

MARION MEDICAL MISSION

Daily Devotions
Well Season
2023



Daily Devotions

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



Marion Medical Mission



Well Season 2023
September 1 - October 31

About Marion Medical Mission

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



- Since 1990, MMM has built **nearly 50,000 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 2022 Marion Medical Mission built 3,855 wells in 3,855 rural villages providing an estimated 385,500 of the extreme poor (an estimated 231,300 children) with a sustainable source of safe drinking water. **Our goal for 2023 is 3,500 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! \$450 funds a well that provides a sustainable source of safe water to an entire African village.

www.mmmwater.org
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Members of the Team

MMM Staff in Africa

MALAWI (SYNOD OF LIVINGSTONIA)

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

TANZANIA

Rev. Elijah Mwasakifwa, Coordinator
John Lubinza
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ZAMBIA

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Goodwin Banda
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Thomas Soko
Isaac Tindi

MMM Volunteers from the U.S.

TEAM ONE (Sept 10 - Oct 1)

Hayden Boyd
Jen Bunker
Rick Delaney
Ed Hoke
Jamie Jones
Doug Kee
Jocelyn Logan
Tom Logan
Joel Magee
Martin McCoy
Jim Nussbaumer
Chuck Overstreet
Meg Packard
Mario Rafe
Gary Setterlund
Francine Snider
Jessi Stitt

TEAM TWO (Oct 1 - Oct 22)

Grant Arends
Hayden Boyd
Lisa Breese
Jim Calloway
Valerie Carney
Slade Exley
Tim Exley
David Fisher
DiAnne Hughes
Doug Kee
Jocelyn Logan
Tom Logan
Jim Nussbaumer
Meg Packard
Betty Samelson
Wayne Schultz
Jessi Stitt
Jan Van Heiningen
Jeff Weill

Another Year of 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 - 38 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 nearly 50,000 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.

In 2020, the coronavirus pandemic meant we could not send U.S. volunteers to Africa, the first time in 35 years. And again, in 2021, there were no U.S. volunteers in Africa during well season. In 2022, we were blessed to send a small group of seasoned volunteers to witness the miracle that occurs when wells are installed. And now in 2023, we are sending two full teams of volunteers!

Our staff in Africa is the best of the best! Covid-19 may have stopped U.S. volunteers from going to Africa, but it did not stop MMM from building the wells! Our 2023 goal is to build 3,500 wells, providing 3,500 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 350,000 people (210,000 children) with a sustainable source of safe drinking water. Think about it! 350,000 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

Perfect in Weakness

*For when I am weak, then I am strong.
- 2 Corinthians 12:10*



Marion Medical Mission is an organization that thrives in impossibly difficult situations: despite a narrow seasonal window and limited funds, MMM builds more wells every year than should be possible throughout Malawi, Zambia, Tanzania, and Mozambique. They do so regardless of dangerous conditions, political corruption, and countless other hurdles. Considering the size of the organization, as well as its commitment to put 100% of donated funds directly to aid rather than to administrative or overhead costs, MMM's impact in sustainable drinking water, education, medical support, and hunger relief throughout Sub-Saharan Africa is simply greater than should be possible.

However, in a way that would be paradoxical outside God's kingdom, MMM makes such an impact not by strength or force of will but by humility, faith, and God's grace. They listen to local people, including their miraculously dedicated field officers, and follow their lead. In doing so, they enact a rare form of servant leadership: they lead by serving and they serve by following. All along the way, they give God the glory for their successes and blessings. In other words, it is in their weakness — and not their force of will — that the strength of the MMM project is made manifest by the grace of God.

This approach is not the modern world's favorite strategy for solving problems big or small. The world tells us that we should force solutions to problems big and small and that we should flex every strength we have in order to manipulate our circumstances according to our personal desires.

But Paul tells the Corinthians that God's power is made perfect not in strength but in weakness. In 2 Corinthians 9, Paul says, "But [the Lord] said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." Thanks to Christ's love — God's grace — we lean not on our own strengths but rather on Him. We can boast not about our own successes and powers but rather our weaknesses, which bring us closer to Jesus. It is thanks to the cross that we can approach and be supported by God's grace. And, as Paul says, we can do it with delight and joy.

Prayer: From the latter half of the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi: O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen

Max Martini
Volunteer and MMM Board Member, Tennessee

What God Has Given Us



For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

- Matthew 25:14-18

In this text we learn that the master decided to divide the money among his servants according to their abilities. No one received more or less money than he could handle. Failure to produce and maximize could come only from laziness or hatred for the master. Thus no excuse as a result of being overwhelmed.

The money in this story represents any kind of resource we are given by God, for example: time, wealth, abilities, health, and other resources that he expects us to invest wisely until He returns.

MMM has decided to invest in health assurance for the children and poor communities in the rural Africa south of Sahara. MMM is in the front line to push forward the agenda of saving lives of many who could die because of water-borne diseases.

MMM has chosen to deal with the life-threatening agent by providing African communities with sustainable source of safe water. This is to say if there is no access to safe and clean water, lives of many people are with no doubt at maximum risk.

Our Master Jesus Christ has given all of us, each one with equal or less talents to complement each other, we therefore need one another to fulfill his mission of building His kingdom here on earth.

We are responsible to use well what God has given us. The issue is not how much we have but what do we do with what we have at the given place and time.

Application Question: How will we use what God has given us?

Prayer: Father our Creator, use us to spread the message of love through this inspiring work, the work that touches lives of Your children. You are the life giving and source of life itself. With our humbled hearts we ask Your protection, guidance and strength as we commence installation season. In Jesus' name we ask and pray. Amen

Reverend Elijah Mwasakifwa
MMM Program Coordinator, Tanzania

A Gift from God

*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,
and comes down from the Father of lights,
with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.*

- James 1:17



Something as beautiful as MMM could only be a gift from God. From every act of giving, from the beginning to the end of each Well Season.

MMM coordinators, field officers, installation supervisors, and well builders diligently serve God, going way above and beyond. Though they receive no additional compensation, they build many more wells than their job description requires of them. They know the impact these wells will have for their brothers and sisters in Christ. It is a righteous act, a gift from God.

Every single donor throughout the year is a gift from God. Without every penny God graciously provides, these wells would not be possible. He stirs in the hearts of His children to be a part of the miracle of MMM. We sometimes receive donations with precious notes apologizing that the donation could not be larger, yet it is because of all of these donations together that these wells are possible.

Unwavering office volunteers weekly commit to doing office tasks. Faithful trip volunteers pay their own travel expenses and work with the African staff to install pumps, record well data, and dedicate the wells to the Glory of God. Devoted board members lead and guide the way forward. Faithful ambassadors tell friends and family about MMM and make presentations at church and Sunday School. God has gifted donors to orchestrate fundraisers; from little children doing household chores to raise money for a well, to large golf events funding multiple wells, and church fundraisers funding the annual salary for a Field Officer!

The love of Christ propels MMM. Every intricate detail is a gift from God. We do not bring anything to the table other than what good gifts, talents, and blessings God has given us to share. We can do nothing on our own, but with Him working through us, MMM is unstoppable. God is our source for all of the beauty and miracles we have seen over the past 40 years and will continue to see. He is unstoppable.

Prayer: Father, Thank You for Jesus, our right standing with You. Thank You for making a way for us to spend eternity with You. Thank You for Your Holy Spirit, empowering us to do whatever You call us to do. Help us to be who You have created us to be. Help us to commit every act unto You. We pray for Your good and perfect will for MMM. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Jamie Erikson
MMM Executive Director

Repairers of the Breach



And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in.

