

Greater Things



Jesus said to his followers: "...if you have faith in me, you will do the same things that I am doing. You will do even greater things, now that I am going back to the Father." (John 14:12)

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WATER IS LIFE!

from Glen Rhodes, Minister of Discipling and Community Life

In North America we often take clean, healthy water for granted. When we go to our kitchen faucet and turn the handle we know that clean, drinkable water is going to come from the tap every time. It's not that way in many other countries. Even when we visited Ecuador last summer we realized that even countries that have water pipes running to most houses do not always have assurance that water will come out when they really need it. In some countries like Mozambique, Africa the situation is much worse. In Mozambique and some other countries in Africa many of the women and children spend most of their days walking miles to retrieve water just to keep their families alive, and often that water is neither clean or healthy

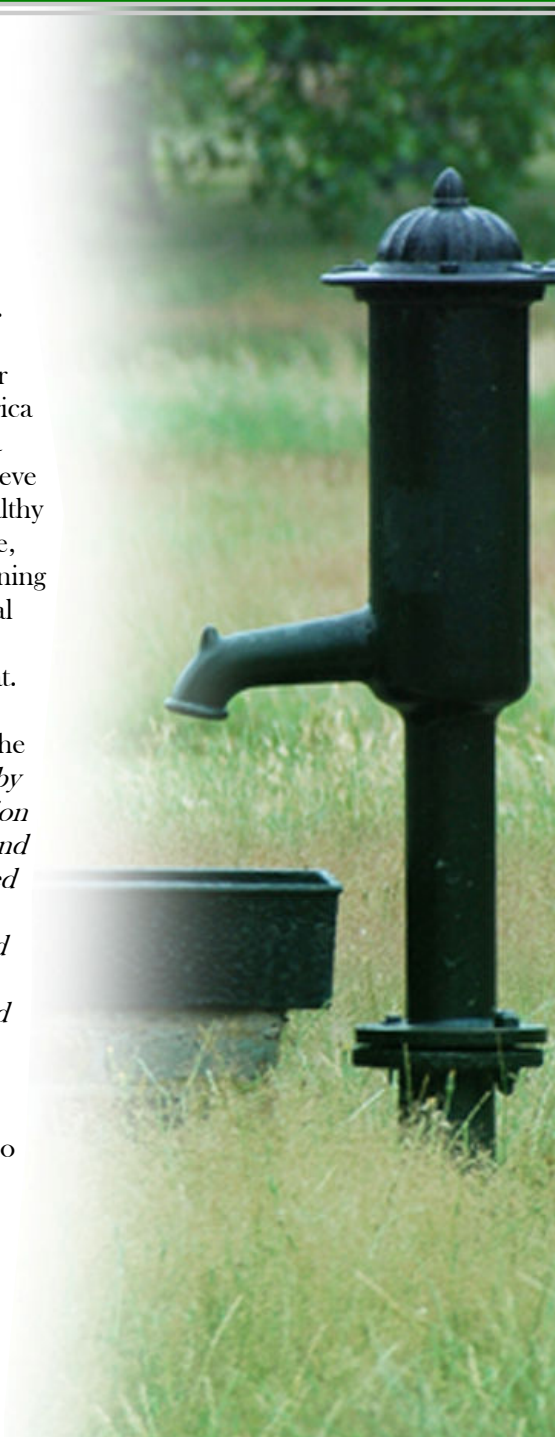
*It's time to prime
the pumps.*

for them to be drinking. Therefore, Arthur Mennonite Church is planning to team up with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) in the next six months to do something about that.

In Matthew 25:31-46 Jesus talks about his return to earth and the judgment time that will follow. In verses 34-40 he says, "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" So often we hear the phrase, "be the hands and feet of Jesus," and that is exactly what Jesus is encouraging us to do in this passage. If people are thirsty and don't have clean water, we are to help them overcome that in the name and the love of Christ. In fact, Jesus says that when we do it for them we are doing it for him.

Of course our hope and prayer is that they not only find physical water to quench their thirst but that they also will find the one who can quench the spiritual thirst of all humans which is found in the life of Jesus Christ. As we share our money let's also lift these people in prayer. Prayer is a powerful tool

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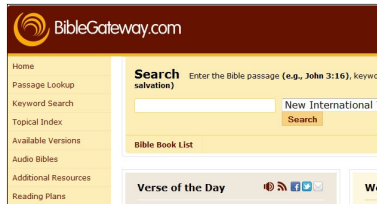
CHRISTIAN RESOURCE OF THE MONTH

Following is a resource that some of you might find helpful in your spiritual growth and discipleship walk with Jesus.

