

# Daily Devotions

Written by and for  
African staff, U.S. volunteers,  
and MMM supporters



Marion Medical Mission



Well Season 2025  
September 1 - November 2

# About Marion Medical Mission

*Marion Medical Mission wells provide sustainable sources of safe drinking water in Sub-Saharan Africa.*



- Since 1990, MMM has built **over 58,000 wells** covering an area of roughly 60,000 square miles in Malawi, Zambia, Tanzania, and Mozambique.
- Self-help is an essential component. The villagers make the brick, provide the sand, stone, and unskilled labor. MMM provides only what the village can't: the cement, pipe, pump, skilled African labor.
- Sustainability is the key to the program's success. This is a well the extreme poor can afford to maintain without outside assistance.
- Everything is purchased, manufactured, and administered in Africa by Africans.
- Subsistence farmers who are well maintenance people make the Mark V galvanized steel pumps in three workshops (in Malawi, Zambia, and Tanzania).
- In 2024, Marion Medical Mission built 4,602 wells in 4,602 rural villages providing over 450,000 of the rural poor (270,000 children) with a sustainable source of safe drinking water. ***Our goal for 2025 is 4,100 wells.***
- Safe drinking water means children won't die from water borne diseases. Not just the year the well was built, but the next year, and the next year...
- Safe drinking water means healthier people who work longer in their fields producing more food, and that means less starvation. Not just the year the well was built, but the next year, and the next year...
- MMM's infrastructure on the ground in Africa is superb. There are four Well Programs, each run by an African Coordinator, 21 African Field Officers, 104 African Installation Supervisors, 1,100 certified African well builders, and 4,000 trained village maintenance people.

***100% of all designated donations go to their designated purposes.  
100% of all undesignated donations go to the mission field in Africa.***

Please partner with us! \$475 funds a well that provides a sustainable source of safe water to an entire African village.

www.mmmwater.org  
info@mmmwater.org  
1412 Shawnee Drive  
Marion IL 62959  
618.997.5365

# Members of the Team

## MMM Staff in Africa

### **MALAWI (SYNOD OF LIVINGSTONIA)**

Vyalema Khosa, Coordinator  
Samuel Hara  
Francis Mwanjikho  
Mavuto Nyirenda  
Edwin Nyondo  
Lewis Silungwe

### **MALAWI (SYNOD OF NKHOMA)**

Jordan Banda, Coordinator  
Godfrey Chanika  
Wilfred Kamanga  
Happy Kamsonga  
Watson Kapachika  
Francis Kaponda

### **TANZANIA**

Rev. Elisha Mwasakifwa, Coordinator  
Godfrey Kauky  
John Lubinza  
Luseshelo Magwaza  
Edeni Ngiluke  
Lucas Sakau  
Sunday Samson  
John Wella

### **ZAMBIA**

Chrispin Mhango, Coordinator  
Goodwin Banda  
Moses Nthala  
Cassius Vyalika

## MMM Volunteers from the U.S.

### **TEAM ONE: Sept 21 - Oct 12 (\*Oct 5)**

Grant Arends  
Bonnie Brummer \*  
Slade Exley  
Jamie Jones  
Constance Jorgenson \*  
Doug Kee  
Kathryn Kraushaar \*  
Jocelyn Logan  
Tom Logan  
Joel Magee  
Molly Murphy \*  
Jim Nussbaumer  
Chuck Overstreet  
Meg Packard  
Betty Samelson  
Gary Setterlund  
Francine Snider  
Jessi Stitt  
Jan VanHeiningen  
Doug West

### **TEAM TWO: Oct 12 - Nov 2**

Richard Ashe  
Jim Calloway  
Daniel Graff  
DiAnne Hughes  
Doug Kee  
Bill Krech  
Jocelyn Logan  
Tom Logan  
Martin McCoy  
William Newton  
Jim Nussbaumer  
Mario Rafe  
Wayne Schultz  
Francine Snider  
Casey Stitt  
Jessi Stitt

# A Prayer as We Begin



For those traveling to Africa for the 2025 well season;  
For those staying home while a loved one is going to work on wells;  
For those living in Africa, preparing for well installation;  
And for everyone else sharing in these devotions.

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***This is the day the LORD has made, Let us rejoice and be glad in it.***

***~ Psalm 118:24***

Dear God, give us joy as we look ahead to this well season. Help us to remember that this project is planned, directed and made possible by You. We rejoice in You Lord!

***If I rise on the wings of the dawn and settle on the far side of the sea,  
even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.***

***~ Psalm 139: 9 & 10***

Lord, you know each one of us personally. The journey on wings is long and tiring. The journey on bikes or motorcycles to prepare and build wells is long and tiring too. Missing loved ones seems long and difficult. But You are there with us. Guide us all. Hold each one of us safe in Your strong right hand.

***He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.***

***~ Ephesians 4:16***

We are the Body of Christ. Prepare each of us to do our own special work during this well season. Wherever we are — at home, in Landcruisers, in African villages— help us do our own special work, Lord! Please give us patience with others and with ourselves. We need each other! We need You!

***From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I.***

***~ Psalm 61:2***

On this day of beginning, and in the days to come, our hearts will have times of weakness. Lord Jesus, draw us to You, our Rock. You know what a faint heart feels like. Jesus, we trust in You.

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We pray all of this, for all of us,  
in the strong, merciful, uplifting name of Jesus our Savior.  
Amen.

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# Continued Blessings

*When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none,  
and their tongue is parched with thirst, I the Lord will answer  
them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them.  
~ Isaiah 41:17*



Marion Medical Mission is celebrating another amazing year - 39 in all! God has blessed us beyond belief, allowing us to bring clean water to an estimated five million people. **We have overcome challenge after challenge - and with your help - we have accomplished the impossible.**

Together, we have built over 58,000 wells, and these wells are a permanent solution to the water crisis in villages in rural Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia, and Mozambique. **Your support is saving lives and improving health for generations of people.** A Marion Medical Mission well in an African village means the children no longer die from water-borne diseases. It means healthier people who work longer in their fields, producing more food, meaning less starvation.

Two teams of U.S. volunteers will travel to Africa, spanning the period from September 21 to November 2. These 28 volunteers will witness, time after time, the miracle that occurs when wells are installed. They will document the location and characteristics of each well, celebrate with the villagers, and dedicate the finished wells to the glory of God.

Our staff in Africa is the best of the best! When Covid-19 stopped U.S. volunteers from going to Africa in 2020 and 2021, MMM continued building the wells! Our 2025 goal is to build 4,100 wells, providing 4,100 villages with urgently needed clean drinking water, covering roughly 60,000 square miles in Malawi, Zambia, Tanzania, and now in Mozambique. These new wells will provide an estimated 410,000 people (246,000 children) with a sustainable source of safe drinking water. Think about it! 410,000 people will get the message this year that Christians in the U.S. shared the love of Jesus with them.

God has given us more than enough. We have the resources, and we are called to share them. Thank you for Joining the adventure, the excitement, the joy of making a difference. Together, we make the impossible, possible.

When we pray, we move our feet!

***Tom and Jocelyn Logan, MMM Founders***

# To Change People's Lives



*And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me."  
Matthew 25:40*

The strength of Marion Medical Mission rests on the incredible infrastructure in Africa, led by the four Coordinators – **Mr. Vyalema Khosa** in the Synod of Livingstonia in Malawi, **Mr. Chrispin Mhango** in Zambia, **Reverend Elisha Mwasakifwa** in Tanzania, and **Mr. Jordan Banda** in the Nkhoma Synod in Malawi and in Mozambique. Without these four men, spanning a combined 90 years of service, MMM would not thrive.

Read these words of greeting from the Coordinators to the MMM board in February 2024. Their words of thanks are directed to everyone who supports MMM in some fashion – volunteers who are traveling to Africa to install wells, donors who provide money to fund the wells, and supporters who pray for volunteers and staff.

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*MMM has united us together. We ask Him to continue to watch over us. Each of you stepped out and blessed Africa. This is because of God's love.*

*Your generosity means everything to us. None of our success would have been possible without generous people like you. We are so grateful that you chose to support our cause.*

*We would like to express our gratitude for all the known and unknown hands that contributed to the success of MMM. We thank MMM for this opportunity to serve in Africa. We also thank American donors and many people who took part in making this program possible.*

*Our children can afford to be educated because of the scholarship program. When we had hunger last year MMM came to rescue our people through provision of maize. I want to convey my heartfelt thanks to you all for the work you are doing to help our people here in Africa.*

*You are involving yourselves in life changing events without getting tired. Year after year, time after time God uses you to save lives of many children and adults in rural Africa.*

*You pray for us, you donate for the sustainability of the program.*

*We promise to continue to be responsible stewards of both your donations and your trust.*

*We assure you that this year we are ready for another adventure to change people's lives.*

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Prayer: Lord God, we ask you to be with the MMM staff and volunteers throughout well season. Bless each of the villages that receives a life-giving well, and help them to know your love. Amen

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# With God Forever

*..do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.  
For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we  
believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen  
asleep in him....For the Lord himself will come down from  
heaven with a loud command...and the dead in Christ will rise first.  
After that, we who are still alive...will be caught up to  
meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.  
Therefore encourage one another with these words.  
~ 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (selections)*



Globally, mankind is experiencing many challenges regardless of being a God fearing human being. But we also know from experience that to lose HOPE is to lose everything. The Thessalonians had somehow got the idea that their loved ones who had died would not enter the Kingdom of God and that only those alive when Jesus comes would share in his joy. One African woman from Chitipa District Malawi asked a question about Jesus coming "Will Jesus second coming bring HOPE for us to have enough WATER for our grandchildren? Or he will just come for judgement issue?"

Answering the Thessalonians' concern, Paul stressed that God will bring with Jesus those who had fallen asleep in Him (verse 14). What do we learn from Paul's teaching as we continue with these 21st Century challenges globally?

Jesus will come at the appointed time. His Kingdom will triumph over all our today's challenges, sin and evil. Those who have died in the Lord will rise first. Those who are alive regardless of their challenges like famine, no water etc. will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air along with the risen dead.

Those who believe in Jesus will be with him forever.

The important message here is that Jesus will come again despite our various problems. Therefore, as Christians in the problematic world, we should live as people of Hope, Joy, and Holiness.

***Application Question: How will you live today in Hope, Joy, and Holiness, knowing that Jesus is coming again?***

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Prayer: Dear Lord, please strengthen our hope in you. Use the workers of MMM to help villagers see Your love, by providing safe water for them. Use the MMM wells to show how You triumph over obstacles in this world. We praise You Lord Jesus, and wait for Your coming again!

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Reverend Dr. Levi Nyondo  
CCAP Synod of Livingstonia, Malawi  
(reprinted from 2018)

# A Source of Living Water



*On the last day, the climax of the festival,  
Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds,  
"Anyone who is thirsty may come to me!  
Anyone who believes in me may come and drink!  
For the Scriptures declare,  
'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.'"  
~ John 7:37-38*

I enjoy numbers and statistics. We tell stories about MMM through numbers: \$475 is the cost of a well, each well serves about 100 people, in 2024 MMM installed an amazing 4,575 new wells in four countries. It's difficult to comprehend the effort involved in distributing over 45,000 110-pound bags of cement across an area of 60,000 square miles.

But after participating in over 1,500 well installations through the years, I look at each well a bit differently. The numbers represent the facts about MMM. But the significance of each well is the lives touched by clean water and also the living water MMM offers to needy men, women, and children through our Christian witness.

Jesus invites each of us who are thirsty for meaning, for peace, for renewal, to come and drink from the well of living water only He can offer us. Sharing in the installation and dedication of a new well is a time of joy, gratitude, relief, and hope for the African community and the entire MMM team. We know God loves each one of us, African or American, rich or poor, man or woman, as His beloved creation.

***Application Question: As you install wells today, how will you share the love of Jesus as you celebrate the gift of life-giving clean water?***

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for the opportunity today to experience your gift of clean water from each well. And I praise you for the living water given to each of us through the love of Christ. Amen.

Doug Kee  
Volunteer and MMM Vice President, Michigan



# An Extraordinary Gift

*Here is a boy here with five small barley loaves and two small fish,  
but how far will they go among so many?  
~ John 6:9*



MMM provided 47,000 110-pound bags of maize during the famine of 2015-16 that ravaged many communities in central and northern Malawi. Forty-seven thousand families were fed for a month, or were there more? The most vulnerable, the elderly, widows, mothers with small children were chosen by the Traditional Authority and church leaders. We followed the lorry loaded with 200 bags of maize to the distribution point for the 200 selected families that were waiting patiently. I was surprised to see 1782 families seated on the ground who had traveled many miles with the hope they too might get maize.