- Isaiah 58:12

Recently, I was asked to do a presentation about my trip to Malawi with MMM. While preparing for the talk, I recalled many of my experiences – the beauty of the country and its villages, the friendliness and generosity of the people, the roads and bridges as well as the beautiful friendships I made. I was reminded that Malawi is referred to as “the Warm Heart of Africa,” but I was also reminded of the contrast between life in Malawi and my life back home.

Great chasms have developed in our societies and our world – disparities in economic or educational systems, lack of affordable housing or of food and water. Political and legal systems are rife with discord and many personal relationships are broken. At times, the brokenness of the world is all we see. Repairing these issues can be challenging, taking time or requiring structural or organizational changes. It is easy to fall into despair and mourn or rage at the unfairness of the world.

Yet, we are a people of faith. We are called to be a “repairer of the breach”; one who restores the right way. Injustice, corruption, and unequal distributions of resources are examples of how people have become alienated from God; how we have allowed ourselves to accept these divisions.

In *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, Kamkwamba states “I went to sleep dreaming of Malawi, and all the things made possible when your dreams are powered by your heart.” When we walk to install a well, when we sing and dance in joy, when we share our bread with those who have none, or when we tell our story after returning home, we repair the breaches in our lives and experience the warm heart of God. Let us allow our hearts to be led by our dreams. When we repair our own alienation from God, focusing on restoring the right way at all times and with all we meet, the breaches in the walls will begin to close.

Application Question: What are your dreams for a better world? When have you let your heart be led by those dreams?

Prayer: Father, we ask for Your guidance, strength, and compassion as we seek restoration. Help us work toward justice for every individual and follow the dreams of our hearts in healing that which is broken. In Your name, we pray. Amen

Kathy Manfredi
Volunteer, Illinois

Stepping Out in Faith

*I have told you so that my joy may be in you
and that your joy may be complete.
- John 15:11*



We arrived in October of 1994, exhausted after the 36-hour journey from Illinois to Lilongwe, then two hours on the tarmac, and an hour on a challenging drive to Embangweni. Before we settled into our room, Rev. Tembo requested that we meet with the headmasters, local church officials, and regional chiefs who had gathered. They wanted to build a school for the hearing impaired, and needed \$23,000 to build the pre-school and early primary school blocks. It would be the first hearing impaired school in northern Malawi. They had started school two weeks earlier with 23 young children and were excited for us to see it. They were taught and housed in borrowed "women's guild" buildings. Chief Inkosi Mzukuzuku donated the land. The community had already made 200,000 bricks to be used in the construction of the new school.

In the classroom, an animated teacher pressed his finger next to his lips to feel the vibrations of the 'm' sound. He used a tissue in front of his mouth to demonstrate the 't-t' sound. The children imitated in delight and wonderment. They were communicating and recognizing sounds. Another teacher was teaching the children to use a pencil. I will never forget the look of amazement, excitement, and hope that day. The Synod of Livingstonia and the Embangweni community had stepped out in faith.

Marion Medical Mission had to step out in faith as well. Though we only had \$2,500 to build the school, we agreed to provide the \$23,000 needed for the first primary buildings. It became a 12-year building project, including hostels, teacher houses, home economics, and a carpentry workshop. We continue to provide transportation scholarships, support for fertilizer, seed, school supplies, and trade tools. With an annual enrollment of 180 students, thousands have found joy and learned to communicate, read, write, and mathematics. They were given a chance and skills to live a productive life. MMM provides a complete set of carpentry tools so that the carpentry student graduates can begin their trade. On graduation day, proud mothers dance and whip their tongues with sounds of jubilation.

By stepping out in faith, we all experienced the complete joy of loving.

Application Questions: Reflect on your life's journey. Where have you found joy when you have stepped out in faith? How do you want to move forward?

Prayer: Father, You have shown us the way. Our faith calls us to do good works and the joy we experience by following You has made us complete. Amen

Jocelyn Logan
MMM Co-Founder and Treasurer

Team Work



*As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.
- Proverbs 37:17*

I believe I am a better person today because I have been sharpened by many people I have been involved with on the way...parents, teachers, school mates, friends, relatives, work mates etc. All have made a difference in my life because they provided many lessons to learn from.

Working with MMM has played a greater role in sharpening my life. I have learned a lot more from my colleagues, USA volunteers and many people we work with in our communities in the process of us accessing clean water here in Africa. I have been to areas which I believe I would not have reached if it was not for MMM work. I have seen and learned more about how people suffer to access clean drinking water in rural and urban areas. I have been sharpened to understand better than before.

As I continue working with MMM I will continue to sharpen others in my own little way as they also sharpen me in their own way. I thank God for the benefits we get by working hand in hand with each other through MMM.

Application Question: Who am I without my fellow human beings?

Prayer: Our Father, we ask You to continue working with each one of us to be good sharpeners of our friends, neighbors, work mates and many people who we come across in our daily life so we make our world a better place to live in for everyone. Amen!

Vyalema Khosa
MMM Coordinator, Malawi

Learning Joy in Africa

*Shout for joy to the LORD all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs.
- Psalm 100:1-2*



Tom and I have been volunteers with MMM for seven well seasons. On each trip we have learned about JOY. Joy doesn't depend on the things you have or how easy your life is. Of course the villagers show real joy when the first fresh water bursts out of their well. The singing and dancing are sometimes overwhelming! But the joy is there even when there are problems to overcome. The Field Officers and maintenance men show a quieter joy in their work making people's lives better. I think the African sense of community is at the heart of the joy we see. The shared work and shared goals create bonds of cooperation between people. The celebrations sweeten those relationships. Philippians 2:2 says "Make my joy complete by being like-minded... being one in spirit and purpose." Joy is multiplied when it is truly shared.

We have seen Africans who are faced with troubles but they face them with courage and a positive attitude. "While one believer praises God in the midst of terminal illness, another grumbles because of a runny nose. What's the difference? ATTITUDE" (Mike Mason, *Champagne for the Soul*). Sometimes an easier life leads to whining instead of joy! So many Africans face hardship but still show joy!

We have met many strong African Christians in MMM and in the villages. We have heard joy in the LORD in their prayers at well celebrations and felt it in their church services. Luke 2:10 calls the birth of Jesus "good news of great joy"! Faith in Jesus is the foundation of deep joy!

We thank God for the "African-style joy" we have witnessed in our brothers and sisters. I can hear the women's "joy sound" in my heart right now as I remember them! We try each day to apply their example in our regular lives. Praise God!

Application Question: *How have you experienced joy today? What is blocking your joy?*

Prayer: Dear Jesus, focus our eyes on You, the source of all real joy. Show us how to be joyful in good times and bad. Give us hearts that look for joy that we can share with our brothers and sisters, and strangers too! Amen

Karen Dragano
Volunteer, Colorado

More Than a Cup of Water



...and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple - truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.

- Matthew 10:42

When I first learned about Marion Medical Mission and the results they obtained each season, it sounded almost too good to be true. So many wells installed in such a short time, with clean, safe drinking water for so many thousands of people. Eventually I decided I wanted to participate in this process for myself. I have to say, being at each and every well was an awesome experience.