Bible Gateway Website

www.biblegateway.com

Bible Gateway is a website dedicated to making Scripture freely available on the Web in multiple languages and translations. Currently they have over 100 different versions of the bible (including audio bibles) in over 50 languages. Each is searchable by key word, topic, and passage. The site also has daily verses, devotionals and reading plans. Bible Gateway is launching a newly designed site on June 1st which includes easier access to reading bibles in parallel (side by side) among other enhancements. Check it out at www.biblegateway.com.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL June 6-10



FIRSTFRUITS LIVING

Giving God Our Best
Stewardship and Attendance

	Attendance	Offering
May 1, 2011	149	\$4,283
May 8, 2011	142	\$4,287
May 15, 2011	150	\$2,920
May 22, 2011	142	\$2,783

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Cory Kauffman	June 5 th	Natalie Miller	June 22 nd
Cameron Schrock	June 6 th	Jayden Foushi	June 23 rd
Bryan Yoder	June 7 th	Eric Chupp	June 25 th
Matt Lane	June 9 th	Lily Kauffman	June 26 th
Josephine Marner	June 14 th	Brad Yoder	June 28 th
Courtney Yoder	June 14 th	Alexis Helmuth	June 28 th
Tom Glenn	June 14 th	Amber Gingerich	June 29 th
Kristen Rocke	June 15 th	Blake Rocke	June 29 th
Tim Mast	June 22 nd	Carson Petersheim	June 30 th

MEN'S COOKOUT June 18th

THOUGHT AND VISION

From the Ministry Team
Rejoice!

*from Lamar Miller,
Minister of Worship and Youth*



Paul, while under arrest, tells us in the book of Philippians chapter four to "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again rejoice." The past several weeks here at AMC I have been reminded of many things we have the opportunity to rejoice in and I want share a little about two of them.

The first thing I believe we can rejoice in is the fact that we have children here who are being taught to walk in the ways of the Lord. It is a wonderful thing to have young children who have desire to be and are involved in the life of the church. Not all churches have the privilege of children in their congregations. As we celebrated with two High School seniors and heard about a college student's plans for mission work this summer I was filled with a real sense of joy. We can rejoice because they were children

here and have now grown into young adults who still have a desire to serve, not only in this congregation but also in the greater body of Christ. As we see these children and young adults give of their time and talents to the church, let's find ways to acknowledge and rejoice with them.

The second rejoicing was our Night of Worship, which involved some of the children and young adults I referred to earlier. This was a wonderful evening of praise and worship with people from the community attending. In the Psalms it tells us many times to "Shout to the Lord," "Praise the Lord," and "Sing joyfully." I believe all that and more took place during this evening of celebrating what God has done for us. God was glorified and we were reminded that He sent His son to bear the cross for us. We can rejoice in what the cross means to us and rejoice that we are able to get together as a body of believers for an evening of praising our Lord. My hope is that our praise isn't just reserved for one evening but expressed throughout our daily lives. Remember, Paul said "Rejoice in the Lord always."

These are just two examples of the blessings God has provided for us. There are numerous other reasons here at AMC to rejoice!

(Continued from page 1)

WATER IS LIFE! . . .

even when those we are praying for live on the other side of the world. You never know how God may use this to connect us in an even closer way.

Each community well in Mozambique costs \$1,700. At first the AMC Ministry Team talked about setting a goal for a certain number of wells and then we decided our goal should be open ended. The question is, how many wells can we and will we provide? We plan to have a wooden well in the foyer that will track our progress and keep it fresh in our minds for the next six months. We will conclude the fund drive in November and celebrate what God has done at our annual Christ the King banquet.

There will be many opportunities to give throughout the six-month period and this fund will be handled in much the same way that other special funds have in the past. You can give during designated special offerings or for this particular fund you can place your change, cash, and checks in the well bucket in the foyer. (If you use an offering envelope and place it in the well bucket it will be added to your giving total at the end of the year). By spreading the fund over a six-month period we hope it will allow many different age groups and families to get involved. We will also be planning some special events to encourage giving to this fund. The first one is planned for Sunday, June 5 at 6:00 pm when Phil Kaufman will be here to present "The Cottonpatch Gospel" drama. A love offering will be taken during the drama and 100% of the proceeds will go to fight hunger and thirst around the world. Fifty percent of that offering will go to our water well fund for MCC, 25% will go to the local Arthur food pantry ministry, and the other 25% will go to the WHYhunger



Above: This well serves 1000 families in a 1.5 km radius. Before, people had to walk as far as 4 km for water. Right: Asmida Dia is the first person to use a new pump assembled by technicians from MCC partner organization Christian Council of Mozambique (CCM). (MCC Photo/Alain Epp Weaver)



ministry that Mr. Kaufman also supports. We are excited about this Kickoff Sunday and we hope you will invite many of your family and friends. (Please read the other article in this newsletter about Phil Kaufman and the Cottonpatch Gospel drama).