The selected family names were called out. The first, an old man with a cane and a weathered face, struggling to walk to the table where he put his thumb print on the paper that bore his name. He was followed by a frail old woman, and then a thin mother with a baby strapped to her back, each signed and received a voucher. When I saw the mother, I was reminded of the discussion I had with a senior church official. The anguish he felt when babies cried constantly because nursing mothers had no milk. The scene was repeated over and over. With their precious vouchers, they and their helpers came to the lorry and lifted the maize bags on top of their heads. Young children with small plastic bowls scrambled to pick up every precious kernel that spilled on the ground. Their usual gleeful smiles replaced by the intensity of this task. I felt overwhelming sorrow and heartbreak.

I looked over and saw a small group with small bags open, and the chosen recipient with children to feed for a month was sharing her maize with others in her village. There is only enough in one bag to feed a family of 6. Yet, how could she eat while her neighbor starved? Perhaps, she felt her family might get by with one meal a day. I witnessed the same type of sharing over and over across the road and behind the church building.

***Application Question: “No act of love is ever small” (Mother Teresa). What simple act of kindness “done with great love” can we do today?***

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Prayer: Loving God, thank You for revealing Yourself to us through “the least of these.” An ordinary gift of a bag of maize, became an extraordinary gift of life for so many. Your resources are never too little to serve God’s people.

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Jocelyn Logan  
MMM Co-founder and Treasurer

(reprinted from 2019)

# Christ-like Servants



*...whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant,  
and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave;  
just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve...*

*~ Matthew 20:26-28*

Each year at our annual MMM board meeting, we re-commit ourselves to our 10-Point Statement of Purpose. Number four on that list is the following: “MMM takes seriously our Christian principles and seeks to proclaim them in all our words and actions. We value our Church Partners in each country. The best testimony to this commitment is indicated by the words inscribed in the cement on top of all our wells. It is written in English and the local language: ‘Glory to God.’ We at MMM view ourselves as Christ-like servants and instruments of God’s grace.”

What struck me recently, beyond the simplicity and yet profoundness of those simple words “Glory to God,” was what was not inscribed on the wells. MMM’s name is not there. Neither are the names of the coordinator, field officer, installation supervisor, or the builder present. No listing the names of the village, village Headman, or well committee. No names of well diggers or all the people who brought sand and bricks. We don’t lift up the people who built the pump and don’t identify the U.S. donors who gave the money. No, the only name listed is GOD! God alone receives the glory! Even though that well was the product of many people in Africa and America coming together to make it a reality, God receives all the glory!

When James and John were vying to be “seated at the right and left of Jesus in glory,” Jesus responded with the Matthew 20 quote above. MMM volunteers seek to have the servant attitude of Christ, to be “Christ-like servants and instruments of God’s grace.” Remember Jesus demonstrated his humbleness when he washed his disciples’ feet in the upper room. He took the role of a servant or slave.

Service, humility, and collaboration are emphasized to our American volunteers. We work hand-in-hand with our African partners in a horizontal relationship. It is their country and village, they are the experts, they know it best. It is their home.

***Application Question: How might you be challenged to be “Christ-like servants and instruments of God’s grace”?***

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Prayer: God of all glory, send your Holy Spirit to empower us to truly be “little Christs” to the world. Amen

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Reverend Marlin Otte  
Volunteer, MMM Vice President, Illinois

# Potter's Clay

*Yet, O Lord, you are our Father.  
We are the clay, you are the potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
~ Isaiah 64:8*



In the Africa Bible Commentary, Dr. Edouard Kitoko Nsiku says this: "Here...the focus is on the clay's helplessness in the hands of the potter. It is totally dependent on what he chooses to do with it." Or, as the old hymn states it: "Mold me and make me after Thy will, while I am waiting yielded and still."

Not bad things to remember as we work in Malawi, where the soil is often red clay hardened now by the hot, dry weather and waiting for the renewing rains to come. We, like the clay, have no real say in what we will do today. We are dependent on where wells are ready, what the road conditions are, is the truck working, will there be people at the well to greet. And that is o.k. God is here and in charge. This is His program and we are simply agents -- the clay. The clay has no business saying "why did you make me a cooking pot when I wanted to be a drinking cup?" Like the clay, we must accept the way God is molding us and understand that we probably don't know all the reasons why we are driving a truck through the African bush when it would be so much more comfortable to be sitting at Starbucks with a book. (Hint: Maybe it has less to do with helping install a well than it does with God's plan for your temporal and eternal life.)

My personal belief is that I am in Malawi because God told me to come here. After 20 years I still am not completely sure why He wanted me, but there it is. After 10 years I stopped fighting and began to relax in the hands of the potter as He worked. Apparently God wants me to be a pot; maybe one day He'll add on a handle and I can sort of be a cup. Nevertheless, "Have Thine own way, Lord; Have Thine own way. Thou are the Potter, I am the clay."

***Application Question: Can I trust God enough to let Him mold me and use me according to his plan, not mine?***

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Prayer: Lord God, You are the potter, the maker of all things. Everything -- even me -- was made by You to serve the best purpose possible. Father, sometimes I wish things were different. Help me to trust enough to accept who I am and where I am and that I am doing what you want me to do today. Take away fear, impatience, worry, and self-importance; replace them with the spirit of Jesus and the faith to trust no matter what. Amen.

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Carol Nussbaumer  
Volunteer, Colorado

(reprinted from 2017)

# The Lord Bless You & Keep You



*Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*

*~ Philippians 4:6-7*

This is a good reminder penned by the Apostle Paul, to take every little thing in prayer to God. Although He knows our thoughts and what is troubling us, He wants us to talk to Him about them. Even a short prayer to Him shows our faith in our Heavenly Father.

Sometimes, we're the one that stays behind. Sometimes, we're the one that travels far and wide. Regardless of how we find ourselves separated from our loved ones, the feeling of missing someone is undeniable.

As the traveler, may we remain present in the lives of our family and friends. Reassure them days before departure and project the joy you will experience while in the bush of Africa. Prepare each person with patience and humility, providing the details you understand to be important to each individual. May we coach them along the journey. Nourish their confidence through knowledge and prayer that their son, daughter, parent and/or grandparent is safely cradled in God's hands. Remind them, if worry begins to percolate in their heart, to pause, pray, and give thanks to God who is watching over their beloved.

If you are anchored in the States, find peace in the time and conversations shared with your loved one as they prepared for this ministry. Remembering, "Faith is the realization of what is hoped for, and evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1).

Find comfort in knowing that as an MMM volunteer I knew each morning when I woke, each evening when I laid down to rest I was blanketed with blind faith knowing God has me cradled in the arms of Love. That God is holding me tight and will never let me go.

***Application Question: Do I pray with purpose and compassion with all God's children?***

In closing, a blessing we can pray over our loved ones no matter how far away they are. It's one which I believe the Irish Blessing is based on dating back to the days of Moses. May it help you feel closer to one another, despite being somewhere else in your bountiful world.

Prayer: The LORD bless you and keep you! The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace! (Numbers 6:24-26)

Rick Delaney  
Volunteer, Ohio

# Honor the Lord

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make straight your paths.*  
~ Proverbs 3: 5-6



We labor hard to provide safe drinking water to our brothers, sisters, fathers, and mothers in Africa in Malawi, Zambia, Tanzania, and Mozambique. Our core workforce is composed of American volunteers, and African coordinators, field officers, installation supervisors, builders, trainees, and zone management teams.

The Lord says Trust In Him so He will make our paths straight no matter how hilly our roads may be. No matter how tough the task may seem to be, it will be made easier.

Yes, we can have what is needed most for our work, be it strength, good health, knowledge, or skills. The Lord says acknowledge that those were provided to us by him. And believe it that those were provided for a purpose, a purpose to serve Him through others to honor Him.

***Application Question: Do we remember to honor the Lord in what we do in day-to-day activities?***

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Prayer: Heavenly Father, creator of heaven and earth and all therein, we thank You Lord for everything You provide to us. Help us understand our roles properly so that we may serve others as we are supposed to do to specifically honor You, not with lip service. In our daily undertakings guide us so that we can provide safe drinking water to Your people, Lord, especially those in rural marginalized communities. Amen.

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Wilfred Kamanga  
MMM Field Officer, Dowa, Malawi

# On Discipleship



*By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,  
if you have love for one another.*

*~ John 13:35*

Love is a four-letter word and when Jesus gave the above commandment, he knew that he was giving his followers an admonition which he surely knew they would have a hard time following. Shortly before he said this, he let Judas know that he would betray him. After he said this, he told Peter that he knew he would betray him. Yet Jesus loved all his disciples.

It's hard in this day and age to love one another. It's easy to love those who agree with you, who hold the same moral standards that you do, but to love someone who you disagree with, who you feel can't love you back. That is hard. But Jesus doesn't give us an out. The verse before this is one of the most quoted verses in the Bible. "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."

On our first mission trip to Malawi, I learned what Jesus was talking about when he said everyone will know that you are his disciples. We saw it every day. Our fellow volunteers, the field officers, the well builders, the villagers: We recognized in all of them the love they had for others. The field officers especially showed the love Jesus was talking about. By their words and their actions, you can see that they are doing this for much more than a paycheck. They have a deep devotion for the calling they are engaged in. The compassion I have seen in the eyes and actions show they are truly His disciples.

***Application Question: What have you seen today that helped you recognize a disciple of Jesus?***

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Prayer: Loving Savior, Will you let me be a servant. Let me be as Christ to you. Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too. Help me to live these words every hour of every day. Amen

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Hugh Stempfley  
Volunteer, Illinois

# Cheerful Givers



*God loves it when the giver delights in the giving.  
~ 2 Corinthians 9:7 (The Message)*

The people involved in Marion Medical Mission are cheerful givers! Is God pleased? In the Amplified Bible, 2 Corinthians 9:7 says “...for God loves a cheerful giver [and delights in the one whose heart is in his gift.]” Does God delight in the hearts of MMM donors who give \$475 for each well bringing safe drinking water? These donors could use that money to pay bills, to buy something they want, to give a gift to someone they know personally. They could complain about losing that money. But the MMM donors choose to help people they have never met, people who will never pay them back. The donors I know sponsor a well out of love of God and love of their neighbor, even neighbors on the other side of the world. God Himself has put that love into the donor. That’s why it pleases God so much. Matthew 10:8 tells us all, “Freely you have received; Freely give.”

The villagers I have met when volunteering with MMM have been cheerful givers too. They have shown their gratitude with chickens, eggs, groundnuts, songs, and dances. They share and give to each other in their daily village lives. “Don’t forget to do good and to share what you have because God is pleased with these kinds of sacrifices” (Hebrews 13:16). You can see that spirit of sharing in the villagers we meet, the maintenance men, the field officers, the American volunteers who are part of MMM.

I have felt called to write this message about giving as I see governments pull back from giving help to people in need. I think it breaks God’s heart. I believe God is calling His people everywhere to be cheerful givers, for the need is great.

Why are givers cheerful? They have been blessed by God. Genesis 12:2-3 promises, “I will bless you...and you will be a blessing...And all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” It is God’s plan. The following quote is not a Scripture, but these are encouraging words to live by: “Don’t just count your blessings. BE THE BLESSING other people count on” (Anonymous).

***Application Question: Are you a cheerful giver? Why or why not?***

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Prayer: Lord, please show us how to be cheerful givers, even if we don’t have much.

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Karen Dragano  
Volunteer, Colorado

# The Triumphal Entry



*Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt. And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them.*

*~ Matthew 21:1-3*

2025 Installation is like the triumphal entry of Jesus in Jerusalem. Jesus is sending His disciples to go into the village and you will find a donkey tied, and a colt, loose them and bring them to Jesus.

Jesus is asking for us to go and bring other workers to join Marion Medical Mission volunteers going to Africa and help to provide safe drinking water to the needy. We still have thousands of less privileged people in African communities who are like the tied donkey in need of safe drinking water.

Today, Jesus is asking the Marion Medical Mission President, volunteers, coordinators, field officers, installation supervisors, and builders, with our resources, energy, passion, vision, love, and kindness to go and untie the donkey. Jesus is telling us to go into the village opposite to us, "our neighbors." And give them safe drinking water.

And if anyone says anything to you, tell them that the Lord has need of them. Your triumphal entry will be seen as you drive in the villages with Marion Medical Mission trucks carrying pipes and pumps during installation.

***Application Question: Who will go and loosen the tied donkey in the village opposite you?***

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Prayer: Our God and our father we want to say thank you for who we are and what you want us to be, protect and guide us as we are going in the field today in Jesus Christ. Amen.