On the first day of dedicating wells, I looked around the villagers while my experienced partner led the dedication. I realized that many children were present who should have been in school. Many of them needed shoes, and I was sure they all needed books. After dedicating several wells, I realized I wasn't concentrating on the clean water being pumped out and the joy expressed by the villagers; rather, I was concentrating on what I could do to get those children in school, put shoes on their feet and books in their hands. On my second day, I had to take a step back and refocus. I was so overwhelmed by what I wanted to do for those beautiful children that I wasn't thinking about my purpose in being there, which was to offer them that literal and symbolic cup of clean water. Such a simple thing we take for granted, but a gesture that means so much more than just the water itself.

The installed wells are always stamped "Glory to God" in both English and in the local language. And truly, it is the hand outstretched in love that matters, reminding the villagers and ourselves that the glory does indeed belong to God.

Application Question: How can we, no matter where we are, extend "a cup of cold water" to the people around us?

Prayer: Gracious and loving God, we thank You for the gifts You have given us, and the opportunities to share Your love with others no matter where we are. We ask for Your continued guidance as we move through a world that is more divided by the day, and patience to see people not as other, but as Yours. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Alisa Chapman Simpson
Volunteer, Missouri
(reprinted from 2019)

Christ is Calling

*My sheep listen to my voice, and I know them,
and they follow me.
- John 10:27*



We live in a noisy world. It is not just the sound of traffic mixed in with jackhammers, chainsaws and bulldozers changing the landscape. It's not just the roaring surf or the sound of a windstorm. It not just the cacophony of a room of unruly kindergartners. We all have myriad voices competing for our attention. Sometimes these voices can be heard and sometimes not. We can hear the voices of our families wanting our attention, of our bosses wanting our devotion, of our customers wanting service. But there are other voices that sometimes, while not audible, are very loud. That voice of temptation that bids us to go where we know we do not need to go. The voice of pity that shouts that we need to pay attention to all the needs we see around us. The voice of guilt when we don't heed all those needs. The voice of greed that draws us to think of only ourselves. The voice of the one calling in the wilderness, calling us to "follow me."

Both of my children swam competitively when they were young. My wife and I would go to these swim meets and during each race the noise was deafening. Each swimmer had teammates yelling for them to go fast. Parents cheering their child on. Coaches each giving instructions and encouragement. You literally could not hear yourself think. My oldest was very accomplished in the butterfly. His coach would shout a cadence he wanted Tim to follow. But for the life of me I could not hear him above the din. I asked Tim once, "How do you know the cadence your coach is giving you?" He told me, "Dad, through practice, I know what my coach's voice sounds like and I block out everything else." Need I say more? Through practice, we need to know the voice of our Savior. By practicing the means of grace by attending worship, prayer, reading our Bible, by engaging one another in Christian conversation, we learn the sound of the voice of Christ. Listen. Christ is calling.

Application Question: Where will I hear Christ calling today?

Prayer: O Lord my God, help me to listen for Your voice, to be able to pick it out from the many I hear, and to follow You. Amen

Reverend Ed Hoke
Volunteer, Illinois
(reprinted from 2017)

God's Call



*... for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable.
- Romans 11:29*

More than 25 years ago, I believe God called me to go to Malawi and teach the deaf. If you are reading this in Malawi, preparing to travel to Malawi, or committing to support the program in prayer, I believe you also have been called.

The Bible is filled with stories of those whom God called. Many of them responded "Why me? I can't do this." Remember Moses? And Jonah? And many others. The immediate reaction for us seems to be "no I can't – I don't know how."

When you are called to help install wells in Africa, God has also prepared you with the skills and mental set you will need. In all likelihood, you will realize that He has been preparing you all your life for just this task. Did you learn to drive on a stick shift? Guess what? Your Toyota has one. Have you ever had to overcome a tough physical challenge? You will again as you travel around rural Africa installing wells. Maybe you were taught as a child to have patience and to love others. Both very important virtues when you are part of MMM. Talking with and getting to know people in the villages is important! You may never see each other again, so take a few minutes to burn their faces and voices onto your heart. They will certainly remember you when they come for clean water and may even tell their children and grandchildren about the day the mzungu came to the village and gave this well.

Paul says the "call" is irrevocable – God does not change His mind. You may be called for just one trip with MMM, or God may move you to come again and again. We may choose to explain to Him why we really can't go do this, but remember the saying "If you want to make God laugh, tell God your plans." Better to say "Here I am, Lord, use me."

Application Question: Today, how can I best respond to God's call in my life?

Prayer: 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 "Here I Am, Lord" by Daniel L. Schutte

Carol Nussbaumer
Volunteer, Colorado

The God In Us

*For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.
- 2 Timothy 1:6-7*



When we say we are children of God do we really understand? Apart from accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour and living in ways that pleases God, being children of God means that God gave us his spirit so that we fear not, we are powerful, we are loving and smart.

How many times have we doubted our ability in venturing in actions that would have positively uplifted our lives and that of others. We have at times refused to take on church positions or assignments out of fear and undermining our abilities among others. When we do this, it becomes an insult to God who made us able and with all we need to take up challenges.

As children of God we have the duty to fan into flame the gift of God which is in us and get it to proper use. Our only limitation in what we can do is our deficient faith. May we realize that with a little bit of faith and the gift of God in us, we can really do anything, our word can create, and our mind influences our physical world. Let us realize this and get our gifts to use in ways that are beneficial to others, more especially the most needy within our community and beyond.

Attaching ourselves to God's missions like that of MMM is one way of putting our gifts to use. We thank God for the use of these gifts through fundraising for MMM, for being available to physically volunteer for MMM and for working hard in our daily businesses to have some donations to MMM. We thank you all. Your contribution can never go unrewarded right here on earth and in the life after.

Application Question: Do I know I am God's Child?

Prayer: Dear Lord, help me realize all the gifts You imparted in me and help me make use of them to the service of Your mission without fear, for the Glory of Your name. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Francis Kaponda
MMM Field Officer, Malawi

To Be “Much Happy”



*May He give you the desire of your heart
and make all your plans succeed.*

- Psalm 20:4

To Marion Medical Mission: Leaders, staff, volunteers, donors, all people whose thoughts, prayers, and hearts have been touched by this great mission.

Wishing trucks loaded down with pipes having ample fuel on mostly smooth dry roads to travel on to the wells. Friendly waves from workers in the fields getting ready to plant their crops hoping for the distant rains to come. The whole village waving tree branches to celebrate the coming gift of life-saving water to drink. Singing and dancing, drumming on buckets brought to carry home clean protected water on top of their heads, the first time ever in their lives. Big smiles and “much happy” eyes.

Listening to prayers of thanksgiving and gratitude for their blessings in a language unknown but understood.

Soccer fields surrounded by lots of people, sounds of children playing, excitement. As they play, dust seems to illuminate the evening sky over the fields as the sunset quiets. Driving, returning to night quarters to get sustenance and rest, a good, tired feeling. Drinking a Fanta pineapple with the workers along the way after a long day, now friends. Workers whose Godly spirit and joy carry the mission plans forward daily in a most heavenly way.

Application Question: What desires and plans do you have this day?

Prayer: Thank You Lord, for filling our hearts with Your blessings in our work with Marion Medical Mission. Amen

Richard Ashe
Volunteer, Illinois

So My Soul Pants for You

As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

When can I go and meet with God?

- Psalm 42:1-2



I was praying about what verse to write about for this devotional and Psalm 42:1-2 immediately came to mind. I began to read the chapter and instantly felt connected to it.

