AID NETWORK (GAIN)?

- Global Aid Network is a worldwide humanitarian relief and development organization dedicated to bringing hope and tangible help to the poor and suffering. Their mission is to demonstrate the love of God, in word and deed, to hurting and needy people around the world through relief and development projects. Since beginning in 1998, they have mobilized resources to help people in over 43 countries. It is the humanitarian division of Power to Change.
- Website: globalaid.net

WHAT DOES THE \$8,500 COVER?

- Materials (pump, concrete, parts and drilling equipment maintenance, etc.)
- Community development/training –, some of which includes:
 - i) Borehole committee training (which includes well maintenance)
 - ii) Hygiene and sanitation training
 - iii) Gender Sensitivity Training
 - iv) Family Health Seminars
- Salary of the national staff
- 2 field visits per year for strategic planning, data collection, staff training/care, water well visits, donor fulfillment, etc.
- Administration

GAIN'S WATER FOR LIFE INITIATIVE

WHAT IS NEXT AFTER MY DONATION?

Upon donation, you will receive a confirmation of your giving within the month. For donations for \$2,500 or above, we will connect your donation to a specific village that needs a well and we will send you a well assignment report, telling you of all the details of the village. You will receive this within 4 months after your donation date. For any donations of \$8,500 (donation of one full well), we will also send out a DVD containing videos of the well, GPS coordinates of the well, the sights and sounds of the actual village that your well is located and any interviews of villagers that were conducted at our well visit. This process could take any time from 8-15 months.



WHAT IS INCLUDED IN MY REPORT?

Upon donation of a well, a 'well assignment report' will be sent to you listing all the facts and details on the well and the village that you have an impact. These facts include GPS coordinates, well statistics like depth, flow rate, type of pump being used, village facts like demographics, population and community activities like sanitation and hygiene and borehole committee training sessions. It also includes a map showing where the village is in relation to the rest of the country.

WHY COULD IT TAKE UP TO 15 MONTHS TO RECEIVE FULFILLMENT?

While we want to report to our donors as fast as possible, we also want to make sure that the well and all the auxiliary programs work. The amount of time is critical for us to ensure that our sustainability components are in place and allowing time for the training to take place. Our regular site visits take a bit of time to complete. Sometimes when it's raining season, roads are just not accessible, so we have to wait until the drier season to go to the village to visit. Because it is highly tailored to the donor, the production time is needed. (Note: this is an average timeframe and this report is only for those that gave to a full well.)

CAN I PICK THE COUNTRY WHERE MY MONEY GOES?

You may give your preference of one of the countries that the WFLI works in, however, if you do not have a preference, the funds will be given to the project that is needed the most. In an unlikely event where your donation has to be re-allocated due to unpredictable circumstances, we will contact you to let you know of the situation.

DO I GET TO DECIDE WHERE THE WELL WILL BE?

Since we work closely with local governments in many countries to determine where we should best deploy our crew there and the fact that we have local staff there that assess the situation to determine where best to put the next water access point, donors are unable to pick where the well is actually provided.

WHAT CAN GO WRONG?

There are a number of factors that can come into play. Although not frequent, we do encounter some areas where we have dry wells or wells that are producing water with high salinity, in that case, we will try our best to find another location close to the village.

The areas that we work are often far away from the city, especially during the rainy seasons, our crew may have a harder time to reach to the particular location. There are also rare occasions of machine failure which may delay the pace of providing a well. After the well is provided, there are a few occasions where a pump or pipe will



break, due to normal wear and tear. In which case, the borehole committee of that village will notify our regional repair team to come for repair.

We are committed to give you not just a water well, but a working one. We will try our best to resolve the problems that might prevent villages to have clean water.

HOW DO YOU ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF SUSTAINABILITY OF THESE WELLS?

Our long-term presence and commitment to the country that we are operating ensures that we have ongoing contacts and follow up to check and see whether these wells are working properly. The borehole committee concept is a good example of empowering the local villagers so that they know how to up keep the well. Each committee charges a small fee (often they are a few cents) per use/ per bucket to enable to village to repair a broken well, because they will have the means for repair.