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Chrispin Mhango  
MMM Coordinator, Zambia



# Loving Your Neighbor

*Love the Lord Your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments.*  
~ Matthew 22:37-40



God sent His son to show us the way. I'm a Red-Letter Christian. I believe the words of Jesus are more important than the black ones because Jesus said them.

When David faced Goliath, he didn't think his stone was too small...He believed Goliath was too big to miss!

We build wells every year before we have the funds, yet we have never had a deficit at the end of the year ...and we go where no one else will.

We are blessed to be involved in the IMPOSSIBLE.

Together, LAST YEAR, Marion Medical Mission's 33 volunteers from around the United States verified and dedicated 3227 wells in Africa in September and October. Another 1375 were built before the end of the year!!!! (That's 4602 wells LAST YEAR). Who else???

Over 450,000 of the rural poor (270,000 children), 8500 miles away in Africa now with a sustainable source of safe drinking water LAST YEAR!!!! Impossible.

The light that shines through Marion Medical Mission is so desperately needed... especially now. Marion Medical Mission means loving your neighbor as yourself. Loving your neighbor as yourself is powerful. Loving your neighbor is a verb, not a noun; a commandment, not a suggestion.

We must not forget who we have been called to be.

***Application Question: Do we really recognize the power of loving your neighbor as yourself?***

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Prayer: God, You have blessed us with the impossible. Thank You. Help us to recognize You guiding us to be who You created us to be.

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Tom Logan  
MMM Co-Founder and President

# Joyful Noise



*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.  
Worship the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with  
singing.  
~ Psalm 100:1-2*

We are driving, windows down, headed to the next village, and I hear a roar from afar. Looking around I don't see a source. It is a constant noise...and it's getting louder. We stop at the edge of a village and get ready to get out of the truck. The roar is getting louder and when I look out the window I finally see the source. Women and children coming toward us, yelling and chanting, singing and dancing.

As I open the door and get out of the truck, the people are upon us. I've experienced walking outside and hitting a wall of heat or humidity (I'm from the South), but this was stepping out and hitting a wall of sound and energy! There was barely room to get out of the truck there were so many people.

MMM workers got the well parts off the truck and headed to the well site. We volunteers continued to sing and dance at the truck because we couldn't move with all the people around.

I pointed toward the first well (there were two in this village) and we slowly made our way there. The energy didn't stop. Songs, ululations, clapping, and dancing. Continued energy that didn't stop until the well was installed and it was time for the dedication.

I was at the same time exhausted and exhilarated from all the dancing and joy. An evening in Pearlinton, MS where I was a volunteer coordinator after Hurricane Katrina came to mind: Someone said, "Coming here is like jumping into a pool full of Jesus." Amen and amen.

***Application Question: Make a joyful noise to the Lord today by singing, helping or . . .***

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Prayer: Gracious and loving Lord, thank you for the joy that you have given us to share with others. Help us to see and feel the blessings that are all around us. Remind us that love and joy grow when shared just like ripples in the bucket of water in front of us.

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Jessi Stitt  
Volunteer, North Carolina

# Hope to Rural Communities

*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.*

*~ Matthew 25:35*



Jesus touches on the core of Christian compassion and service in Matthew 25:35. He emphasizes the importance of meeting the basic needs of others, including providing food and water. This verse encourages us to take action by serving as a reminder that our faith is demonstrated by our actions, which show how much God loves and cares for each and every one of His children.

Imagine living in these rural communities before MMM reaches out to them with protected wells. Communities where access to clean, potable water is a daily struggle. Families have to wake up at 3 a.m. to draw water from miles away, infants being bedridden due to waterborne diseases; that's a harsh reality here in Malawi. The lack of clean water leads to numerous health issues, hinders education, and perpetuates the cycle of poverty. As followers of Christ, we are called to respond to this need with compassion and action.

Providing potable water to rural communities is not just a humanitarian effort; it is a tangible expression of God's love. When we help to supply clean water, we are fulfilling Jesus' command to give drink to the thirsty. This act of service can transform lives, bringing hope and health to those in need.

***Application Question: Am I enough a part of God's mission of expressing his love to his children?***

Prayer: Dear Lord make me your reliable instrument of assistance to your mission of providing potable water to rural communities, as this is a powerful way to live out my faith. Help me take up the opportunity of showing your love in a practical and meaningful way. Help me and others realize that by providing clean water, we are not only addressing a fundamental human need but also offering hope and a better future to those who are struggling. Let us be inspired by Jesus' words in Matthew 25:35 and commit to making a difference in the lives of others. In Jesus' mighty name, Amen!!

Francis Kaponda  
MMM Field Officer, Ntchisi, Malawi/IT Officer

# Giving Thanks



*I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods  
I sing your praise; I bow down toward your holy temple and give  
thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness.*

*~ Psalm 138:1-2*

I was entering the well data into the android tablet when I heard a loud voice behind me. Turning, I saw a woman kneeling, her face turned up, the water flowing out of the new well over her shoulders; as she raised her arms, palms up, the water flowed down her arms over her hands.

I started the android's video.

Her prayer was so heartfelt, so intense, I could feel her emotion as she spoke her thanks heavenward. I understood some of the words, not many. Mulungu, God; Dada, father; Marioni, Marion; mzungu, white person; and a few others. What I understood more than words was her thankfulness for clean water, safe for her loved ones, present and future. Her prayer lasted a few minutes. Before she opened her eyes I clicked the video off.

That evening when sorting the day's photos I discovered I had not gotten a video, I got two pictures, one for each click. I was disappointed but after reflection I am glad I missed it.

It would be wrong to share her heartfelt prayer to God. Even though there were many people with her as she prayed, it was her prayer to God, not ours. I am thankful to have been with her in that moment, thankful her prayers have been answered.

***Application Question: Have there been times in your life that you reacted before thinking and later were thankful for God's intervention?***

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Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you all the times you have intervened on my behalf. Help me to be the person you created me to be, with open mind eyes and heart. In your name I pray.

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Francine Snider  
Volunteer, Illinois

# Trust

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take.  
~ Proverbs 3:5-6*



Which path to take? Anyone who has driven around in Malawi probably asks himself this question many times each day. This is especially true when your Field Officer or another African is not in the truck with you. Even when you do have someone giving “directions,” a lot of interpretation must go into what ...”just there”... really means.

I always find that the driving is one of the most exciting adventures of being a well volunteer, especially when my only spare tire is already flat and it’s only 9:00 in the morning. ... but yes, Tom, I’m sure I checked the spare tire’s pressure during my morning truck inspection. Every day presents new challenges or experiences we will recall later, hopefully with fondness and a smile.

It is in these daily challenges that we can feel the presence of the Holy Spirit with manifest certainty and power. He is literally in your face all day saying “Trust Me, I will show you which path to take” or “Do not be afraid, for I am with you always.” When we hear His voice and let Him lead, we relax in the day’s events and find a new freedom to go boldly out of our comfort zone without worry about the things which may be ahead. In this new freedom, our trust in the Lord grows deep and we can be immersed in His “comfort zone” rather than our own.

I found this freedom to be one of the most beautiful opportunities of my times in Malawi. We must learn to be flexible in all our expectations and let God show us the path He wants us to take each day. In so doing, we are open to the inevitable glimpses where our Lord will manifest Himself to us in unforgettable situations and crystallize our trust and dependence on His daily presence, grace, and blessings.

***Application Question: What expectation or worry can I let go of today and let God show me the path He would have me take?***

Prayer: Dear God, help me to seek Your will in all I do today. Bend me to be flexible to choose the path You would have me take. Help me to trust Your powerful presence and lean not on my own preconceived “understanding.” Let me hear You and see You in and through the wonderful people who will be part of my life today. In thankfulness and in Jesus’ name, I offer myself in service.

Rich Keller  
Volunteer, Colorado

(reprinted from 2017)

# Happiness



*I (Paul) showed you that it is our duty to help the weak in this way, by hard work, and that we should keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus, who himself said, "Happiness lies more in giving than receiving."*

*~ Acts 20:35*

Before I became a volunteer with MMM ten years ago, I imagined that I was fulfilling Jesus' instructions here at home by helping those in need, and even those who were not in need. After volunteering to travel to Malawi and assist in the Well Project, I now read this scripture quoting the Apostle Paul in a completely different light.

The villagers we meet each well season are anything but weak. Compared to the villagers, the weakness is in us, the Americans. Likewise, the hard work of the villagers (especially the women) is day after day after day for generations. We spend a short month attempting to keep up with their stamina, navigating their "roads" and then, exhausted, we return to our conveniences here in America. This life-changing experience profoundly changes one's perspective of the resources we enjoy (and take for granted) in our lives.

Paul quotes Jesus about happiness being attained by giving, not receiving. Just as Jesus' lessons and parables turn everything upside down, the same is true here. Although we are there to assist in providing their villages with the water that changes their lives (Madzi ndi Moyo), we, the volunteers, are the actual recipients of amazing love and gratitude. The inscription on the top of each well "Uchindami kwa Chiuta" (Glory to God) also becomes a permanent inscription on our hearts. Many times a day, this phrase sings in my thoughts.

***Application Question: Have you found the happiness Jesus describes in the passage of Acts 20:35?***

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Prayer: Most gracious God and Father of us all, we thank you for sharing your Son Jesus with us. His examples of love and kindness are so evident in your written Word. Forgive us when we fail to put His lessons foremost in our actions. Help us to discern the needs of others and that our actions will reflect your Son's message of service and thus bring honor and glory to you. Merciful God, hear our prayer. Amen

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Jan VanHeiningen  
Volunteer, Georgia

# An Open Ear

*Sacrifice and offerings you did not desire -  
but my ears have been opened....  
I delight to do your will, O my God;  
your law is within my heart.  
~ Psalm 40:6,8*



If we believe “praying” only means talking to God, we are missing a most important part of prayer. God certainly hears our prayers, but he wants to speak to us as well.

According to the Marion Medical Mission website, in 1990 Tom Logan, Co-founder of MMM, was working with Dr. John Knowles, a missionary doctor at Ekwendeni hospital in Malawi, Africa. While there, they came across a government well that had never been finished. Dr. Knowles was upset that the government wasn’t following through on their promises of clean water for the people. Tom turned to him and said, “Why don’t you do it?” Dr. Knowles pointed the question back, saying “WHY DON’T YOU?”

This was certainly an epiphany moment. Realizing that more lives could be saved by providing safe sources of drinking water, MMM shifted its focus from curative medicine to preventative medicine. This resulted in a well program providing clean drinking water to millions of people in Sub-Saharan Africa and prayerfully millions of people yet to come! Since 1990 MMM has built over 58,000 wells in Jesus’ name. Over 5 million people in poor rural African communities now have a sustainable source of clean drinking water.

***Application Questions: How do we listen to God in prayer? Do we listen when He speaks to us?***

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Prayer: Dear heavenly Father, help us to listen when You speak to us. Dear Lord, we ask that You watch over and keep safe MMM staff and American volunteers doing Your work in Africa. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

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Chuck Overstreet  
Volunteer, Virginia

# Responding to God's Call



*The high priest and his friends, who were Sadducees, reacted with violent jealousy. They arrested the apostles and put them in the jail. But an angel of the Lord came at night, opened the gates of the jail, and brought them out. Then he told them, "Go to the Temple and give the people this message of life!"*

*~ Acts 5:17-20*

In the book of Acts we see the apostles who had power to do miracles, great boldness of spirit in preaching the Gospel. We see God's presence in their lives, yet they were not free from hatred and persecution. They were arrested and put in jail, beaten with rods and whipped, and slandered by community leaders.

This situation in the early church teaches us today that faith in God does not make troubles disappear; but through these troubles we can recognize the power of God's presence, who always changes the situation into a positive and safe direction.

You cannot expect everyone and everything to be favorably on your side when you share something as dynamic as faith in Christ. All the same, when you share the love of God with others through safe drinking water, don't expect things to be only smooth but also tough and sweating. It should be known and well understood that every participant in this mission is inspired by the Holy Spirit. We are, therefore, the chosen people of God to serve others. One should not hesitate to join us.

God is profoundly using MMM to involve Himself to serve His people in need. We are all responding to His call. The rewards for every one of us, the founder, volunteers, coordinators, field officers, supervisors, and builders will be given in that end day by our Lord Jesus Christ.

***Application Question: How best can I fulfil God's call in trying to make life better for all people in need?***

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Prayer: Holy God, as we go about our targeted work in this season of installation, be with everyone who has responded to your invitation. May your Holy Spirit be experienced by everyone. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen

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Rev. Elisha Enos Mwasakifwa  
MMM Coordinator for ELCT Konde Diocese, Tanzania



# Can You Feel It?

*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.  
~ 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*



Perhaps my favorite job as an MMM volunteer heading out into the villages every morning is to keep a lookout for the face of Jesus in all that we do throughout the day. He's everywhere!