I have been longing for God. I have been working in a mental health clinic with very few other believers there. I have been attending a college full of students and professors who ask me “Where is your God?” (Psalm 42:3b). And I have been struggling. My spiritual thirst has been increasing and I frequently find myself asking, “When can I go and meet with God?” (Psalm 42:2b).

Sometimes I wonder how much longer this dry season is going to go on. And then I remember that God is faithful. God has heard the cries of His thirsty children in Africa and He has told them that they will thirst no more. I remember witnessing the “shouts of joy and praise among the festive throng” (Psalm 42:4b) as God’s children in Africa rejoice at His provision and watch the once dry places flow with water. He has provided for them. And He will provide for me, and He will provide for you.

So friends, whether you are in Africa, the United States, or somewhere else altogether, whatever challenges you are facing today, let us remember to “put our hope in God, for we will yet praise Him, our Savior and our God” (Psalm 42:11b).

Application Questions: How are you panting for God? Do you trust God to provide for you in your spiritual and physical thirsts?

Prayer: Lord, teach us to trust You to provide for all our physical and spiritual needs. You are good, and You are faithful. Please encourage us and let us shine brightly for You as we carry out Your work around the world today. Amen

Tiffany Howey
Volunteer, Colorado

The Earth is the Lord's



*The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it.
- Psalm 24:1*

One of the reasons I remember a particular village was because of the number of children who attended the dedication. There were at least 50 kids, probably closer to 75. Looking at them made me appreciate that they were the future of Malawi.

Those kids were going to be the next doctors or engineers or farmers or teachers who were going to be the next leaders of the country. The well we were dedicating was going to provide them with the clean, sustainable water which would help keep them alive. The cholera and dysentery which claims the lives of so many children would no longer have a hold on their lives.

If you believe what Jesus said, you have to do what Jesus did.

And what Jesus did is what you are doing when you help bring clean water to the villagers in Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia, and Mozambique. You are helping the people who Jesus helped. The people who have little material wealth but have a great amount of spiritual wealth. People whose potential would be unrealized but now will have that chance. The world will be a better place because of your help.

Application Question: What do you do that Jesus called you to do?

Prayer: Good Shepherd, We thank You for the hope You give to those who need it most. Help us to hear what You said and to do what You did. We ask this in Your name. Amen

Hugh Stempfley
Volunteer and MMM Board Member, Illinois

The King's Glory

*The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof,
the world and those who dwell therein;
for he has founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.
- Psalm 24:1-2*



The verses above remind us about God's mighty work of creation, that the earth was separated from the seas and still more established rivers on the earth itself, for a purpose, I believe.

God created man in his own image after the earth, for man to enjoy the benefits of his creation on earth. The resources that he provided were meant for man to glorify him in all aspects of life.

In 2022 we had a cholera outbreak that claimed lots of lives, exacerbated by lack of safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene. Will we just sit around and fold our hands whilst people are perishing?

Now what is our (MMM) mandate on this, is to try and provide safe drinking water for the communities to enjoy the beautiful resources that God already provided to man, by at least assisting the communities with the technology that will help them have the water they need.

Application Question: Almighty God, how will I be useful to others?

Prayer: O dear Lord, help us understand our roles in this noble task of providing safe drinking water to communities around us. Help us all to serve others with love that Your Son has shown to us with holy minds and spirit. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Wilfred Kamanga
MMM Field Officer, Malawi

Prayer of the People



When our days there were ended, we left and started on our journey, while they all, with wives and children, escorted us until we were out of the city. After kneeling down on the beach and praying, we said farewell to one another.

- Acts 21:5

Each team member contributes to in-country orientation training. In 2022, I was asked to prepare the dismissal prayer. It was our first campaign post-pandemic and I felt this prayer needed to come from all of us. Below is a sentence from each of the 2022 Daily Devotions "Prayer" in chronological order beginning September 1, leading up to our departure from home September 16. These were our prayers.....

- When we pray, we move our feet!
- Please help me open my ears and my heart to understand Your purpose.
- Calm our worried minds and help us imagine instead the lilies of the fields.
- God our Father, take and send where You want us to go for Your glory.
- Multiply the little bit I have and use it to bring safe, refreshing water to those who need it desperately. Change me through these wells so I will be more like You!
- Thank You for the many friends and experiences through which You have revealed Your love among us.
- Please, Lord, help me to understand my place in Your Body and help me to become the person You want me to be.
- Keep me from anxious thoughts and help me to train my mind on Jesus, for I want to depend on You in all things, not only today but in the days that lie ahead.
- We give thanks for Your abiding love and filling us with the gift of hope.
- ...thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven...
- Give us strength to keep it up.
- Thank You for my brothers and sisters in Africa. Help us to glorify You with every breath that we breathe.
- Dear God, our Lord, thank You for being our Provider and Protector, for Your ways are righteous and true, please make our ways purposeful and our footsteps firm.
- We open our hearts and minds to recognize Your presence within us and all around us as we witness and celebrate Your life-giving power through the gift of clean water.
- Help me to be obedient and faithful to You and to remember that everything is in Your control and under Your watchful eye.
- We ask that our thankful and joyful prayers be felt and known to all our partners.
- And may we remember, what you do speaks so loud I can't hear what you say!!

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

Prayer: In Jesus' name we pray, Amen

Rick Delaney
Volunteer, Ohio

Feed My Sheep

*He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."
Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."
- John 21: 17b*



In John 21:16-17, Jesus says, "if you truly love me feed my people. If you truly love me take care of my people. If you truly love me reach out to your neighbor and love him as yourself." And St. Francis of Assisi said "Preach the Gospel at all times and if necessary, use words."

Love your neighbor as yourself. Not just love your neighbor. Jesus says loving your neighbor as yourself is like loving God, the first 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.

Marion Medical Mission is proof you can't accomplish anything meaningful alone; proof of the power of loving your neighbor as yourself. It's not enough to analyze the world as is and ask "Why?" As William Sloane Coffin said, we need also to imagine the world as it might be, could be, should be, and ask, "Why not?"

So, we at MMM strive to be doers of the word. We strive to do the best we can where we are with what we have. And then, put ourselves in situations intentionally where we have to do more than we can do by ourselves; where we must rely on God.

Think about it. 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. MMM goes where others won't. Where the extreme poor live, where there is cholera, and little to no medical care. Our wells mean children will no longer die from water-borne diseases. Our wells mean the villagers will be healthier and able to work longer in their fields producing more food meaning less starvation. Not just the year the well is built, but for years to come.

At each and every well the villagers are told their well is special because Christians in the United States shared the love of Jesus with them. What do these people think of Christianity? And what do they think of the United States? Sharing the love of Jesus is the best defense against war and terror. But we forget. We forget, too often trusting in the sword more than the cross.

Prayer: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be thy name, they kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven...

Tom Logan
MMM Co-founder and President

Fear Not



*Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
- Isaiah 41:10*

After over 25 years of wanting to go with Marion Medical Mission, I sold the goats, butchered the rabbits and gifted my 40 laying hens to a young couple. A heavy silence settled over the farm and my heart while I waited to be accepted as a volunteer. It seemed like an eternity.

I finally landed in Lilongwe, Malawi in October 2019.

All the volunteers converge at the same airport at the same time from all over the United States. We were loaded into MMM trucks and headed out. I was tired, excited, questioning my decision, and praying I would help make a difference in the lives of the African people. Praying I was doing God's will.

I leaned my forehead against the window as we moved through the city into the countryside. In my loud jumble of thoughts came a whisper, a clear whisper "my child, look, your goats, I have brought you to your goats." The countryside was scattered with goats, a beautiful white buck standing proud among them.

