

MARION MEDICAL MISSION

VOLUME 26. ISSUE 3 FALL/WINTER 2023



TEAM TWO



TEAM ONE

4146 WELLS THIS YEAR!

1412 Shawnee Drive
Marion, IL 62959

"I was thirsty and you gave me
something to drink." - Matthew 25:35

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2023 WELL SEASON~ ANOTHER RECORD YEAR By Tom Logan

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night. I will go Lord if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart. Hymn by Daniel L. Schutte.

Think about it. Building wells that provide safe drinking water in rural African villages 8500 miles away where there is no electric power, where many times there are no roads, or bridges. Marion Medical Mission (MMM) goes where others won't. Where the extreme poor live, where there is no medical care.

The World Health Organization guidelines emphasize making the water clean at the source, rather than treating bad water with filters or chemicals. Marion Medical Mission wells make water clean at the source.

Marion Medical Mission has built 4,146 wells this year providing an estimated 400,000 rural village people (240,000 children) with safe drinking water!! The light that shines through MMM is so desperately needed...especially now. We need to let it shine! Only together can we be who God created us to be. Together the impossible is possible. We don't sit on the sidelines waiting for someone else to do it; because we have been called.

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. What if the U.S. economy was based on building wells, not on weapons and guns? What if Sharing Christ's love was the priority it should be?

The impact of this self-help well program has been dramatic. Its importance can't be over emphasized. Self-help is a means for people to get up off their knees. Self-help frees people.

Marion Medical Mission U.S. teams helped dedicate 3,075 wells this year. Check out the smiles on the faces of Team Two (cover photo) at the goodbye celebration on Saturday October 22nd.

Make love your aim. When you pray move your feet. The time is now.



An Uber Encounter

On October 23, 2023, Jocelyn and I got back from our most recent trip to Africa where we helped dedicate Marion Medical Mission wells in rural villages. Our daughter Marie could not pick us up at O'Hare airport in Chicago. However, my car was at her home in Munster, Indiana, about an hour away. Marie had an Uber driver pick us up and take us to her house. Marie told me Uber drivers were not treated that well and I should consider giving him a nice tip.

We found out our Uber driver has 4 children ages 8-13 and was a Muslim. When he got us to Marie's house, he unloaded our bags, and I gave him a \$100 tip. He gave it back to me. I told him he had to take it. He then said: "I have taken your tip. I am giving it back to you to help build a well in Africa." I then gave him a Marion Medical Mission brochure.

The Uber driver made an impression on me, he loved his neighbor by investing in a well for others regardless of our differences, regardless of the beliefs of those that would benefit from that well.

In Luke 10, the Priest and the Levite in the parable of the Good Samaritan were not bad people; they represented the respected leaders of the day. It's just that they did nothing. It was the Samaritan that Christ held up as the example to follow... why? Because he did something ... he reached out to his neighbor in need.

Love your neighbor as yourself. Not just love your neighbor. Jesus says loving your neighbor as yourself is like loving God, the 1st and greatest commandment (Commandment...not a suggestion). This means, as Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King said, "I must not ignore the wounded man on life's Jericho Road, because he is a part of me, and I am a part of him. His agony diminishes me, and his salvation enlarges me."

From MMM Volunteers

Grant Arends, Jamie Watt Jones, and Jessi Stitt



"Until today, these kids would break from school to retrieve water from the same stream used by livestock. Now they can drink clean water while they learn. A well in a village means that kids can spend time in school vs spending hours hunting for water every-day. A well at a school enhances education exponentially."



"Working together!"



"Dorica using hacksaw to cut the pipe to the correct depth. There are more woman builders than when I came four years ago and they are impressive! Weison (to the left) is the MMM installation supervisor."



"I noticed this sweet man as he walked up Mr. Kapachika translated he was born in 1941! For 82 years he has waited for this wonderful clear cool water!"



"This 76 yo. gogo now has safe water for the first time in her life!"



"Precious reasons why we go!"