I see and feel His love in the dozens of warm smiles that greet me throughout the day! On the faces of my field officer, his installation supervisor, and the builders when we get together at the start of the day ... on the faces of the villagers who meet us at the truck and race to guide us to the well site to install, dedicate, and celebrate their new well.

I hear and feel His joy in the beautiful singing and dancing in one village after another as they celebrate the gift of clean water. To hear the laughter in the villages is to get an earthly glimpse into the joy of heaven.

I see and feel His faithfulness in witnessing the continually growing strength of the well-building program. From 3 wells in 1992 to 4,602 built in 2024! It is absolutely extraordinary and worthy of our unending thanks and praise.

Finding and living into God's love, joy, and faithfulness while out in the field sends up continual wordless prayers of thanksgiving. I end the day physically exhausted, but spiritually refreshed.

***Application Question: What will you say to God today, with and without words, as you show up to do His work?***

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Prayer: Heavenly Father, walk with me today and let me feel your presence. Teach me how to pray with and without words.

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Meg Packard  
Volunteer, MMM Board Member, Alabama

# It's My Time to Witness



*"You are my witnesses," declares the Lord, "and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me... I declared and saved and proclaimed, when there was no strange god among you; and, you are my witnesses," declares the Lord.*

*~ Isaiah 43:10,12*

My decision to go to Africa this year was a real struggle. There were things I wanted to do that seemed to interfere with the trip dates. My friends that usually travel with me to Africa all decided they were going to sit out a year. Circumstances just seemed to indicate I should pass on going this year; I just hadn't had a clear indication that traveling to Africa to serve MMM was what I needed to do. The deadline to submit my application passed but I still wanted to maybe just go to the training in Marion to fellowship with my MMM friends hoping that would soothe my spirit since I would not be serving this year.

Then came that call on a Saturday in May from Betty Samelson. "We are short of volunteers and we want you to go." That sort of lit a fire and got me to thinking. Then on Sunday during a mission board meeting, the above scripture was read and the following words from the devotional book were read. "The responsibility to witness for Christ is not only for when it is convenient but also for wherever God leads us. Think afresh today about your life as a witness for Christ; ask God to make you mindful of opportunities to speak for Him."

Silly me! What was I thinking when I decided I wasn't going to Africa this year? Our primary job in going to Africa is to be a witness for Christ. I shouldn't squander this opportunity to go back to Africa again.

***Application: Be patient. Be open-minded. God will make clear the opportunities to be a servant and witness for Him. Daily we will have opportunities to witness to the Africans and demonstrate expressions of God's love. Be ever mindful that is the reason we love MMM and take the opportunity to serve in Africa.***

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Prayer: Gracious God, we pray for your mercy and ask that you show us the opportunities today to witness for you as we go about serving our brothers and sisters in Christ in Africa. We pray our actions will be honorable and a witness to your unfailing love for us all. Amen

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Slade Exley  
Volunteer, Mississippi

# Overflowing with Gratitude

*So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.*

~ Colossians 2:6-7



The MMM board and staff, along with all the work that MMM undertakes, serves as evidence of our acceptance of Christ and our commitment to living in His love. Through our acts of service, we extend Christ's love to the community by providing clean and safe water to rural areas. These communities receive Christ's blessings and love, experiencing healing both physically and spiritually.

- Physically, their health improves as they are no longer affected by diseases caused by unsafe water (that is, waterborne diseases).
- Spiritually, they witness Christ's love through MMM's efforts.

One elderly man from Namatuhi Village, during the installation of wells in 2024, said, "In all my years of living, I have never seen such a wonderful program as this one by this organization." He also prayed for the donors, asking God to bless them and give them the same heart of giving to continue supporting the needy in their villages.

This shows how much people appreciate MMM's work, as it reaches areas that even the government cannot, providing vital needs such as clean and safe water.

## ***Application Question: If God molds us, who can destroy us?***

Prayer is a powerful weapon for peace, love, and tranquility at all times. Where there is prayer and worship, the enemy, cruelty, and all forms of evil are kept far from us. Our children inherit this spiritual weapon for generations to come.

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Prayer: May God bless every one of us—MMM's board, volunteers, coordinators, field officers, installation supervisors, and builders. May He hear our prayers and bless every work of our hands and every word spoken from our mouths with goodness and blessings. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever (Proverbs 23:6).

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Godfrey Kauky  
MMM Field Officer, Songea, Tanzania

# Keys to the Kingdom



*Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him?*

*~ James 2:5-7*

Did God not choose those who are poor by the world's valuation to be rich because of their faith and to be heirs of the kingdom which he has promised to those who love him?

Beside the joy I experience from seeing clear clean water pouring out of a newly installed well, one of the many lessons I value and appreciate from the African culture is the love they share with and for one another. They truly are their "Brothers Keepers."

At every well overwhelming thankfulness is the norm along with the request that a well be provided for their neighbors who are in need of clean water. In the bush virtually everyone is a subsistence farmer struggling to just survive the next crop failure, flood, epidemic or famine. And yet their faith sustains them as they take care of one another's needs and share what they have with each other.

One of my favorite parts of the day is returning to our supply depot located next to the church late in the day and hearing and seeing the various choirs practicing and rejoicing in song and dance, celebrating their love for the Lord and one another in jubilant fashion.

***Application Question: How do we -- who have so much -- learn to share, provide for, and to love one another and God like our African brothers and sisters do, despite their ongoing hardships?***

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Prayer: Lord help us all to be heirs to the kingdom by sharing and loving one another as you have directed us to. Thank you for the opportunity to bring clean water to those in need.

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Joel McGee  
Volunteer, South Carolina

# Your Faith Has Saved You

*Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."  
~ Luke 7:50*



Faith and trust is found at every well that MMM installs. The villagers have faith that if they do the hard work of digging the hole for the well and making the bricks, MMM will come. They begin the process months ahead by applying to the water committee. After their village is accepted to receive a well, they promise to do all the manual labor, pay a yearly maintenance fee, and take good care of their well. And then they wait, until the MMM team arrives with the parts to install their well.

Last year Matt and I with our MMM team were nearing the end of a long day. We had a steep hike down to install the well. The installation went without a glitch. As we were saying our goodbyes, we were stopped by a village headman. He was very enthusiastic and excitedly talking with Alexander, our field officer. He was from the neighboring village, and he told us his people had been waiting for our arrival. Our installation supervisor said this village was too far and we'd come back another day. By this time, several women arrived, happy and chatting and ready to guide us to their large village. They had been waiting. We were promised the village was 'not far' and our team all agreed to follow the headman and ladies to install their well. We began the 'not far' trek over boulders, crossing streams, climbing up and climbing down, arriving 30 minutes later. Because the village didn't know we were coming, we had to wait until they gathered. We sat on the boulders and rested while the ladies laughed and talked with amazement that Matt was my son and that I was able to walk this path. Soon we heard voices and singing and squealing coming down from the steep hill above us. The villagers had arrived. This installation was celebratory with laughter and gratitude and a piglet. The piglet was our gift that squealed in the truck the entire way home.

Every well installed, every village we enter has had faith and trust that we, the MMM team, will come and complete the project. We, the volunteers have faith in our U.S. and African partners, the villagers, and our trucks that together we will be able to finish the installation bringing clean protected water to remote villages. It's an honor to be part of this vision.

***Question: Where have you experienced faith today?***

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for allowing us to witness trust and faith that our villagers have in MMM, knowing that we will come and install their wells as promised. In His name, Amen.

Betty Samelson  
Volunteer, MMM Board Member, Colorado

# Prayer



*The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.  
~ James 5:16*

Prayer is one way of how we communicate with our God. We talk to him and he talks to us. Now the Bible says a prayer of a righteous man is effective. What does that mean to us? It means for us to be heard by God and be answered in our prayers we need to be righteous.

Now the question is how can we be righteous? 2 Corinthians 5:21 says God made Jesus to be sin for us so that we might be the righteousness of God. Now if you are in Christ Jesus you are the righteousness of God, the prayer that you can pray can bring positive results in your life or in everything you are praying for. God will hear your prayers and he will answer you. Remember Jesus said ask anything in my name and it shall be done unto you.

So you can now be bold to pray, knowing that your prayers are heard by the Father and are effective. Through prayer we can change any situation in our experience. As we commit our friends in need or in dire situations, their conditions are subject to change based on our prayer.

***Application Question: What is it that concerns or burdens me in my day-to-day life?***

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Prayer: Heavenly Father we thank you for making us righteous in Christ Jesus, and for this we know that our prayers are effective, and capable to change any situation that we pray for. Thank you, Lord, for the privilege to receive answers to our prayers, in Jesus Name.

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Veronica Mwanjikhho  
Spouse of MMM Field Officer, Dwangwa, Malawi

(reprinted from 2017)

# Strangers Into Friends

*I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.*

*~ Philippians 1:3-5*



One benefit of working with MMM is the relationships. Each time I come back to Malawi, I get to see the field officers I've worked with in the past. Or Mr. Khosa and I reminisce about when he came to the United States 20 years ago and spoke at my church. Whenever I post on Facebook about staying with Rev. Gondwe on my first trip in 2001, his children post about how they will never forget that day.

But those long-lasting relationships are not the only ones. Sometimes we're touched by people we meet just once. When I was walking across Spain, I'd go to "pilgrim's masses" (Catholic masses for pilgrims walking across Spain). At one pilgrim's mass, Father Miguel invited all of us up front. He asked us to say a prayer in our own language, so we had prayers in English, Spanish, German, Italian, French, and Korean. Then he asked us to sing a song in our language and had us take a selfie of the group. I remember thinking that Father Miguel sees us just once, and yet he will remain with me forever.

That happens at wells, too. Most of the people we meet we'll see just once. We greet one another, sometimes in English, sometimes in Chichewa or Tumbuka or other languages. We sing, we dance, we pray, and we celebrate the well that God has put in their village. And then we leave, never to see one another again. But sometimes there are connections that are so powerful that will stay with us forever.

Of course, we also have a relationship with God. A relationship that started before we were born and will last for all eternity. A relationship with someone who loves and forgives us, is always with us, and who calls us to this work of providing clean water for those in need.

***Application Question: What are some of the special relationships you've developed over the years, either long-term or short-lived, that will remain with you forever?***

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Prayer: Thank you, God, for filling our lives with people we will never forget. Bless those we love and see on a regular basis, and bless those who we've met once and will never see again this side of heaven. And keep our eyes open to the people you will put in our lives in the future, for a moment or for a lifetime. Amen.

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Reverend Suzanne Gorhau  
Volunteer and MMM Board Member, Nebraska/Iowa



# Let Love Lead

*As we are called to love one another, we should help others in need as we are able to assist them whether by physical offerings or spiritual prayers.*

*~ 2 Corinthians 9:7*

Charity is a supreme virtue, and the great channel through which the mercy of God is passed onto mankind. What would be your response if asked why you provide wells to the village communities every year, are the wells not enough? This question can either go to me as a field officer or to Marion Medical Mission volunteers who keep on coming to Africa every year. The best response to this question is simple, love and grace. Love for human kind, love for the people in the villages who are living in extreme poverty, the ones with no access to safe, clean, potable drinking water. MMM volunteers, communities, field officers, and coordinators have come together as one family and work hand-in-hand to ensure communities have access to safe, potable drinking water and that has kept the MMM protected water program continuing strong till today.

I have testified love in all the villages where we install wells. One way is through prayer sessions by village members on a well site during dedication; they always ask God to bless the Americans who come all the way from America to give them free, clean water even though they have never seen or met them before. And not forgetting praying and requesting on behalf of their neighbors so that they can also benefit from the fruits of this wonderful program. Love is leading us and has kept MMM program moving forward. Our donors in the United States of America have choices and can opt to choose to help or donate to other organizations. Why do they choose to donate to Marion Medical Mission? Love is the cornerstone of it all.

***Application Question: Do you know that God blesses and provides anything in abundance to those who love and donate to His assignment so that others can be helped?***

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Prayer: Dear God, I thank you for the salvation you offered me, my family, and my workmates through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In the name of our Lord I pray today and forever. Amen.

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Happy Kamsonga  
MMM Field Officer, Kasungu, Malawi



# Patience and Blessings

*Focus on your blessings, not your struggles.  
Let gratitude fill your heart for all that God has done for you.  
~ Philippians 4:6*



Americans are used to instant results! Fast food and fast online shopping with no waiting. We want it and we want it Now. Patience is hard to find in the U.S. today and we love to complain too. We seldom stop to take a breath and appreciate the blessings all around us. Gratitude is often missing from our lives.