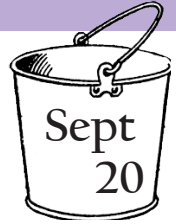
My heart settled; I was reminded God has a plan for me, and would be with me through this journey.

Application Question: Has there been a time in your life that you have prayed for God's guidance and then questioned your decision?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, Thank You for your unconditional love. Forgive me when I doubt Your presence in my life. I ask Your help in always knowing You are with me at all times. Amen

Francine Snider
Volunteer, Illinois

God Is Love



*If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar;
for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen,
how can he love God whom he has not seen?
And this commandment we have from Him:
that he who loves God must love his brother also.*

Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him and He in him.

*And by this we know that He abides in us,
by the Spirit whom He has given us.*

- 1 John 4:20-21 & 1 John 3:14

God is love. And His people should reflect this divine attribute. People suffer when they are outside the circle of love.

Our mission as MMM is not only to preach the gospel through giving water, but also to envelop them in an affectionate environment. When we love people, we have greater success leading them to Jesus Christ. People have to be drawn to us, whom they see, before they can be drawn to Jesus Christ, whom they cannot see.

Friendliness attracts. If Jesus Christ lives in us, and we reflect His character, our life will be like a magnet that attracts people. A greeting, a smile, a polite gesture, such as opening the door for someone, expressing honest praise, remembering someone's good deeds, are friendly details that win over the hearts of neighbors, relatives, co-workers, or strangers.

Application Question: Do our prayers help us to love our brothers and sisters?

Prayer: Dear God, Lord, Almighty. We thank You for the greater love that You show to us, Your children. Thank You for the great things that MMM is doing for Your children on earth. Thank You for the volunteers in the field where wells are built and America where funds come from. Give us strength and zeal to continue working for You Lord, in all the days of our lives, that You have prepared for us to live on this earth. Amen

Mavuto A. C. Nyirenda
MMM Field Officer, Malawi

Unity in Christ



*Be completely humble and gentle;
be patient, bearing with one another in love.
Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit
through the bond of peace.
- Ephesians 4:2-3*

Marion Medical Mission's protected water program brings together people from very different cultures and ways of life.

As Christians, MMM volunteers and staff work in a spirit of unity with all partners, celebrating our many differences.

We lift up the gifts, talents, and contributions of the poor rural African communities who build and maintain their wells with MMM's assistance.

We each have equally important roles to play in providing a sustainable source of safe drinking water to God's people in rural Africa.

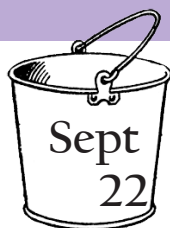
Application Question: The lives of the people you meet in villages are very different than our own. As you visit a village to install and dedicate a well, how do you recognize and acknowledge the God-given gifts and talents of the people you meet there?

Prayer: Lord, open our eyes, minds, and hearts to respect and love each person we encounter on this journey. May we celebrate the unique gifts and talents of every person You have created! Amen

Doug Kee
Volunteer and MMM Vice President, Michigan

Giving Hands

*And whatever you do, whether in word or deed,
do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him.
- Colossians 3:17*



We'd hiked down a long hill from the village, the team had installed the well and we were waiting patiently for more villagers to arrive prior to the presentation. I had noticed her before slowing descending down the steep path to the new well site. She was dressed in the bright colors of Africa. The African sun had etched lines on her face and made her eyes to squint at its brightness. She stood silently next to me staring at the well.

I wondered what thoughts had entered her mind. Did she ever think her village would receive the gift of clean water after all these years? Did she think of the children in the village no longer fearing disease from the drinking water? She looked up at me and smiled. I smiled back (a smile is universal language). Then she began to sing. It was a song I'd not heard in other villages. Her voice was clear and vibrant. Soon two younger women stood behind her and began to sing in unison and chorus. Oh, how I wish you could hear those voices lift from this page!!!!

I understood little of the song but the alleluias the two younger women sang as the elder continued. After she finished, she smiled and extended her hand. I, of course, gave her a hug. Upon our departure, the well supervisor asked me if I understood. "Of course not," I responded. As was often the answer from me. He explained the words were "the hands that give are the hands of God. Thanks to God for the hands that give."

The hands in the villages have given much in preparation for the well installation from digging, brick making, preparing the site. The hands of generosity in America have given so the wells might be completed with pumps and pipes. Let us use our hands to serve and give for the glory of God every day in large and small ways as He gives us the opportunity.

Application Question: How will I use my hands today to serve others and give glory to God?

Heavenly Father, let us give thanks always and serve You today with our hands, our hearts, our words and our lives. Amen

Kay Price
Volunteer, Illinois

Love Your Enemies



*But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you (Luke 6:35)
If your enemy is hungry give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty give him water to drink (Proverbs 25:21-22)*

Last year's 2022 Installation Season of Wells was my 15th year of service as a Marion Medical Mission Field Officer, in Chipata Area in Zambia. And the Programme has vigorously expanded to the remotest rural and needy areas. We have reached out to so many different people, regardless of their status; tribe, clan, religious beliefs, whether Muslims, Hindus, any nationality or political affiliation, relatives, friends, non-relatives, and enemies to show the Love of God through His only begotten Son.

A lot of people could not even believe our gesture. They thought we were going to sideline or segregate them, for being non-believers. As they have never had an opportunity to access protected, safe, and clean drinking water since the establishment of their villages, some even as long ago as the 1960s. Therefore, to them it was the dream come true. And they praised God, through singing and dancing, showing their happiness, appreciating God's love, received through MMM.

We did, however, teach them that Jesus said, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, or abuse you, and prosecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret Himself shall reward thee openly. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut the door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." Then, came Peter to Him, and said, "Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times?" Jesus saith unto him, "I say not unto thee, until seven times; but until seventy times seven."

Application Question: Why do we render our services to all the needy without drawing boundaries? Why not benefiting only our fellow Christians?

Prayer: Thank You our gracious God, for the love, joy and care within us, that fills us up. Lord God help us to always remember to love and pray not only for our relatives and friends, but even for our enemies, those who hate, curse and abuse us. May Your love be manifested or seen through us. Amen!!!

Soko Thomas Standwell
MMM Field Officer, Zambia

#walkingforMMMwater

*What does the Lord require of you but to do justice,
love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.
- Micah 6:8*



I've never had to get up in the middle of the night to walk miles for water for my family. As a young girl, I didn't have to fetch water instead of going to school. I've never had to limit the water I use for washing, cooking, and drinking. But I know my sisters in Africa do that.

This summer I'm going to walk the ancient pilgrimage of the Camino de Santiago, 500 miles across Spain. I used to participate in CROP Walks. We'd walk several miles and raise money for those in need. I decided to make my walk on the Camino a fundraiser for Marion Medical Mission. I'm inviting people to give 10 cents or \$1 for every mile I walk. But I'd like my walk to be more than a fundraiser. I want to walk in solidarity with all the women and girls who have to walk to get water.

Empathy helps us understand another person's situation. But we need more than empathy. Solidarity puts empathy into action. With each step, I will walk in solidarity with my sisters who walk to get water. With each step, I will walk in solidarity with all who will contribute to wells this year, from the field officers and builders, to the villagers who gather sand and stone, to those who give money. With each step, I will thank God for the gift of water and the gift of all of you.