"Wells are being installed. Headwomen are speaking truths and thanks. We are dancing and singing!"



HEART AND SOUL

BY DOUG KEE, MMM VICE-PRESIDENT

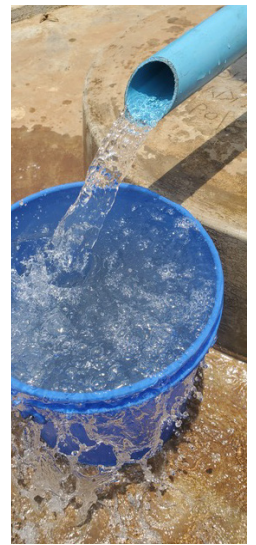
The heart and soul of this project does not come from men but rather from God. I have come to believe that Marion Medical Mission is a small sign of the kingdom of God in action, a sign of what God is doing among us and through us. I took this photo a month ago while I was standing at a brand new well in a very remote village in northern Malawi. After looking at the photo of the abundant water gushing out of this spout it struck me that these wells really are a miracle! I've participated in 1,600 of these well installations over the years and yet I am still amazed when we complete a functional well. The only way we can remember the location of a well is by recording GPS satellite latitude and longitude data on our Android phones while we stand by the well. When I look at a Google aerial photo of the coordinates for this particular well, all I see is open fields, a few trees, and distant mountains. There are no roads or towns nearby, just foot paths and a few small homes scattered across the countryside. A lot of questions came to my mind while I stood by the new well: "How is it possible that I'm even standing here? How did these people hear about MMM? How in the world did they think there would be an abundant pool of fresh water buried 20 feet under their dusty field? And why did the people involved in building and installing this well (including all of us!) decide to contribute our time and money and skills to build this well alongside strangers we will likely never meet again living half way around the world?" The sight of each completed well, the joyful villagers and the abundant water flowing from the spout is truly a miracle! MMM's co-founder Tom Logan simply says, "It's a God thing". I believe it is evidence of the kingdom of God, a sign what God is doing right now, through average people like us when we come together and decide to follow Christ.

I am convinced that these wells become reality only through God's abundant, overflowing blessing of this program. It is humbling and inspiring to see God's power, mercy, grace, and love at work through this ministry.

God's Spirit moves each of us to do our part. Every part of this mission (African villages, MMM staff, volunteers, and US supporters) relies on every other partner to contribute to the completed well.

On the top of each well we ask the builders to inscribe Glory to God in the wet cement cap, both in English and the local language, as a lasting reminder to give thanks to God each day as people come to the well to draw water. As we pray and dedicate the new well to God, we thank the Lord for the gift of abundant, life-giving water and for the Spirit's presence which has brought us together with our neighbors in need.

Marion Medical Mission logo Marion Medical Mission's values are expressed so clearly through the words on their simple logo: Christ – Community – Clean Water. Thank you again for your support, for your prayers, and for your faith in the abundance of God's goodness.



"On October 1, 2023, when I picked Jocelyn up at the airport in Lilongwe, Malawi, a beautiful young woman excitedly came up and kissed me on both cheeks and did the same to Jocelyn. I had no idea who she was. She started to "sign" and looked at Jocelyn and pointed to her "head, shoulders, knees, and toes"... this was the song Jocelyn had taught at the Embangweni School for the Hearing Impaired when it first opened. Fanny Singini was a student there and now continues her education at the University of Malawi. She'd been traveling internationally and had just returned from Rwanda. Brought tears to my eyes." ~ Tom Logan

TAX RELIEF

If you are 70 ½ or older, you can ask your IRA custodian to donate directly from your Traditional IRA account to your favorite qualified charity. This can be part of your Required Minimum Distribution. The amount directly transferred to your charities from a Traditional IRA will not be taxed as income to you. An additional savings may be Medicare monthly premiums which are based on annual income. Please consult with your financial planner or tax adviser.