For the folks living in villages in rural Africa, where MMM works, life is much different. At first glance, life looks hard. Hard work to grow food, prepare meals, build and maintain homes, and fetch water to drink. Their waking hours are consumed by these tasks, or at least it appears so. I am always amazed how rich they are in other ways. Their strong faith is unshakable. Their dedication to family and village is incredible. Their love and care for each other is astounding. When you meet them, they are definitely focused on their blessings and not their struggles. Their patience and joy have no limits.

When a village is finally approved for a MMM protected well, it can easily take a year or more for the well builders to show up. Once the well is built and the cement cap is formed, then they wait some more. When we finally show up with the installation team, to install the pipe and pump, they are ecstatic! They have heard about MMM protected wells from others and their waiting is over. There is joy, singing, and dancing that is infectious. The shouts as the first pumps of clean water appear, are incredible. You see it in the eyes of the Elders, who have seen loved ones suffer and die from contaminated water. You hear it in the laughter of the young girls, whose lives will be changed forever. No more walking for miles carrying water to cook, clean, and bathe. The boys are happy too. The cycle of repeatedly digging open shallow wells, only to see them contaminated by livestock, is over.

None of these folks are focused on their old struggles, they are celebrating the blessings of clean water. May we learn from their example and be filled with gratitude for all God does for us.

**Application Question: Where do you see God's blessings today?**

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Prayer: Dear Lord, help us to recognize the blessings all around us and not dwell on our struggles. Fill our hearts with gratitude that overflows like the water from a new protected MMM well.

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Doug West  
Volunteer, Maryland

# Do Not Become Weary



*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time  
we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*

*~ Galatians 6:9*

We were racing against a setting sun (as usual), with about an hour to the tarmac. We were of course hot, tired enough that there was no chit chat in the cab, and looking forward to beans, rice, and bed.

As we rounded a curve there was a small group of children by the road, waving. We continued on, noting what appeared to be smiles turning to sadness, an unusual response to our waves. Mr. Kaponda stated it would be our first well in the morning. "They have been waiting all day?" "Yes, and yesterday too."

My heart sank. We had had several issues putting us behind schedule the past two days. The villagers often tell us they did not believe we would come, because so often they have been promised water by other agencies only to be let down. One of us asked Mr. Kaponda "How much time before sundown?" He responded "We cannot make it," in his no-nonsense voice. Jessi and I looked at each other and both said "We can do it," and made a U-turn.

When the children saw the truck coming back, some ran to get the adults. Quickly we unloaded the down-hole parts, pipes, and tools, the children reaching to help. We rushed through the brush on foot towards the well site and were engulfed by singing happy villagers.

The sun was dropping quickly behind us as we hurried back up the path to the truck. When I turned to say good bye the sky was lit up behind the villagers, a beautiful display of vivid technicolor. In my heart I felt God was saying "Yes, yes, this is right."

***Application Questions: When have you felt weary when doing good? How do you overcome your weariness?***

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Prayer: Dear Lord, I know in your love you will never fail to give me what I need. When I need strength, you are there to provide. When I doubt myself, I hear your voice whispering you are with me always. I will do my best to honor your will. Thank you.

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Francine Snider  
Volunteer, Illinois

# Unity

*How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in  
unity.*

*Psalms 133:1*



I have lived to believe that there is strength in unity. The Bible tells us that when we work together peacefully as good neighbors God blesses our work.

Since I started working with MMM I have seen our work being blessed year after year despite the challenges we face. I attribute all these blessings to the Glory of God as He sees us work together helping one another as we help others.

In working at MMM I have witnessed how people of different backgrounds, education, races, colors, and languages work and live together pleasantly in Unity to achieve a common goal....to help our brothers and sisters in Africa get healthier lives through access to clean drinking water.

God should continue giving us all strength to work together in Unity so we can set light for others to see and learn. So we can also learn that together as a united people of God, we can achieve more.

***Application Question: How will you put this unity into action today?***

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Prayer: God help us to be more united to achieve your goal set for us in advance to help our brothers and sisters live a better life through drinking clean water. Amen

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Vyalema Khosa  
MMM Coordinator, Malawi

(reprinted from 2018)

# The Lord is My Helper



*For he has said "I will never leave you nor forsake you."  
So we can confidently say the Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid."  
~ Hebrews 13:5-6*

On my first trip with Marion Medical Mission, there were many "unknowns" and apprehensions. What would the food, accommodations, driving, etc. be like? Who would my partner and field officer be? What would the trips to villages be like? So many questions!

I was told a lot of good information - stories of previous trips and "adventures." However, nothing compares to actual experience; I quickly found out that there was much truth to the stories and also learned that these trips had the help God promised us in Hebrews; He supplies help and never leaves us! There is a real comforting presence of which I have never been more aware than when working in Malawi.

I believe He also sends physical help in the form of our Field officers, patiently traveling in the truck, showing us the way to go, and taking care of our needs for lodging and even our health. An example, among others, was how Sam Hara took care of me when (the one time) I got sick. He checked on me often and I was taken to be checked by a wonderful young doctor at the Embangweni Hospital, transported by Sam with Francine along. Between these two my needs were supplied beautifully.

I was particularly struck on one trek by an older man, dressed in his suit coat, hiking to four villages in the mountains above Jenda, elevation 3600 feet. Here I was, having lived at around 200 feet above sea level, climbing steep paths up and down, huffing and puffing, lagging behind. This wonderful man carried my liter of water, and stopped when I stopped to catch my breath against the occasional tree. His presence was a comfort and he guided me on the right path when I temporarily lost sight of the main group. His humility and kindness came into sharp focus when we got to the first village. It turned out he was the headman for the four villages! What a literal godsend!

I can think of no better examples of God's presence than the two above. He truly never leaves us and He is our helper. We will not be afraid.

***Application: In your daily walk, how can you see or feel God's presence or know His help to you?***

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Prayer: Dear God, You are indeed ever present, never leaving us, always helping us along our path. We need not even ask for what you promise, and we are always thankful for your presence and the help you provide.

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Jamie Jones  
Volunteer, Georgia

# A God Who Will Never Fail

*I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*

*~ John 15:5*



When Jesus said, "Apart from me, you can do nothing," He meant it. The transforming power of the cross is everything to us. Only Jesus has overcome death. Jesus did not die so we could all have a certain brand of religion. He died so we could have an intimate, close, personal relationship with God through Him.

The source of power and strength of Marion Medical Mission is Jesus. Our whole dependence is placed on Him and our only expectation is from Him. All glory goes to the only One who can orchestrate the work of thousands of village communities, field officers, coordinators, well builders, maintenance workers, employees, and volunteers. God's plans for Marion Medical Mission are abundantly blessed. His power is never going to be based on our performance. As we position ourselves before God, let our posture be as a servant to the God who will never fail.

*For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him.*

*~ Philippians 2:13*

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.*

*~ 1 Peter 4:7-11*

***Application Question: How can I be of service?***

Prayer: Father, we are your servants. Thank you for the privilege and honor of serving you at MMM. Thank you for providing safe drinking water for our brothers and sisters in Africa. Please equip us. Help us to show your unrestrained love everywhere we go. Help us to remember that we are not drawing from our own human resources or sufficiency. We are reliant on you to apply the grace of Jesus on our lives. Please fill our service with your power and the guidance of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Jamie Erikson  
MMM Executive Director

# Beyond Their Means



*For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints — and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us . . .*

*~ II Corinthians 8:3-5*

How does one give beyond their means? How can you give what you do not have? The Apostle Paul is speaking to the Corinthians and praising the generosity of the Macedonians. We don't know exactly the situation in Macedonia, but Paul says they were in severe affliction and extreme poverty, but they still were able to give with abundant joy "beyond their means"! Even begging for the privilege of giving to Paul's collection of funds for famine relief in Jerusalem.

I believe I have seen giving beyond their means in Africa. Their hospitality is beyond measure. They serve us MMM volunteers a feast of food including meat (!) even though they will now do without meat for many meals to come. A gift of food or candy to children will be shared with all present even if it means each will only receive a tiny morsel or lick the wrapper! I've seen bare-footed women bring their offering forward in church, kneel and place a penny in the collection box – a true widow's mite! Giving beyond their means! Our field officers are contracted to install 100 wells a year but every one of them does more – sometimes 200 or 300 wells in a year! They see a need; they do all they can to meet it. They feel so deeply for the people and know what this will mean for the village. Nothing less than: WATER IS LIFE! So they give beyond their means. I also see this joyful generosity in our American volunteers and donors. Recently a new elderly woman donor asked if it would be okay to give one well a month. Of course I said yes and thanked her profusely!

Surprisingly, Paul says in chapter 8 verse 2: "Their abundant joy and extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity . . ." Then in 9:7: "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." JOY! Joy in God's grace!

***Application Question: How can you give beyond your means today?***

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Prayer: Dear God, You have already blessed me with your grace. May your Spirit fill me with abundant joy and empower me beyond my means! Amen!

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Reverend Marlin H. Otte  
Volunteer and MMM Vice President, Illinois

# The True Conversion



*If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.*

*~ 2 Corinthians 5:17*

*Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.*

*~ Matthew 18:3*

The old nature, born of blood and the will of flesh, cannot inherit the kingdom of God. The old ways, the hereditary tendencies, the former habits must be given up; for grace is not inherited. The new birth consists of having new motives, new tastes, new tendencies. Those who are begotten unto a new life by the Holy Spirit have become partakers of the divine nature, and in all their habits and practices they will give evidence of their relationship to Christ.

2.38 billion people are Christians in this world, according to Google. A real Christian is known not by his/her faith alone. Faith without works is nothing. Many times, Christians claim to be one without showing their works. MMM is a great example of real Christianity. Working with the vulnerable persons in the rural areas can never be explained in a single word. A person who has been wholly converted will always look beyond his/her personal needs. Helping the helpless and supporting the needy is believing and walking in the footsteps of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is knowing that the fields need laborers since the harvest is due. People need the Word alongside the assistance rendered. The Word instills hope and the work builds the faith which manifests the true conversion of a Christian.

Patchwork religion is not of the least value to God. He requires the whole heart.

***Application Question: Jesus gave His life for us. Shall we not give Him our best affections, our holiest aspirations, our full service?***

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Prayer: Our wonderful Savior, our loving Lord, our coming King, give us a new name. Place a new song in our mouth, a new joy in our lives. With new hope, we look beyond what is to what will be. Help us to be living this new life in Christ today, tomorrow, and forever. Amen.

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M. A. C. Nyirenda  
MMM Field Officer, Mzuzu, Malawi

# Walk By Faith



*For we walk by faith, not by sight.  
2 Corinthians 5:7*

Every time I step foot in Malawi the first thing that hits me is its intense beauty. I am immersed in the beauty of the lush landscapes, bustling markets, lakeside villages, and most importantly – the beauty of the people that I consider “family” vs. just simply “friends.”

Yet I also see immense need and suffering that, on the surface, appears “impossible” to solve.

Statistics underline the severity of the water crisis, with 1 in 3 rural residents lacking access to safe water. Considering that roughly 83% of the population resides in rural areas, this crisis has a broad and deep impact. Our mission to bring clean water becomes a journey of faith, where we foresee a better future that is not remotely visible by so many.

As we construct wells, which are feasible, sustainable, and cost-effective; our work reaffirms a commitment founded on faith, where we believe in the transformative power of our actions. By working hand-in-hand with local villagers, fostering a sense of ownership and ensuring ongoing maintenance of the wells, each well brings more than just clean water; it brings hope, wellbeing, and reverence for a God for which all things are possible when we follow His instruction on serving those in need.

Our journey is an expression of faith that the “impossible” can be achieved – even when so many can’t see it. We envision the vibrant laughter from Malawian children, no longer burdened by waterborne diseases – the gratitude from mothers now blessed with safer futures for their children.

As a vessel of God’s grace, MMM is not only devoted to providing physical sustenance through clean water but also to nourishing spiritual vigor, echoing the living water mentioned in the Holy Scriptures. Succeeding in our “impossible” mission affirms our belief that faith indeed forms the foundation of our work.

***Application Question: Can our “small” acts of service truly make a difference in a world where we see so much pain, suffering, and overwhelming need?***

Prayer: Heavenly Father: What we see with our eyes often leads to discouragement as truly making a difference in this world seems impossible. Help us “do” what we often can’t see. Help us to focus our energy entirely in our faith in You and Your message so we can truly accomplish the “impossible” in serving those of whom you called us to serve. Amen

Grant Arends  
Volunteer, Colorado



# Sharing

*And do not forget to do good and to share with others,  
for with such sacrifices God is pleased.  
~ Hebrews 13:16*



Marion Medical Mission's well program defines the love that God teaches us, sharing with others.