What if each step we take is a step of justice, a step of kindness, a step of walking with God and with our brothers and sisters? I pray that each step you take today, whether it's walking to a well site, walking to a church to give a MMM presentation, or walking to get a cup of water, you will remember we're all walking together.

Application Question: How is God calling you to express solidarity, "empathy in action," with your brothers and sisters?

Prayer: Dear God, help us to walk with You and to walk with one another. Fill our hearts with empathy and help us put that empathy into action. Amen

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

With Christ



Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so and, the master of the banquet tasted the water that had just been turned into wine.

He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside, and said everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink, but you have saved the best till now.

- John 2:8-10

In this passage the Bible tells us how Jesus's involvement lightened the wedding from being without wine to having the best wine till the end.

The verse inspires us today as we go out, that with Christ our installation is guaranteed to be the best with far-reaching benefits:

With Christ our zeal is renewed

With Christ our energies restored

Above all, with Christ the remotest village will get the best water for drinking

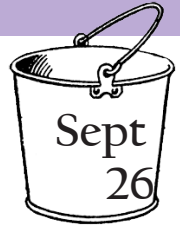
Application Question: How will I keep Christ with me today?

Prayer: It is our prayer Lord that You will be with us today as we go out to install wells and that You will sustain us throughout the day to Your Glory. Amen

Lewis Silungwe
MMM Field Officer, Malawi

Do Not Worry

*Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life,
what you will eat or drink;
or about your body, what you will wear.
Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?
- Matthew 6:25*



A full group of MMM U.S. volunteers hasn't returned to Africa since 2019, yet work continued even with Covid rearing its ugly head. In the next three years our African partners masterfully continued the work without us! Fast forward to this year's well season having a full complement of volunteers traveling from the U.S.

I am on the first team this year and when notified, my first feelings were of joy and excitement. After it sank in that I was heading to Malawi in September, little nagging feelings started to crop up; can I manage the driving again? What about the recording of data? Will I remember to order the food at the lodges and buy all of the food and drink for the MMM folks with me?

I quickly realized this is exactly God has told us to stop doing, particularly in Matthew 6:25-34 and Luke 12:25!

God has given so much to MMM — literally from the ground up — this is his "I've got this" lesson to me! From well digging to funding and planning, God repeatedly proves that He's given MMM the people and tools to get His work done!

Just to reassure us further, the Bible evidently has hundreds of passages on trusting Him and not worrying. Today as we go into the field I will take these passages with me as a reminder also that "I can do all things through him who strengthens me" (Phillipians 4:13).

Application Question: How will I remember to trust God today?

Prayer: Dear God, as we go through this day, help us remember that You are with us, now and always. Amen

Jamie Jones
Volunteer, Georgia

Being Present



*You teach me the way of life. In your presence is total celebration.
Beautiful things are always in your right hand.
- Psalm 16:11*

Day 6: The last three wells we were going to install weren't too far apart and yet, they weren't all that close together either. When the wells are close, we can install, pray, and take a picture and then go to the second with the whole crowd to do the dedication service. Often we will walk between the wells. But these three wells were far enough apart to get their own dedication services and for us to drive to the next wells.

We installed the first well, did the dedication service, and took the picture. After the celebration we returned to the truck and drove to the second well. As we were installing it, I recognized a young girl in green from the first well. She gave me a shy smile, joining in the singing and celebration just like it was new to her. We dedicated the well, celebrated and returned to the truck to continue to the third well.

We were in the midst of the installation, I was greeting those at the well. I had shaken the hands of the adults and had moved on to the children – who are excited and scared to touch the azungu (foreigner). It sometimes takes a couple of brave souls to first shake my hand before the rest are clamoring to be next. And who should I see but the girl in green, that same smile on her face and her hand outstretched.

Maybe she knew that she was seeing a miracle in the clean water. Maybe she was just bored and this was the most exciting thing happening in the area. Maybe she just wanted to be in another picture. But to me, it showed dedication to trek between the villages, participate in the celebrations. It showed joy in the happiness of new beginnings.

I was tired, it was the end of a day at the end of a busy week. Her presence gave me energy. She reminded me that showing up can be a gift.

Application: When is the last time you had an opportunity to show up for someone? Did you do it? How will you show up for someone today?

Prayer: Creator of all, Thank You for this day. Thank You for those who show up and are present. Help us to be one who shows up, help us to recognize Your presence in those around us. Amen

Jessi Stitt
Volunteer, North Carolina

God Will Give Us Salvation

*With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
- Isaiah 12:3*



God has made salvation possible for us by his grace. So we know, based on the New Testament, that salvation is possible through Christ, through what he has done on the cross for us.

His salvation is available and it is a well. There are wells of salvation that we can draw water from, every day, all day long; and we can draw that water with joy.

God has made salvation possible for us and we can draw from those wells with joy every day, all day.

Yes, Marion Medical Mission all also installs salvation in different communities by providing clean and potable water. When the communities are drawing water it gives them joy and hope.

Application Question: How many people have you saved today?

Prayer: Our Farther who art in Heaven, thank You for this oppportunity that You have presented to us, by giving us salvation through Marion Medical Mission, which provides clean and potable water to every denomination. I declare upon this water to be charged with the presence of the Holy Spirit. Let this water become the water for revival. I sanctify this water in the name of the Father, the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Godfrey Chanika
MMM Field Officer, Malawi

He Shall Strengthen Your Heart



*Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart,
all you who hope in the Lord.
- Psalm 31:24*

I know that there are many real issues with the use of social media, but I am so glad that Facebook gives me the opportunity to stay connected with our African MMM friends.

I was heartened by a recent post from field officer Happy Kamsonga about an incident in which villagers reported being without water from an MMM-installed well. The maintenance men were quick to respond to the problem and within one day they were able to restore safe drinking water to the village. There were no details given about all the individual efforts that were made behind the scene to make this happen but I know that the people involved demonstrated to the villagers that this was a priority. Courage, strength, and hope in the Lord were probably happening during that day.

This story made me pause to give thanks to all the faithful people that make the MMM program the success it is. This year we are celebrating 50,000 wells built since 1990. Take some time to ponder all the faithful people who made this happen and are continuing to make this happen and all the lives benefited as a result. What wondrous work has been done because of those who have shown and are showing the good courage and hope in the Lord.

Application Question: What has God placed in your life that needs his strengthening of your heart to make happen?

Prayer: Dear Lord, we pray for and give thanks for all the individuals in the MMM program that are willing to put themselves in harm's way to do Your work. Please let them be an inspiration to us all. Amen

Susie Selock
Volunteer, Illinois

Your Labor is Not in Vain

*Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm, let nothing move you.
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 15:58*



Brothers and sisters in Christ, I know you have labored enough in the vineyard of the Lord to provide safe drinking water to your beloved ones in Africa, the volunteers from the USA, coordinators, field officers, installation supervisors, builders, and maintenance men to mention a few.

We are almost there, let us stand firm and let nothing move you, not even the difficulties we face in the field, be it change of weather, bad roads, food, lodges etc. Regardless of all these, always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord.

Blessed are you who labor in the Lord for your labor is not in vain. The Lord shall surely reward you on earth and in Heaven.

Application Question: Do you know that those who labor in the Lord, their labor is not in vain?

Prayer: Thank You Lord that You called us to provide safe drinking water to Your people, may You bless the day and the work we are going to do, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

Crispin Mhango
MMM Coordinator, Zambia

God Is In The Ordinary



*He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice,
and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?
- Micah 6:8*

Each of us is born with an unencumbered spot, free of expectation and regret, free of ambition and embarrassment, free of fear and worry, an unblemished spot of grace where we are each touched by God. It is this spot of grace that issues peace.