Each year MMM provides transportation scholarships to The School for the Hearing Impaired at Embangweni. We provide fertilizer and seed to grow maize and soybeans for their food and teach agriculture. This is a school MMM helped build beginning in 1994. This year, the carpentry students will be building desks and chairs for some of the classrooms.

WELL PHOTO CARDS By Francine Snider, MMM Volunteer



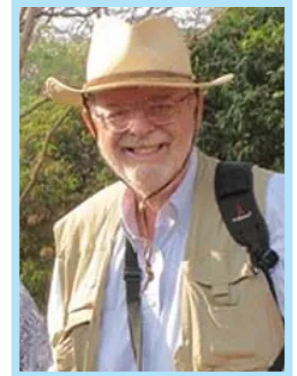
Volunteers Donna Youngblood and Francine Snider preparing well card photos.

The first round of well cards are in the mail, whew! I love my well cards. They line the walls in my husband's office and I keep them in a notebook to look at, often.

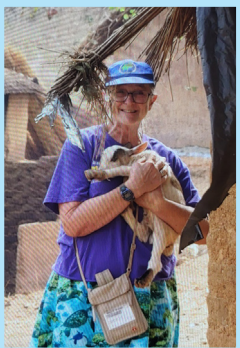
Until I became involved in taking the well pictures while I was in Africa and then helping with sending them to donors, I was clueless as to just what a monumental undertaking it is to get them taken, documented, and in the mail.

During the training session the first full day in Malawi, we are introduced to Dr. Hayden Boyd, the creator of our data collection program. Dr Boyd has been a volunteer with MMM since 2005 and has contributed immeasurably to the technical aspects of MMM program. Dr. Boyd patiently trains us in the use of the program. Some of us are technically challenged and need more instruction than the others; me, for instance. The well photos are part of the data collection system.

The second morning in Africa, we go into the field with one U.S. volunteer and one African field officer. In the field, the last thing the volunteers do at each well site is take a picture of the villagers with their well. Our MMM partners are already heading to the truck to load the tools, etc. as the picture is taken. My vow was to take the best pictures possible. I want the donors to love them as much as I do. I had no clue how difficult this is. Gathering the villagers is hectic (language barrier); they are excited and have been singing, dancing, praying, then listening to the use and care demonstration, listening to a volunteer speaking (translated by our field officer) and finally listening to their village head person speaking (again translated for us). When gathering everyone around the pump for the photograph, the light is seldom right. Difficult light situations lead to photos less than desirable. We do the best we can and head to the truck. This year, 4146 pictures were taken of excited villagers at their new well. All of these pictures are then uploaded to the server, along with their own data, location, village name, people served, volunteer's android #, date installed, and more. Every single picture is then checked for quality, cropped to size, cataloged, and assigned to a donor. Each well's data is put on the front of the picture and then paired with its donor card. WOW! The photos are checked for accuracy one more time as they are put into envelopes and finally mailed out!



Dr. Hayden Boyd also developed the Android-based data collection programs that allow MMM to monitor sustainability.



Francine Snider in Africa in 2023

YES! I want to share God's love by providing clean water

Send check to:
1412 Shawnee Dr. Marion, IL 62959
OR donate online: www.mmmwater.org



How did you hear about MMM?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> friend or family | <input type="checkbox"/> church/presentation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> social media | <input type="checkbox"/> google search |
| <input type="checkbox"/> newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> TCT television |
| <input type="checkbox"/> email | <input type="checkbox"/> other _____ |

\$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$250 _____ \$450 _____ \$475 _____ \$1,000 _____ Other \$ _____

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please apply 5% of my donation for administration | <input type="checkbox"/> Administration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Well (partial or \$450 for full well) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainability and Well Maintenance Training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full well plus \$25 admin. (\$475.00) | <input type="checkbox"/> School Scholarships |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help sponsor African Field Officer/Coordinator salary | <input type="checkbox"/> Where needed most |

Donor Name: _____

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In Honor of: _____ In Memory of: _____

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Marion Medical Mission

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For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

MERRY CHRISTMAS