Through the volunteers who are working hand-in-hand with MMM, there is the love of sharing that is being done as God's will. Special thanks to MMM volunteers for sharing the little they have with the villages that lack safe water in Africa (Malawi, Zambia, Tanzania, and Mozambique).

There has been good impact through the safe water provided from the goodwill of sharing. We have seen a reduction of water-related diseases as the major impact of the safe water provided by the MMM wells program.

No wonder God has been there all the time to see MMM be successful because God is pleased with the good work it is doing.

***Application Question: Do we share the little we have with others?***

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Prayer: Dear Lord, be with us all the time, teach us to love and share the little we have with others. We thank you for the good life and resources given to us. Amen

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Edwin Nyondo  
MMM Field Officer, Nkhamenya, Malawi

# Feet



*Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.*

*~ John 13:14-15*

I notice the feet around me all day. In Malawi, shoes are not a requirement. Many people don't own shoes or only bring them out on special occasions. Shoes are worn until there is nothing left to keep them on feet. Mismatched shoes are worn. I've seen women walk with one shoe on and the other was being carried to make them last longer.

I have a thing about shoes. I don't really like them (I'd rather be barefoot). My feet blister easily when enclosed. And they get too hot. So while I do own closed toed shoes, I don't wear them. I am now almost 365 days a year in sport sandals (even in the snow).

After a day in the field, my feet are dusty to say the least. The dirt has been ground into them. When I take off my sandals, there are white lines where my straps have been. Looks like tan lines, but it isn't. Washing my feet at the end of the day is such a great feeling. Soaping up and watching the dirt come off feels good.

It makes me think of Jesus washing the disciples' feet and how I, like Peter, wouldn't want anyone else to wash my feet. Nor would I really want to wash anyone else's. But I see the holiness in this act. It is a vulnerable place. Feet can be stinky. Feet can be strangely shaped. Feet can be ticklish. Feet can be tough. And feet always seem to be dirty.

Jesus says, "Those who have bathed need only wash their feet to be clean . . . I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."

While I don't go around actually washing feet, even at the well sites, I follow and try to serve others when I can.

**Application Question: What can I do today to follow Jesus' example and serve others?**

Prayer: Almighty Creator, thank you for this day. For the example you gave us in Jesus. Thank you for the dirt under our nails and for the water to wash it away. Help us to remember your example and to go out and to serve our neighbors near and far with love in our hearts and joy on our lips. Amen.

Jessi Stitt  
Volunteer, North Carolina

# Serve in the Lord's Vineyard

*Then, He said to His disciples, the harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray the Lord of harvest to send out laborers into the harvest*  
~ Matthew 9:37-38



Marion Medical Mission, in complementing the Government's efforts, has been building and offering protected, clean, and safe drinking water wells in the remotest rural villages in Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia, and Mozambique in Africa. And we have gone where there are no other services offered, where, in fact, the most vulnerable and extreme poor people live, and where governments, the secular world, and other NGOs have failed to offer the same.

Therefore, we need to remember that Jesus called us to serve Him in his vineyard's harvest. He said, "...His vineyard's harvest is too big, rather it is plentiful, but the servants or laborers are few ...."

***Application Question: How will you answer the Lord's calling?***

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Prayer: Dear Lord God, we humble ourselves before Thee. Help us to be who You created us to be. Help us also to have the giving, helping, and sharing heart with our neighbors, throughout our lives, as You still permit us to live on this earth, and "to do unto others as we want them to do unto us," now ever more. Amen and Amen!!!

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Thomas Soko  
MMM Field Officer, Chipata, Zambia

# Tell the Story



*Jesus said to him a third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him a third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you."*

*Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."*

*John 21:17*

We are called to Pray and Move our Feet.

Our African partners and our U.S. volunteers have been on the front lines blasting through the bush in 4-wheel drive pickup trucks. The volunteers come back home every year exhausted — yet exhilarated, excited, and optimistic over the limitless possibilities of God's creation. Black people and white people, the poor and the not so poor, Muslim and Christian working together.

The Well Program has had a huge impact saving the lives of 100s of 1000s of people, beyond anything we could ever dream of.

MMM Board Member Dr. Hayden Boyd called me on Valentines' Day to say the MMM Well Program needs to expand to additional countries. God has blessed us with the impossible. Our job, our responsibility is to expand the program.

A Peace Corps Volunteer working in Uganda contacted me out of the blue. She said: "I just finished reading your book, and I am truly inspired...The importance of self-sustainability is so important especially in the field we work in. I appreciate the message of regardless of what's going on in the world, this work is needed and can absolutely happen. I would love to get involved in this project...I am available to talk or help spread awareness. My Peace Corps friends are already passing around your book!"

There are Peace Corps and USAID people all over Africa who want to help the least of these. They could help us expand to other countries.

There is not a shortage of resources to provide all God's children with safe drinking water. There is not a shortage of food to feed the hungry. God has provided more than enough. And there is an overabundance in just the hands of Christians.

Pray and tell the story to your church mission committees and your Sunday School classes, your friends and neighbors.

***Application Question: What can you do to help tell the story?***

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Prayer: God help us find our way through the quagmire. Guide our footsteps as we seek to be your people.

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Tom Logan  
MMM Co-Founder and President

# A Day of Transition

*The Lord will keep you from all harm -  
he will watch over your life;  
the Lord will watch over your coming and going  
both now and forevermore.  
~ Psalm 121:7-8*



Today is a day of transition, of arrivals and departures. Volunteers on Team One have finished their time in Africa and are headed home; those on Team Two are ready to begin. The two teams will be in the Lilongwe airport at the same time, but will only see one another from afar. The African staff are saying “goodbye” and “hello” to new and old friends.

We see this Church as a circle of persons holding hands...and dancing...  
supporting each other, accepting each other, loving each other.

Each person in this dancing circle is facing outward...  
reaching into God’s world, listening for the whimpering,  
watching for the hurting,  
willing to offer a cup of cold water in His name.

Sometimes they need the water;  
sometimes you need the water;  
sometimes I need the water.

Being a part of the Church means knowing  
that the cup is always filled in His name.

Ann Weems, *Searching for Shalom*

***Application Questions: What transitions are you experiencing today? How can you support others who are in transition?***

Prayer: Gracious God, bless each of these volunteers, those arriving and those departing. For those on Team One, we pray for safe travels back home, and for help in transitioning back into normal daily life. Continue to speak to their hearts about the love and joy that they’ve experienced while in Africa, and give them the words to tell others of what they have seen and heard. For those on Team Two, we pray for the beginning of their adventure; grant them calm reassurance as they prepare to bring the gift of clean water to African villages. Help us all to remember that the cup is always filled in Your name. Amen.

# Do Not Give Up in Doing Good



*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*

*~ Galatians 6:9*

In November 2024, we were set to install the last wells in Mozambique. Unfortunately, we heard about post-election tension as the opposition parties firmly rejected the election results, accusing then president-elect Daniel Chapo of vote rigging, and violence was in every town.

We were discouraged and sunk in the depth of despair, “how do we get the wells done?” Please Lord help us! We prayed for immediate peaceful resolution in Mozambique and a way to get the last wells installed as people need water most. Isaiah 41:10, “Do not fear; for I am with you” and Galatians 6:9, “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” We made contacts with our infrastructure personnel and were informed the violent demonstrations were taking place in cities only so we were advised go on. We got the wells installed, people were very happy to see us, no problems were faced, and we praised the Lord for everything.

Brethren, an act of service can sometimes be unpleasant and it’s common to feel terrified, but it isn’t for nothing. God creates a way where it seems impossible. Continue doing good wholeheartedly because it is the Lord who is being served; it is His will that is being served.

Doing good is hard work, especially if someone begins to doubt whether it matters. Some people including our government leadership may advocate for different opinions, and we sometimes may be facing critics on our faith, but don’t grow weary because you will reap a harvest from the Lord if you don’t give up. You may feel taken for granted at times and the temptation to weariness is so prevalent, but do not quit because we are justified through our faith in Jesus alone. God sees your work, and He will reward you exceedingly abundantly above.

***Application Question: How can I resist the feeling of discouragement in doing good?***

Prayer: Dear God, we worship your holy name and give you thanks and praise forever for the great things we do in your name. When we get discouraged and sink in the depth of despair, you never give up on us. Father, teach us to trust you and increase our faith even at such critical moments when we feel down so that we may rise again when you uplift us and preserve in doing good to our fellow men. Amen.

Jordan Banda  
MMM Coordinator, Central Malawi

# One Body, But Many Parts



*There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body. It is the same with Christ. We were all baptized by one Holy Spirit. And so we are formed into one body. It didn't matter whether we were Jews or Gentiles, slaves or free people. We were all given the same Spirit to drink. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*

*~ 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 27*

"Stop!" I shouted, as something crunched under the front end of the truck. Hurrying to the next well installation, the forgotten stump remained steadfast in front of the parked truck. A hole in the radiator! All were suddenly paralyzed from well installation -- the African crew consisting of the field officer, the installation supervisor, and four well builders -- 90 minutes from our home base. We called Reverend Mwasakifwa, MMM coordinator in Tanzania, to let him know we needed a new radiator. I kept thinking about the days of extended downtime. What had I done?

People from the village where we had just installed a well generously brought us lunch, and with it continued excitement of receiving their first-ever safe, clean, protected water. When the people returned to their homes with buckets of clean water, an older man came quietly down to us. I pumped some water into his cupped hands. As he drank, he said "I never imagined that this day would come. A day where I and my people would have safe water to drink."

Later in the afternoon, the Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Songeya, Tanzania, along with the assistant Bishop, mechanic, and driver of a Land Cruiser, arrived to tow us to a nearby village. The mechanic removed the radiator, amazingly with only a few simple tools. The well builders stayed the night with the truck and tools while the rest of us returned to our home base in Songeya.

Early the next morning, we returned to the well site with a new radiator that Mr. John Wella, a field officer, picked up in Songeya. The radiator didn't fit! This didn't stop the mechanic and local village welder from modifying the new radiator bracket so it could be attached to the engine. Wow!

When the driver and mechanic returned, our crew commenced well installations that morning. We experienced the utter and complete joy of people who begin to receive clean safe water. Sorrow and regret were replaced with the blessings and thankfulness of being part of the Body of Christ.

***Application Question: How have silver linings shone through your clouds?***

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Prayer: Lord, please help us trust in You above, to feel Your warmth on us even in our cold days.

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Richard Ashe  
Volunteer, Illinois

# Bearing Fruit



*Every branch in me that does not bear fruit He takes away,  
and every branch that does bear fruit He prunes,  
that it may bear more fruit.*

*~ John 15:2*

When someone “sows seeds” in life, it means they are taking actions or making choices that will have a future impact, often positive, by planting the foundation for something to grow or develop later on. The Biblical term for being successful is bearing fruit, so we are designed by God to bear fruit.

As the MMM family, God picked us as we resemble the trees in the Bible story that don’t need or crave power but they show they bear good fruit. Our fruit as MMM is to make sure that people have safe and clean water.

It is written in the Bible that by their fruit you will know them. In my area, the Iringa District, MMM is being recognized and applauded by people for the fruit of safe and clean water. When people see us they see the fruit of safe and clean water.

One that good thing about bearing fruit is that we don’t have to work to keep it, but we have to abide in God. In Him we will bear much fruit and God will bless us like He blessed Isaac in Genesis 26:12, “apart from Him we can do nothing.”

Our fruit is the blessing of God. Even our ability to do is the blessing of God. As the MMM family we thank God for His grace and favor that speaks for us in our work to provide people with safe and clean water.

***Application Question: What kind of fruit are you bearing today?***

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Prayer: Dear God, thank you for the precious gift of life, for your faithful presence in our lives, and for your unending mercy that is new every morning. We acknowledge your power, wisdom, and grace that guide us through every step of our journey. Gracious God, we come before you with gratitude, seeking your guidance and blessings. Fill our hearts with peace, clarity, and strength to face whatever lies ahead. Help us to walk in love and to serve others with a generous heart, reflecting your goodness in all we do. Do not let our labor be in vain. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

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Eden Ngiluke  
MMM Field Officer, Ilinga, Tanzania



# Great Cloud of Witnesses

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us...run with perseverance the race marked out for us.*  
~ Hebrews 12:1



At times this adventure called Marion Medical Mission can take you out of your comfort level and leave you feeling a little isolated and lonely. That first trip when you are on the other side of the world, away from family and friends, bouncing around in the bush, packed in a truck with a field officer and another volunteer and a bit uncertain about what will happen next, you may question, "What was I thinking?" Thankfully this changes as you get to know other team members and become accustomed to the routine; I now look forward to seeing friends I have made among the volunteers and our African MMM hosts, see fewer surprises in the bush, and sleep more comfortably in my mosquito tent.