We have also trained and equipped regional repair teams who are from the village with the tools and knowledge to repair broken wells and they could service to other areas. We use reliable and robust technologies in our drilling and pump so that one can get the materials for the parts for repair in country and not relying on imports.

IS GAIN A REGISTERED CHARITY?

Global Aid Network, Canada is a charitable non-government organization.

Registration #890240997 RR 0001

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact us at info@globalaid.net.



Interview Questions & Topics

1. What is Cycling4Water?
2. Why is it that you have chosen to ride for this cause? Why water?
3. Who is Global Aid Network (GAIN)?
4. Can you tell us a little bit about the ride?
5. If someone wants to get involved, how do they do that?
6. Where can individuals find more information?



Tour Schedule

DATE	ROADS / HIGHWAYS	KILOMETERS
Northwest Territories		
June 23, Wed	Tuktoyaktuk (starting point)	0
June 24, Thurs	Inuvik	148
June 25, Fri	Fort McPherson	186
Yukon		
June 26, Sat	Eagle Plains	182
June 27, Sun	Engineerr Creek Campground	172
June 28, Mon	Intrsectn YTT5 & YT2	193
June 29, Tue	Minto Resorts	243
June 30, Wed	Whitehorse	251
July 1, Thurs	Rest stop, Alaska Hwy, Atlin	268
British Columbia		
July 2, Fri	Cassier Mountain Jade Store	269
July 3, Sat	Iskut	197
July 4, Sun	Rest day	
July 5, Mon	Bell-Irving River, Kitimat-Stikine A	215
July 6, Tues	Cedarvale	209
July 7, Wed	Prince Rupert	218
July 8, Thurs	Telkwa	126
July 9, Fri	Fraser Lake	198
July 10, Sat	Prince George	158
July 11, Sun	Rest day	
July 12, Mon	Soda Creek	206
July 13, Tues	Little Fort	219
July 14, Wed	Sicamus	174
July 15, Thurs	Golden	220
Alberta		
July 16, Fri	Canmore	165
July 17, Sat	Strathmore (Calgary)	170
July 18, Sun	Rest Day	
July 19, Mon	Medicine Hat	241
Saskatchewan		
July 20, Tues	Swift Current	224
July 21, Wed	Regina	244
July 22, Thurs	Moosomin	223
Manitoba		
July 23, Fri	Carberry	185
July 24, Sat	Winnipeg	169
July 25, Sun	Rest Day	



DATE	ROADS / HIGHWAYS	KILOMETERS
Ontario		
July 26, Mon	Clearwaterbay (speak in Kenora)	183
July 27, Tues	Dryden	167
July 28, Wed	Upsala	211
July 29, Thurs	Thunder Bay	142
July 30, Fri	Coach House Motel	240
July 31, Sat	Wawa	240
Aug 1, Sun	Rest Day	
Aug 2, Mon	Sault Ste. Marie	235
Aug 3, Tues	Spanish	197
Aug 4, Wed	S Baymuth, 2hr Ferry, Tobermory	159
Aug 5, Thurs	Owen Sound	117
Aug 6, Fri	Kitchener	154
Aug 7, Sat	Toronto	123
Aug 8, Sun	Rest Day	
Aug 9, Mon	Coburg	138
Aug 10, Tues	Kingston	160
Aug 11, Wed	Cornwall	183
Quebec		
Aug 12, Thurs	Montreal	130
Aug 13, Fri	TroisRiviers	142
Aug 14, Sat	Quebec	130
Aug 15, Sun	Rest Day	
Aug 16, Mon	Riviere-du-Loup	188
New Brunswick		
Aug 17, Tues	Grand Falls	194
Aug 18, Wed	Fredericton	195
Aug 19, Thurs	Moncton	187
Nova Scotia		
Aug 20, Fri	New Glasgow	224
Aug 21, Sat	Halifax (final destination)	162
Aug 22, Sun	Rest Day	



Success Stories / Case Studies



Aspiring for a Healthy Future

Before Global Aid Network (GAIN) provided a deep-capped water well to Kpakpalakpenou, Togo, the children and youth fetched water from a nearby open well for their families.

This water was dirty and caused a lot of sickness within the village. Children who were sick naturally missed more school. Fetching water from unreliable and far sources in the morning often caused them to arrive at school late and unprepared.