To know this spot of inwardness is to know who we are, not by the surface markers to identity, not by where we work or what we wear or how we like to be addressed, but by feeling our place in relation to God, who is infinite, and by living within that place. This is a hard life-long task. Becoming the person God created each of us to be is a constant rediscovery of that incorruptible spot of grace at the center.

God is in the ordinary, the minute particulars. When you come right down to it, all life is holy. What is most real may be those things which cannot be expressed at all but only known.

Native Americans of the U.S. Great Plains believe the air is filled with good and bad dreams. According to legend, the good dreams pass through the center hole of the dream catcher to the sleeping person; the bad dreams are trapped in the web where they perish in the light of dawn.

Well work is a place where we each can find that spot of grace at the center of who we are. The smiles of the villagers as clean water comes from the spout, the look of hope in the eyes of the adults, songs of gratitude, dancing, gifts of wapita panjalla, a lump in the throat and tears of joy among team members say it all.

Application Question: How might I find my spot of grace at the center of who I am, who God has created me to be?

Prayer: O Giver of the springs of Living Water, receive our thanks for Your gifts of grace!
Amen

Reverend Dick McFarlin
Well Ambassador, Texas

Give Me Water to Drink



Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?"

*When did we see you a stranger and invite you in,
or needing clothes and clothe you?"*

When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?"

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

- Matthew 25:37-40

We are working together as MMM family, I think it will be beautiful if we begin working on that Bible verse that expresses very well what Jesus wants us to do for the least. Actually that verse surprises me very much because it is very fitting for each one of us.

One of the most demanding things for me is travelling to villages of my working area Iringa District and whenever I found village members are using unsafe water I feel solemn obligation in my heart to ensure that together with MMM those people will have access to safe and clean water.

Let's thank God for the opportunity He has given us today to stay strong together as MMM family; with this family we are reminded that Jesus came to bring the good news to the poor. He had told us what that good news is when He said, "My peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you." He came to give peace of heart which comes from loving and doing good to others, so we are chosen to help the needy.

It is not enough for us to say "I love God" but also to love my neighbor.

Application Question: Are you ready to do good to others today?

Prayer: Dear God, thank You for the Gift of Life. Thank You for Your Faithfulness. Indeed, You are Great. You alone are God. Lord, we humbly ask that You may continue to guide and bless us. Walk with us, for without You, we can do nothing. May Your face shine upon us. Give us strength, wisdom and knowledge to stay positive, committed to our goals and excel above our expectations. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Eden Ngiluke
MMM Field Officer, Tanzania

Build Up



*Let us do all we can to live in peace.
And let us work hard to build up one another.
- Roman 14:19*

As any journey starts, humans reflect on where this journey may lead them, what the journey may provide, or worry about the journey itself. Today's society is hard on our emotional, mental, and spiritual essences. Instead of offering a helping hand, we often turn away from people, too busy in our life journeys. One simple word of praise, encouragement, gratitude or even a simple smile may be what a person needs to hear to help build up their souls. Instead of tearing down what people do or say, looking to find a way to help build one another up may be rewarding. Peace will come when we as a collective start helping and encouraging one another.

Through my interactions with people, I focus on positivity people may have to offer. I often speak with people in my job only to see how not only other people, but they themselves beat themselves down. They are not good enough, not smart enough, not able to learn. Why is listening to the negativity so easy; however, positivity is a struggle. Even though I work with computers and people, I have learned to become more of a silent counselor to people. Listening, offering the encouragement or a kind story where needed.

Peace. Living in peace. Loving, kindness, giving. When people ask me what I would like more than anything, my first thought is Peace. I do not say it out loud because peace is a big concept. Peace in ourselves, peace in others, peace in the world. Everyone is different, everyone has different ideologies; however, if we can look through differences and offer the peace with have within ourselves to others, perhaps one day we will live in peace.

As I start my journey to Malawi, my focus will be my own internal peace and helping to build others up to let them know there are people who care, people who want the same thing as they do.

Application Questions: Today, how can I live in peace? How can I build up others?

Prayer: Please God help guide me to show peace and compassion to all of Your creatures. Amen

Lisa Breese
Volunteer, Georgia

Because We Care

*Keep on loving each other as brothers and sisters.
- Hebrews 13:1*



I've never been to Africa, but I've been to Haiti, Guatemala (twice), Russia, and Taiwan.

The mission trip moment that stands out in my memory was on a mountain top in Guatemala in the poorest village I have ever seen. We had a brief tour through the village. Then, while others on the team were beginning dental work or preparing for a later gospel presentation, I walked back through the village alone to take a picture of the communal oven. A woman came up to me, gave me a big hug, and said, "Hermana." I only know a few words of Spanish, but that is one of them — "sister."

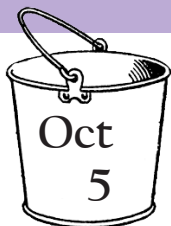
The Covid years proved that wells could be built in Africa without the presence of people from the U.S. In part, going to Africa results in bringing back the enthusiasm and stories that will inspire others to get involved. However there is also value in demonstrating by presence on site that people in the U.S. really care.

Application Question: How have you demonstrated caring for others?

Prayer: Lord, remind us that we are all Your children and thus must care for each other as best we can. Amen

Diane Peterson
MMM Supporter, Illinois

Spread the Word



*Jesus looked at them and said to them
“with man this is impossible,
but with God all things are possible.”
- Matthew 19:26*

Inscribed on the top of every Marion Medical Mission concrete well head is “GLORY TO GOD.” I love to tell people about MMM. I am often asked if the American volunteers dig the wells. They do not, but after I explain some construction details, the next question is usually “What do the Americans do?” I tell them about the extreme poverty in the rural areas of Eastern Africa and that these subsistence farmers do not have vehicles, they walk. I then talk about the American volunteers who drive four-wheel drive trucks during the well season and I take the opportunity to explain that each well costs only \$450 US dollars.

Another important responsibility of the Americans is to spread the word to others upon returning to America. I especially enjoy seeing the expression on their faces when they hear the number of wells completed, more than 3,200 in 2020 and over 3,400 in 2021,-with no American volunteers.

I do not share this with them to brag, but to talk about what the Lord has done through MMM. Let us not forget what the apostle Paul writes in Ephesians 2:8-10 “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and it is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

The Africans are achieving the IMPOSSIBLE, but only with God’s help.

Application Question: There are so many ways to spread the word of both MMM and the gospel. How are you spreading the word?

Prayer: Dear heavenly Father, help us to spread the word. Help us to find ways to share with others the good news. Dear Lord we ask that You watch over the MMM staff and the American volunteers doing Your work. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Chuck Overstreet
Volunteer, Virginia

Another Successful Year

*Remember that I have commanded you
to be determined and confident.
Do not be afraid or discouraged, for I, the Lord your God,
am with you wherever you go.
- Joshua 1:9*



Marion Medical Mission has been providing clean water to Malawi, Zambia and Tanzania for the past 37 years. Last year (2022), MMM took a step further by penetrating into Mozambique as an expansion area for the Nkhoma Synod Protected Water Programme. The reception of the programme from community leaders and gate keepers in the expansion area was warm and very encouraging, so much so that 20 new wells were constructed within a few days.