But, there is more going on here than accommodation to the unfamiliar. In the journey to find the motivation and strength, not only to install the wells and survive the trek, but to complete the task with appreciation and enjoyment, it is important to see God's presence and acknowledge the support and encouragement of "such a great cloud of witnesses" (Heb. 12:1) that surrounds us in this mission:

- Tom, Jocelyn, and all those who have helped envision, create and nurture this amazing mission.
- Volunteers, board members, U.S. and African staff who have done this for so many years.
- The donor in my church (and the thousands like him), who beamed with joy when he showed me the picture of "his" well.
- Spouses, family members, congregations and friends who support MMM with prayer.
- The millions of villagers who recognize the source of their gift and give the Glory to God.

***Application: We are not alone in our service to God and our neighbors through MMM.***

Prayer: Lord, thank you for the great cloud of witnesses you have provided who have created, grown, supported, served and received blessings through MMM. Help me to become one more witness to your glory.

Wayne Schultz  
Volunteer, MMM Board Member, Colorado

(reprinted from 2017)

# The Fulfillment of a Promise



God will do what he promises.  
~ Jeremiah 1:12

The fulfillment of the promises of God is stated clearly. "Not one of all the Lord's promises to his people fails," Joshua 21:45.

Marion Medical Mission has been working in communities where people have been waiting for a long time to have access to clean and safe drinking water. Many promises have been made by different institutions, organizations, and individuals to have them helped but to no avail.

However, today the Lord will renew His promise through MMM's protected water program. Pumps will be installed giving many communities access to clean water. God's promises may seem impossible when we view them from our eyes. Marion Medical Mission has been achieving the impossible over the years.

The program is a testament to the fulfillment of God's promise to provide for the needs of his people.

Each well will be dedicated to the glory of God and a prayer will be offered at each well thanking God for the provision of clean water.

***Application Question: How many villages today will have their water needs fulfilled through MMM's program?***

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Prayer: Father, thank You that You are watching to see that Your word and purpose for our life is fulfilled. Thank You that today You've decided to help Your people with clean water, something they thought was impossible. Help us to see that You are the God of possibilities. May Your love continue to shine in our lives forever and ever. Amen.

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Moses Nthala  
MMM Field Officer, Katete, Zambia

# Think Positive

*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.*

*~ Philippians 4:8*



While working with “At-Risk-Youth,” I was introduced to the idea that Thoughts drive Feelings which drive Actions. This stuck with me and proved a very useful tool to control my feelings. If I wanted to change my feelings about a particular circumstance or situation then I should explore my thoughts. Applying this concept to my everyday interactions and circumstances and then realizing it could get much larger. If I want to try to guess what God wants me to do then I try to think as God wants me to think. And so, the passage here in Philippians hit home a little harder.

Everyday in every situation, where are your thoughts? How are they affecting your feelings and actions? Are you getting the desired outcome? What happens if you change your thoughts about a particular problem you’re facing? Focus on Philippians 4:8...

And so, I asked myself, what can be more true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, and worthy of praise than helping provide some of God’s children with clean accessible drinking water. A privilege too many of us take for granted. So, as I heard the stories of Marion Medical Mission, and God led my thoughts to dwell on them, it was decided that I must go.

***Application: Where are your thoughts? And where is God guiding your thoughts? Are your thoughts focused on Philippians 4:8 adjectives?***

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Prayer: Dear God, guide me not in just one aspect but all aspects. Guide my thoughts, guide my feelings, and guide my actions to do Your will. Permeate my every thought so as to keep You and Your Kingdom at the forefront of all I am. Train my mind to see nothing but Your love and Your way so they may know You by Your trusted servant. Amen.

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Casey Stitt  
Volunteer, Georgia

# The Happiest Lady I Met



*Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord,  
because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.  
~ 1 Corinthians 15:58b*

She was the happiest lady in Tanzania that morning. It was the last day of well installation for my partner, Richard, and I. They were the last two wells and she was present at both of them. When our installation team arrived, she greeted us with the largest of smiles and laughter and repeated utterances of “Asante, Asante!” (“Thank you, Thank you!”). Her enthusiasm was contagious and did not flag as we installed each of the two wells that were a short walk from each other. When we gave the dedication speech at each well, she cheered as each phrase was translated. She cheered during the instruction speech on how to use the well as each point was made. After we finished, she accompanied us back to the truck, holding Richard’s hand and talking ceaselessly in Swahili. We didn’t know all she was saying, but we knew she was grateful (Asante!) and we knew she was happy! All it took was clean, protected water!

We know the work we do in the field with our African partners is significant and life changing. We know in our heads, in an intellectual way, that clean protected water will improve health and save lives. Sometimes, we do not realize how impactful it is until we meet the people who will be impacted the most and experience the overflowing joy that they express. The happiest lady I met that day showed me how much of what God does through us impacts the heart. When you meet such people in your Marion Medical Mission work, rejoice with them and know deeply that you are a part of changing lives; saving lives. All it takes is clean, protected water!

***Application Questions: When have you seen or experienced joy as a result of what God is doing through you? How can you be more alert to such moments?***

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Prayer: Lord, make me conscious this day of where you are working and help me to joyfully enter that work. Amen.

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Reverend David Fisher  
Volunteer, Colorado

(reprinted from 2019)

# For the Least of These

*The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."*

~ Matthew 25:40



Marion Medical Mission has built more sustainable wells for the rural poor in Sub-Saharan Africa than anyone. We've built over 58,000 wells since 1990. That's over 5 million people, 3 million children.

Building wells that provide safe drinking water in rural African villages where there is no electric power, where often there are no roads or bridges. We go where others won't. Where the extreme poor live, where there is cholera and no medical care.

Sharing the love of Jesus is the best defense against war and terror. But we forget, too often trusting in the sword more than the cross.

People often ask: "Aren't you done building wells?" My answer... "We've just gotten started." There are over 1.4 billion people who live on the continent of Africa. The abundance of the natural resources in Africa is astonishing: the largest reserves of cobalt, diamonds, and uranium in the world, plus 90% of the world's chromium and platinum. We in the U.S. benefit from these resources while the vast majority of the African people do not. Sub-Saharan Africa has the world's highest rate of mortality under age 5, and 50% of hospital admissions are because of water-borne disease.

In Africa we have four well programs run by four African Coordinators, 22 African Field Officers, 104 Installation Supervisors, and 1100 African well builders. The point I want to make that we need to understand is they are doing it; not anyone from the U.S. They, the Africans, are building the wells, making the Mark V galvanized steel pumps, organizing and training the village communities.

Our well costs \$475. It would cost anyone else more than 5 times as much. 100% of designations go to their designated purpose. 100% of undesignated donations go to the mission field in Africa. In the U.S. we have one paid staff and several wonderful volunteers.

The above is a reality few would believe.

***Application Question: When we experience the impossible do we forget it is God working through us?***

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Prayer: Help us to see the power, the excitement and blessing in following your Son.

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Tom Logan  
MMM Co-Founder and President

# Love in Action



*Dear children, Let us not love with words or tongue,  
but with ACTION and in truth.  
John 3:18*

We served a local village Parish called Euthini for nine years. From 1997, until an MMM Team led by Jerry Miller came to Euthini, I had together with other women, to draw water from either a river or ADMARC Borehole at a distance of 55 minutes walking to and from. Sometimes I had to go early at 2:00 or 3:00 am so that I could avoid standing on a queue. The pail of water had to be carried on my head always.

God's love came in action when the Marion Medical Mission Team came and installed a well close to CCAP Euthini Station.

These verses from 1 John give an example of how to help those in need. Some people are blessed or have everything but other do not have everything including water. How clearly do your actions say you really love others? Brothers and sisters are you as generous as you should be with your money, possessions and time? Finally, out of my experience in a village where people have totally no water, we should always remind each other that Love is a description of the whole Christian life, and this will be seen when others help. Love in action through MMM has saved many souls in Malawi.

***Application Question: How will you put Love into Action today?***

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Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, please help us to see the opportunities you give us to Love those in need. Use us to put Your Love into Action. Amen

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Ruth Nyondo  
Director of Kileni Schools, Mzuzu, Malawi  
(Also well pumper in the MMM photo taken years ago in her village)

(reprinted from 2018)

# Written in My Heart



*I lift up my eyes to the hills, where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip. He who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, He who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all harm. He will watch over your life. The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forever more.*

~ Psalm 121:1-8

Before my trip to Malawi in 2017 , my grandkids and I memorized this Psalm. Talking about what it meant and relating it to my trip with MMM.

<sup>1</sup> *I lift up my eyes to the hills, where does my help come from.* - God was giving me courage to follow His calling, calming my nerves.

<sup>2</sup> *My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.* - He is the creator of the universe, both Nebraska and Malawi.

<sup>3</sup> *He will not let your foot slip, He who watches over you will not slumber.* - He will be with me as I'm hiking to the wells, driving the non-road, even crossing the bridges.

<sup>4</sup> *indeed, He who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.* - He will watch over Team 1 and Team 2 and our families at home. He is with us always.

<sup>5</sup> *The Lord watches over you, the Lord is your shade at your right hand.* - Remember to wear my hat; find the shade of a tree He planted years before I arrived.

<sup>6</sup> *The sun will not harm you by day nor the moon by night* - The moon that shines over the folks at home is the same moon that shines over me in Malawi. It just might be tipped differently.

<sup>7</sup> *The Lord will keep you from all harm.* <sup>8</sup> *The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forever more* - The Lord is with me always! On the trip to Africa, during our stay in Africa, on the flight home and forever. For as many MMM trips as I can make. And even when I am not able to keep going.

***Application: The word of God is written for all of us. He knows what each of us are going through. He knows all of our names! Try personalizing His word as a letter He wrote to you. Or letting your grandkids make suggestions for how His word can touch their heart and lives, and yours too.***

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, Thank You for Your word. Help me to keep it written in my heart.

DiAnne Hughes  
Volunteer, Nebraska

# Stewardship



*Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents and another one talent each according to his ability then he went on his journey. The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more, the one with two talents gained two more but the man who had received one talent went off dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.*

*~ Matthew 25:14-18 & 19-28*

One who is in charge is entrusted to oversee and is responsible for being a manager. With MMM, we have been called to play the role of stewardship. God entrusted each of us (MMM board, volunteers, coordinators, field officers, installation supervisors) with a certain gift according to his ability and one day when our master Jesus Christ returns everyone will be accountable to give accounts with them.

God entrusted three servants with his money. The first and second were faithful and worked on what they had been given and returned with profit. The master replied to them well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's joy.

God gives MMM seeds (time, spiritual and natural abilities) so we can save his people by providing clean and safe water and so God can be glorified and for the blessings of others and for ourselves. God needs us to be faithful and to work hard with what has been entrusted to us at MMM so we are like the first and second servants. The only way we can enjoy the blessings that God entrusted to us is to be good stewards by being faithful and by working hard. After that the joy of the Lord will come. The joy of the Lord gives strength to the gifts God entrusted to us to be able to save his people.

MMM has become a blessing for many people in Africa through the provision of clean and safe water, and God is being glorified by the service MMM provides to poor people. The third servant does not bring glory to God because he hides God's gift in the ground. He is not a good steward. He is not faithful, and his talent is taken and given to another servant who is faithful and who works hard.

***Application Question: How can I be a good steward with the talents God entrusted to my care?***

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Prayer: Lord, thank you. Please enable MMM to continue to be good stewards in saving your people. Please enable us to be faithful and to work hard with what you entrusted to be able to save your people through clean and safe water.

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Lucas Sakau  
MMM Field Officer, Simajiro, Tanzania



# Rejoice and Be Glad

*This is the day the Lord has made.  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
~ Psalm 118:24*



If there is any verse that epitomizes the reaction of the people when we pull up delivering the pipes and pump needed to finish construction of the well, bringing clean, safe, sustainable water to the village, this verse is it. The joy of the women, men, and children is evident in the smiles and songs which greet us.

It is important that we remember this verse and the impact we are making on the lives of the villagers, especially when we are nearing the end of our second week and the drives are getting longer, the roads bumpier, and the daylight fading quicker than we remember. The day we are there is a life-changing day for the village. They aren't the 90th village in which we have installed a well; they are the people who are going to receive a well which will make their lives significantly better. This is the day they are rejoicing.

One elderly lady said it best. She said, "Now I can die in peace because I can tell my brothers up there that they can rejoice because their sons and daughters have clean water to drink."

***Application Question: What is it about this day that has made you rejoice?***

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Prayer: Gracious God, help us to fully appreciate the joy experienced by each and every village that receives a well this year. Let us rejoice and be glad today and every day. Amen.