Now, children can fetch accessible and safe water from a deep-capped well, which GAIN provided on December 18, 2018, in their own village. Not only is clean water now easier to get to, but a total of 201 people from the village, including 140 children, attended a GAIN-led hygiene and sanitation training where they learned basic hygiene practices and the importance of sanitation.

Two months after the well was provided, GAIN put on two showings of the JESUS Film for people in the village. Over the course of two nights, a total of 736 people were exposed to the gospel through the film, and 68 people made the decision to follow Jesus. Sixteen people have attended a follow-up to learn more about their new faith.

Emmanuela is one of the youth from Kpakpalakpenou who has been directly impacted by the water program. She attends a high school around one km away and now easily accesses clean water, helping her attend school on time. Emmanuela wants to become a doctor one day so she can help others and save lives. Having access to clean water helps bring her one step closer to achieving this dream.





Transformation in Tanzania

As we travel from village to village, a common theme we hear is that we are making history. The village leaders say that the problem of disease and lack of clean water are now history in their villages. It is a problem of the past that the villagers are glad to leave behind.

With the deep-capped water well providing easy access to clean water, these villages have a new hope for the future. It is nearly impossible for a community to move forward and develop without water. They are stuck in the cycle of poverty and disease, unable to free themselves.

Clean water changes everything. A new story begins in these villages, one of hope and life. The farming village of Kimawe in Southern Tanzania is an example of a village changed by clean water. Surrounded by hills and entering its dry season, the country was in great need of water. The villagers were travelling upwards of three hours, across the farmland and over hills to find a single bucket of water that isn't even clean. In a desperate attempt, the village gathered the young people and tried to dig to find water. They tried many times but did not succeed.



When we came to Kimawe and drilled a well in the center of their village, it gave them much more than just clean water; it gave them more time to spend with their families to farm and get an education. The families of this village benefit greatly from the well because the women are now able to stay home, care for their families and provide meals for their children so they can go to school. They were amazed that the people in Canada would think of them in Southern Tanzania and were so grateful for the gift of clean water.



Another way clean water changes lives is by providing the opportunity to introduce villagers to Jesus. When we were in the village of Marambo B, we asked the people standing around the well if they had seen the JESUS Film, shown in partnership with the JESUS Film Church Planting Strategy (JFCPS). We received an enthusiastic response. "Yes, we saw it. It was wonderful, we liked it very much!"

A couple who became followers of Jesus at the film showing came forward and the husband said, "This was a very exciting film and it is something we take to remember in our hearts."

The wife said that when they saw the film, they decided to become followers of Jesus and now their whole family attends the born again church. They were drawn to Jesus because they loved His words and promises. Before watching the film, they had no idea that God loved them and would help them.

Water is also a scarce commodity in the village of Nandili. Before we provided a well in this village, the people had to travel 18 km to find clean water. Women would spend most of their day travelling to collect water on the back of bicycles. Now that women are able to stay home and care for their families, the children are able to have a meal and go to school with clean uniforms. They spend less time fetching water and more time studying. The well is drilled next to the primary school where the children can fill their jugs as they walk to class. The village also has plans to use the water to make bricks for new school buildings. Most of the classes meet outside, which means they cannot study during the rainy season.

Brick making is a significant source of income in Southern Tanzania because the soil is strong. The process of making bricks involves creating a pit of mud, packing the wet soil into forms to make rectangular shapes and then baking them over a fire. The challenging thing about this task is that it requires a lot of water which is difficult for most villages to collect.



Chilaille in Southern Tanzania is no exception. Water was scarce and almost non-existent in the dry season, but now that we provided a borehole well, this village has been transformed. The water point is surrounded by bricks laying out to dry.

The village is planning on using them to build a new school building. Not only has the well improved the local economy, it has also had a huge impact the health of the village. They used to suffer from a lot of waterborne diseases such as dysentery and cholera, but now that they are drinking clean water this has greatly decreased.





Proud of Their Water

In Benin, when visitors come to your village, you welcome them by offering a drink of water. The village of Wession Camp Peulh in Northern Benin had a problem with this custom. The only water they had available was dirty and unsafe to drink. They would collect it from holes that they dug in the ground, out in the bushes, and scoop it out into buckets to carry back to their village. It would cause sickness and disease for the community, but it was their only water source so they had no other option but to drink it. But when visitors came through, they were ashamed to offer their dirty water to guests.