On MCC's website this is what they say about their water well ministry in Mozambique, "Millions of people around the world do not have access to safe, clean water. In rural central Mozambique's dry season from about April to October lush fields and forests turn brown, and streams evaporate.

Many women begin their days before dawn, waiting in line hours to scoop water from an open hole, or walking to a distant river. MCC is working with the Christian Council of Mozambique to drill wells with manual pumps and train local residents to maintain them. By bringing a new source of water to a community, this project also reduces the time people must wait in line at older wells, giving

women and girls, who traditionally gather water, additional time for other work or schooling. "When you don't have good access to water, it affects virtually every area of your life your time, work, relationships, health, cleanliness," says Dan Wiens, coordinator of MCC's food and water programs. Your donation helps provide water, a gift of life."

This will be an exciting six months ahead. We hope that you and your family will find different ways to get involved in this ministry and outreach opportunity at AMC. Jesus is Life, and our hope is that through fresh water wells that bring life, many people will come to know the eternal life that is found in him. Are you ready Arthur Mennonite? It's time to prime the pumps!

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

Matt & Jacque Lane	June 2 nd
Dick & Sarah Storm	June 7 th
Glen & Rhonda Rhodes	June 8 th
Virgil & Sondra Gingerich	June 12 th
Ryan & Kat Burdick	June 14 th
Bill & Donna Moreland	June 15 th
Galen & LeAnne Tully	June 16 th
Marlon & Sandy Miller	June 18 th
Paul & Lily Kauffman	June 24 th



WATER WELL FUNDRAISER DETAILS

Where: Mozambique, Africa

When: June-November

Why: To help communities gain access to fresh water, so that they don't have to walk for miles to get unclean water.

Cost: \$1,700 per well

Goal: How ever many we can provide.

Progress: Will be shown in the bulletin and on a chart in the church foyer.



A toe-tapping way to address hunger

PHIL KAUFMAN AND THE “COTTON PATCH GOSPEL”

Written by Jennifer Steiner for the MCC Great Lakes website, used with permission.

Phil Kaufmann and Jen Chapin recently combined their musical talents to benefit several hunger relief organizations, including Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). Kaufmann, a Mennonite musician, performed his one-man musical “Cotton Patch Gospel” as the opening act for The Jen Chapin Trio, a world-class folk group, on April 19 at Goshen College in Goshen, Indiana.

The Cotton Patch Gospel was originally written by actor playwright Tom Key, who was inspired by Dr. Clarence Jordan’s translation of the book of Matthew. Key developed the story into a modern day version of the gospel taking place in Georgia. Harry Chapin, Jen Chapin’s late father, heard the original one-man show and was inspired himself to turn it into a full musical production. Now Kaufmann has turned the production back into a one-man show, using the music of Harry.

“The main reason I wanted to do the Cotton Patch Gospel was an appreciation for the show itself,” said Kaufmann. “The libretto is a powerful, humorous and challenging re-telling of the gospel of Matthew. The music intertwines with the gospel story in a way that accentuates both poignant and light-hearted moments.”

In addition to the connection through Harry’s music, Chapin and Kaufmann are both dedicated to raising funds and awareness about hunger issues. Chapin currently serves on the board of WHYHunger, a grassroots organization actively working to end hunger and poverty which her father co-founded with Bill Ayers. As Kaufmann approached the Chapin family to request permission to use his music, he became aware of Harry’s strong commitment to eradicating hunger and naturally made the connection with MCC’s work.

“While providing food to people in need is critical, the path to ending hunger lies in addressing the economic and political systems that work against the just and equitable



sharing of what should be considered a basic human right: adequate nutritious food,” said Kaufmann. “As I compared it to MCC, I was impressed with the common approach.” Chapin and Kaufmann teamed up to donate the proceeds from their joint concert to these two organizations, as well as to The Window, a local food pantry.

“I want those attending to leave knowing that the funds raised helped feed their neighbors, if not in the next seat, then certainly down the street,” said Kaufmann. “In the time we spend enjoying the show, about 1,400 children die of hunger related causes.”

Although he’s had minimal connections with MCC in the past, Kaufmann was pleased to build his relationship with MCC. “It feels like it is time for me to multiply my ‘talents’ rather than bury them,” he said. “This project lets me use my love of music and stage.”

Kaufmann continues to perform the Cotton Patch Gospel as a fundraiser for MCC, WHYHunger and local food pantries. So far Kaufmann has performed 10 shows, raising over \$12,600 for hunger organizations. Check out his Facebook Page (Cotton Patch Gospel Food Project).



Phil Kaufmann poses with only half of the instruments he uses on the backup soundtrack for his one-man musical performances of “The Cotton Patch Gospel.” Kaufmann uses his performances to raise funds for MCC hunger projects. (Photo provided by Phil Kaufmann)

CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

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