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Hugh Stempfley  
Volunteer, MMM Board Member, Illinois

# Trust in the Lord



*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.  
~ Proverbs 3:5-6*

This verse reminds us that God's wisdom is far greater than our own.

When we try to figure everything out by ourselves, we often get confused or make mistakes. But when we trust God completely and follow His guidance, He helps us make good decisions. "Leaning not on your own understanding" doesn't mean we stop thinking. Instead, it means we recognize that God knows best, even when things don't make sense to us.

Submitting every field work to God, it means involving Him in every part of our lives, big and small decisions, and everyday choices. When we do this, God promises to make our paths straight.

***Application Question: Have you put your trust in the Lord today?***

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Prayer: Lord, help me to trust you with my whole heart today. When I'm tempted to rely only on my own ideas, remind me to seek your wisdom. Guide my decisions, big and small. I submit my life to you. In the name of the Father, the Son, and of the Holy Spirit I pray. Amen.

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Godfrey Chanika  
MMM Field Officer, Lilongwe, Malawi

# Wrinkles and Radiance

*I am the light of the world.  
Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the  
light of life.  
~ John 8:12*



What stories do our faces tell about our life experiences? I enjoy looking at pictures of our African friends taken by so many of our American volunteers. Perhaps it's because I am in my seventh decade of life that I am particularly drawn to pictures of people who are in the later stages of life.

If wrinkles could talk, what would each of them say about the experiences that have shaped who they are as people?

I remember a picture of a gogo (elderly woman) in her Women's Guild uniform. She was walking with the aid of a walking stick as she came to church. Her face was both serene and radiant. It was obvious to me that she had been following Jesus for a long time. At that point in her life she was not walking in darkness but had the light of life!

In the person of Jesus, God has drawn a line against destructive darkness. We have been called to disengage from deathly self-seeking ways and when we do that, God's gift of light and life comes. That light and life requires that we give up our selfish controlling ways.

When it comes to our common life, whether in our churches or communities, God intends to reorder that common life on new terms. He sends His Holy Spirit to help us.

How does the Holy Spirit do that? There's a lesson we can learn from the jacaranda tree with its beautiful flowers. As the tree yields to the light, the light becomes a part of its life and shares its beauty with the people and animal life around it. Even so, in a kind of divine photosynthesis, the Holy Spirit's work is to transform each of us so that the light of life becomes a part of who we are!

***Application Questions: Can you identify the times in your life when you have walked in darkness? The times and places in which you have yielded to and walked in the light? Even if your face has wrinkles and there are crow's feet around your eyes, does your face shine with His light?***

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Prayer: Lord, Your love continues to both form and transform me so that I can be a bearer of light to a world struggling in darkness. Keep me yielded to Your Spirit. Amen

---

Dick McFarlin  
Volunteer, Texas

# My Friends and Family



*Some friends play at friendship  
but a true friend sticks closer than one's nearest kin.  
~ Proverbs 18:24*

During my 14 trips traveling to Africa with MMM some of the greatest gifts I have received are the friendships I have made with the MMM folks here and there. They are like family joined by a common bond and love for others. Some of the things I look forward to most are seeing and sharing what has been happening with our families.

During my first trip in 2007 I had the privilege of meeting Rev. Mwasakifwa in Tanzania. There was an immediate bond. Going back each year has been something I have always looked forward to because I know I am going to see him and most likely his family, too. I have watched his children grow up, had dinner in their home, and shared the joy of seeing so many wells installed. It was very special when I got to host him in my home during one of his trips to the U.S., and he got to meet my family.

Not being able to go in 2019 because of a health issue and 2020 and 2021 because of Covid-19 was very difficult. At my age I don't know how many more years I will be able to keep going, but it will be very difficult when I can't. Not to see and work with the many MMM folks I have gotten to know in the States and Africa will create a tremendous void in my life. And the same holds true for the Logans and the many U.S. volunteers I have known and worked with over the years.

And let us not forget the many people "behind the scenes" who support Marion financially and pray for everyone in the program. Although we may never meet them all face-to-face, they are still friends and family and key to Marion's mission.

I truly believe that creating these friendships and bonds is part of the mission of MMM. I guess you could call it a mission of presence. We can truly say we are friends and members of God's family.

***Application Question: How can we support one another beyond the ways MMM brings us together?***

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Prayer: Heavenly Father, we pray that you will continue to love and support your family here on earth and draw us closer to love one another. We pray this in Your Son's name. Amen

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Tim Exley  
Volunteer, Georgia

(reprinted from 2021)

# Plan with God's Favor

*A man's heart plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.  
~ Proverbs 16:19*



It is a prerequisite that we always have to plan our work or a mission day up to the end of all activities in our life. Indeed, if we fail to plan properly it means we have chosen to fail. Hence what we know and believe is that only those plans which have God's favor and blessing become successful and flourish like Marion Medical Mission to provide clean water to communities in Malawi, Zambia, Tanzania, and Mozambique.

Every year, after annual holidays in January, at all program levels we have meetings to plan for the forthcoming year for all MMM activities. Our plans are then submitted into God's master plan of action for approval through prayers and morning devotions. Devotions are conducted at every monthly planning meeting. In addition, daily prayers are done by our counterparts in the USA and places beyond before installations are started.

John said, "If you request in Jesus' name, believe that implementation has been granted."

***Application Question: Is our goal achievable towards our mission of providing clean water to identified communities?***

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Prayer: Our Father in heaven, You are aware that we have planned this year once again to provide clean water to rural communities. You have prepared us to achieve so that we do not go the wrong way. We trust in You that our plans are in line with Your wish, and we step forward into Your destiny.

---

Watson Kapachika  
MMM Field Officer, Mchinji, Malawi/Mozambique

# Your Needs



...Your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

~ Matthew 6:8

What an amazing statement Jesus has just made! God — the creator of all things — is so in touch with me that he knows what I need even before I ask. Good thing, because too often I forget to ask until a lot of time is wasted thinking “I can do it myself.” Maybe I could, but why turn my back on this awesome gift from God? Instead of flooring the accelerator when the truck is stuck in sand, maybe I could ask for some help. When the path that goes up, up, up seems just too hard, I can say “Lord, I need some help here.” Of course, sometimes our Father says “no” or “not now” or “that would not be good for you.” “You left the water in the truck; I’m not going to make water flow from the rocks.” “I’m going to let you slow down a bit on this hill and then I’ll offer a push.”

The thing to remember is that God – Creator – King of kings – Lord – Messiah – Light of Light knows you. Knows your situation at this very moment; knows the situation of every other volunteer. Hears and answers when you call, whether that call is “Lord, help” or a 10-minute dissertation.

This passage comes immediately before the Lord’s Prayer which is our model for how to pray. I also like the ACTS model: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication. Notice which came last? Yep. The asking part. God already knows what we need and we don’t really have to ask even though He likes us to. We need to ask for the right things, however. No fair asking for a nice cool café to appear next to the final well of the day. And when He answers, don’t forget to say “thank you, Lord”.

***Application Question: When has God answered my need before I even asked? Have I asked for things I didn’t really need?***

---

Prayer: Almighty God, thank you for knowing me so well that you already know what I will need. Walk beside me this day and hold me up when I need it, remind me of your presence and your love, show yourself in the people I will meet. The Glory and Praise are yours alone, Lord God. Amen

---

Carol Nussbaumer  
Volunteer, Colorado

(reprinted from 2018)

# The Great Commission

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

*~ Matthew 28:19*



As we go out today, let us remember the great commission. More importantly, let's remember the commitment of Jesus to this work: the protected wells we are going to install today, and the clean water that will come out from the wells.

What comes forth from the wells carries not only the water that gives physical life, but it also brings to life a message that God is love. It brings the good news, that Christ died, was buried, and resurrected, so we can be reconciled to God through Jesus Christ.

Therefore, as we go out this morning let's remember we are on a divine assignment and that Jesus promises to be with us to the end of the ages.

***Application Question: What are you commissioned by God to do today?***

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Prayer: Dear heavenly Father we commit ourselves unto thee. Be with us as we go out, Lord, and help us spread the good news of Jesus Christ through protected wells.

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Lewis Silungwe  
MMM Field Officer, Karonga, Malawi

# One Body and One Spirit



*There is one body and one Spirit; just as you were called;  
one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and one Father of all,  
who is over all and through all and in all.*

*~ Ephesians 4:4-5*

We live in interesting times where many of our long-time institutions are being questioned. During these times, I have been trying to see how God is at work. Often, the mission of Marion Medical Mission and my experience with MMM has helped me to clarify purpose and meaning for these times.

The Ephesians scripture emphasizes that all creation is one in God. During my visit to Malawi in 2016 as a volunteer, this connection with all humanity was emphasized for me. Clean water means life for all of us. Coming together as a beloved community to ensure access to clean water for those who don't have it most certainly pleases God.

Through scripture, we learn that God wants us to embrace our differences by showing mutual understanding and respect through humility and love. God wants us to love relentlessly.

***Application Question: How do I reflect God's love in a divisive time that threatens unity through diversity?***

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Prayer: Almighty God, you created a world of astonishing diversity, and we thank you for the richness of your creation. Help us to be the ambassadors of this rich and abundant love in a broken world. Amen

---

Susie Selock  
Volunteer, Illinois



# Standing on Holy Ground



*If the LORD had not been on our side—  
let Israel say—  
if the LORD had not been on our side  
when people attacked us,  
they would have swallowed us alive  
when their anger flared against us;  
the flood would have engulfed us,  
the torrent would have swept over us,  
the raging waters would have swept us away.  
Praise be to the LORD,  
who has not let us be torn by their teeth.  
We have escaped like a bird from the fowler's snare;  
the snare has been broken, and we have escaped.  
Our help is in the name of the LORD,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.  
~ Psalm 124:1-8*

Today as MMM staff and volunteers, we stand here praising God for what He has done as we come to the end of 2025 installation season.

Despite the destructive fires in Los Angeles, California, which affected our brothers and sisters, some of them help fund our program in sub-Saharan Africa. These fires attracted the attention of most of the donors.

Coupled with the new reforms in the U.S. preventing funding from going outside America and the closure of USAID programs, hope of a successful installation was lost.

But we have a God of all seasons, who is there for us. He has promised not to forsake us if we remain on the Holy ground.

***Application Question: How has God helped you stay on Holy ground during difficult times?***

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Prayer: As we sing songs of praise for seeing us through this difficult time, help us stand on the Holy ground, as we continue providing water services to your people. Amen.

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Isaac Tinde  
MMM Field Officer, Lundazi, Zambia

# Answering God's Call



*"Now go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you are to speak." But he said, "O my Lord, please send someone else."  
Exodus 4:12-13*

"The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing" (Albert Einstein).

We are in way over our heads, beyond what we can do by ourselves. Yet, understand, this is where God has called us to be, so His light shines brighter.

The importance of "Gray Hairs" is overlooked.

If you are still breathing, it means God isn't finished with you yet. Many times, we "Gray Hairs" have lost direction, and feel life has passed us by. We feel no longer needed...that we are in the way...that we can't keep up. Yet, more than any age group we have the resources, the time, knowledge/skills, and have less at risk.

We are old. Do we step aside? Are we done? We are not dead. So, let's not act like we are. We still have much to offer...let's not hide it. We are needed.

Only together can we be who God created us to be. When we pray, we move our feet!!!

Help us tell the story. This is a story this country needs to hear. This is a story our churches and the secular world needs to hear.

***Application Question: How can we answer God's Call?***

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Prayer: Thank you God for blessing us and helping us find our way. Strengthen our understanding that you are with us always.

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Tom Logan  
MMM Co-Founder and President

# THANK YOU!

Thank you for joining us in these daily devotions!

We appreciate your interest in the daily work of the MMM African staff and U.S. volunteers. Whatever your role in the mission of providing protected wells, these devotions provided a way to connect staff, volunteers, and friends and family each and every day.



Although the final devotion occurred on November 2, when the second team of volunteers left Malawi for the United States, the work in Africa continues until every promised well has been installed. Please pray for safe travels for the U.S. volunteers, and for the continued safety of the African coordinators, field officers, installation supervisor, and well builders.

***So, what's next? Our goal for 2025 is 4,100 wells.*** The means an estimated 410,000 people (246,000 children) will have a sustainable source of safe drinking water. Your support saves lives and improves health for generations of people.

***Please partner with us!***

**\$475 funds a well that provides a sustainable source  
of safe water to an entire African village.**

*100% of all designated donations go to their designated purposes.  
100% of all undesignated donations go to the mission field in Africa.*

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Zikomo!

Want to write a devotion in 2026?  
Contact Jane Swanson (editor)  
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