Since Global Aid Network (GAIN) Canada was able to drill a deep-capped water well in April 2018, the people of Wession Camp Peulh gained access to clean, safe water. The well is properly sealed with a hand pump that protects from contamination and allows for easy collection and distribution of the water.

The women in this village are now proud to offer this new water to their guests. It is not only bringing health and





economic stability to the community, it is also allowing them to flourish in their culture and customs.

The Economic and Social Hub

Water is a hot commodity in the village of Nangumbu B in southern Tanzania. Recently, Global Aid Network (GAIN) provided a deep-capped water well to this community and the village is putting it to good use. The water point is constantly buzzing with people coming to fill buckets from their homes, schools and places of work. It has become the center of activity in the village and at peak times, the well draws great crowds.

While people wait in line they talk and share about their families and their days at work. Some of the women of Nangumbu B cleverly decided to take advantage of this new hub and set up a small stand next to the well to sell tomatoes and other local produce. Now, as people are waiting for water, they can shop at this mini market.

The convenient location and in-demand stock has led to a thriving business for these women and they are making good sales. These smart business women are hoping to grow their stand and provide more options to the people. The water point is evolving into an economic and social hub, enabling safe use of clean water while promoting local businesses.

As economic opportunities continue to grow in Nangumbu B, so does the local church. Since the provision of the well, five JESUS film showings have taken place in the village. A total of 1,574 people attended the showings and, after seeing the film, 83 people made the decision to become followers of Jesus and attend a follow up. In May 2019, a new church was planted in the village, giving these new believers a new place to gather for worship and grow in their faith.





A Flourishing Community Health Centre

Elvie is the head medical doctor at the health centre in the village of Worja in Northern Benin. She runs a team of nurses to provide health services to the community. The team, more than anyone, knows how essential clean water is to health.

Clinic staff used to have to ride motorcycles to purchase water from the surrounding area – a challenging, time-consuming and expensive task. This arduous process caused many difficulties, especially during emergency situations.

In July 2018, Global Aid Network (GAIN) was able to provide Worja with a deep-capped water well, right in front of the village health centre. Its location makes it a great benefit to the staff at the clinic and the community members that rely on the clinic's services.

Health professionals at the clinic have witnessed how quick access to clean water has impacted the health of this community. They reported that cases of water-related disease have drastically decreased and the health of the population has greatly improved.

Not only is clean water improving health, but changes in hygiene and sanitation practices are playing a role in preventing the spread of diseases. After receiving the well, 137 people in the community attended a hygiene and sanitation training. The training is a facilitated discussion to target unhealthy practices and come up with ways to implement changes, such as proper hand washing with soap.

Because of the wholistic nature of our work, we partnered with the local church to show the JESUS film to the community. Two hundred and sixty-nine people attended the showing, where they got to see and hear about Jesus. Of the 269 who attended, 12 people made the decision to follow Jesus and seven attended a follow up.



Photos



Testimonials / Quotes

"When I saw the team coming done # 1 hwy in the pouring freezing rain.. With hill after hill yet to go on your final stretch into St John's I was totally and completely in awe of your awesome dedication to your mission to provide clean drinking water to thousands of children in Africa.. My respect for your team is impossible to put into proper words. God BLESS you!"

- Dawn Rosemary Bird

"Congratulations on such a huge achievement!" - Dan Mansell

"Way to go guys! So proud of your accomplishment!" - Joyce Petura

"Praise God for the wells you have raised funds for and the difference you have made! Congratulations on your inspirational personal achievement!" - Nancy Ringham

"So impressed with your courage, enthusiasm and persistence." - Julia Wang

"Just spent a great morning riding with the Cycling4Water team; raising money for a great cause. The gift of water. Gift of life. For areas in Africa that dont have access to it....I wish them all the best as they continue on their cross Canada tour for such a worth while cause." - Andrew Scheer, Canadian Politician

"You guys are such a blessing and inspiration to us all" - Rhonda Follett Gebhard