However, the local government through a “localidad,” who is the local political leader, had a different opinion and was reluctant to approve activities in his ward. He believed that behind the provision of clean water and the evangelism that came with this good gesture, was a pent-up motive. At some point, he instructed the installation team to cease the installation works until he consulted the central government for approval. In Exodus 33:14, The Lord said to us: “I will go with you and give you victory.” This was manifested when the localidad called a couple of days later and gave a green light to resume the installation.

Indeed we have overcome challenge after challenge and with the help of our God in Heaven through Jesus Christ who said that “I shall be with you until the end of the world,” we shall never stop. Fifty new wells are slated to be built and installed this year as a permanent solution to water crises in communities in Mozambique. The wells shall also save lives by curbing water-borne diseases which have been plaguing these communities. A village of 17 households perished from cholera disease during the past rainy season leaving behind only three survivors.

There is a new hope for the communities of Mozambique. We thank the Lord for assisting the needy and helpless communities at their darkest hour.

Application Question: Who can stop the work of the Lord?

Prayer: Our father in Heaven, we are aware that You have solutions to all our problems. We believe that these needy communities are in the palm of Your hand, please open Your doors for their blessings so much that nobody can bar them from getting their share. In the Mighty name of Jesus, Amen.

Watson Kapachika
MMM Field Officer, Malawi

What Does the Lord Require



*He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?
- Micah 6:8*

The philosophy behind Marion Medical Mission is the clearest example I know of that lives out the directives of this verse: do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God. Just by being a part of this organization — whether a villager, a zone committee member, a maintenance person, a builder, an installation supervisor, a field officer, a coordinator, a volunteer, or an administrator — we are all offered the

In this program each and every one of us is needed to address the wrong that is the suffering of those living without clean water. If we all do our part, we can fix this injustice, one village at a time.

In this program each and every one of us is brought to our knees by the overwhelming kindness of strangers ... the villagers singing and dancing, the African staff who bend over backwards to help us in any way they can and laugh and talk with us as we exchange stories of our vastly different cultures, the volunteers as we help each other stumble down unfamiliar paths, both literally and figuratively, and the donors who give generously to improve the lives of people who live on the other side of the globe.

In this program each and every one of us cannot help but walk humbly with our God as we witness and participate in the miracle that occurs every time clean water is first drawn from the well! It is a privilege beyond belief to be a part of this process ... to recognize that working together we are indeed God's hands and feet. All glory to God!

So at the start of each day, when we are getting ready to face the day and its inevitable challenges, remember to keep it simple — do what is right, be kind, and give all glory to God.

Application Question: How can I quiet the competing voices in my mind and keep it simple so that I can let God's love shine through me to others?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, let Your divine love for all Your Creation shine through us in all that we do today, and help us to truly love You and see You in the faces of all those we meet. Help us to keep it just that simple. Amen

Meg Packard
volunteer and MMM Board Member, Alabama

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 Question: 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.

Providence Abounds



*For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

- Ephesians 2:10

"Should I go?" I asked my lawyer friend Jim Bobo over lunch many years ago. I was a young man with a very full life: three small children, a busy law practice, and active in my church and community. A mission opportunity to build houses for the wretchedly poor in Honduras had been offered by my church that summer. Comfortable in my world, with this busy-ness a handy reason to decline, I sought wisdom.

"What does the Lord want you to do?" Jim asked, sensibly. "Dunno," I lied. "Surely he understands my obstacles to going..." Jim said nothing. We ate in silence. Then he spoke, "Jeff, you have mentioned you prayed recently for an opportunity to serve. Have you thought this trip may be an answer to that prayer?" Hmmm...And so I went to Honduras that summer to build houses.

One morning as I lay bricks, I saw the face of a small boy peering out from behind a wall who was closely watching us work. I gestured for him to come out. Reluctantly he stepped into full view. To my astonishment, he was wearing a t-shirt which said "Bobo Law Office." There. In Central America, 3000 miles from Jim Bobo's law practice.

Later, back in the States, I recounted this story of providence to Jim. He said his wife had donated leftover t-shirts from his sponsored T-ball team to a local mission effort. Somehow one had made it to central Honduras.

What an affirmation of God's calling.

That was long ago. Just recently — three decades later — another Christian brother over a meal told me about the MMM water project and the opportunity to serve God's people. After giving my several excuses — I'm too old, too comfortably retired, I'm needed elsewhere — that same Holy Spirit has gently nudged me to go to Africa.

Application Question: So, how do we recognize and respond to opportunities to serve God's people? We pray for them and for a heart willing to submit to His call. He is faithful to answer that prayer.

Prayer: Lord, help me desire to show Your love to others. Provide an opportunity for me today to do so and incline my heart to do Your will. All glory to thee. Amen

Jeff Weill
Volunteer, Mississippi

When We Pray...

*Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.
Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith and I have works:
shew me thy faith without thy works,
and I will shew thee my faith by my works.
- James 2:17-18 (KJV)*



WHEN WE PRAY, WE MOVE OUR FEET (Tom Logan)

As a volunteer at Marion Medical Mission, I have had the privilege of seeing “moving feet” in action. Many of us have heard disturbing news in recent times that causes us to shake our heads in frustration and sadness. Our response is usually something like “somebody ought to do something about that!” Then someone, of genuine faith, might say “I’ll pray that God will take care of that problem...or those people.” We pray for God’s help because we know He loves us and cares for our needs.

Tom Logan was confronted with the sad story of people who were sick and dying; whose children were not living into adulthood; all because they did not have a safe, clean source of fresh water. His response was to “move” his feet; and to inspire others to do the same. The result was Marion Medical Mission. His faith was amplified and multiplied in the thousands of wells – the “works.”

If all that was done, when that knowledge came to light, was to feel sadness and to pray that “someone” would solve the problem, those wells in four African countries would not exist. All the people who now have a source of safe water would still be the victims of contaminated disease-ridden water. The key was showing faith by works.

Application Question: Are you still showing your faith without works? James says faith without works is dead. I want my faith to be alive and kicking. How about yours?

Prayer: Father, grant us the boldness and compassion to show our faith by our works. Encourage us to pay attention to the urging of the Holy Spirit. Help us to shine forth a living faith. Amen

Rita Pearce
Volunteer, Illinois

Go and Do Likewise



"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

- Luke 10:36-37

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 heretic, the half breed, the Samaritan that Christ held up as the example to follow. Why? Because he did something...he reached out to his neighbor in need.

At times I think we study the problems too much. We make them too complicated and end up with what Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King called "paralysis of analysis." If people need water, you dig a well. You don't study it to death, you pick up a shovel.

My solution to everything is the same. Very simple. Whatever the problem, whatever the difficulty, whatever the tragedy: pray, and while you pray, dig a well. Be involved in a miracle. Share Christ's love. Feed the hungry; give the thirsty safe drinking water. Go the second mile to greet those who look or believe different. Invite them to the front of the line, buy their lunch, smile and make them feel welcome (safe)...at the grocery store, gas station, restaurant, wherever. We must not wait; we must do it now.

"Too often," as Tony Campolo has said, "we tiptoe through life, so we can arrive at death safely." The world is in chaos. Wars, Covid pandemic, floods, windstorms, fires, gun violence, computer viruses, cyber-attacks. On and on and on.

Yet, last year MMM had the best year ever! Why? The light that shines through Marion Medical Mission is so desperately needed...especially now. Marion Medical Mission means loving your neighbor as yourself. MMM has built almost 50,000 wells. And we build them where the rural poor are...where no one else will go. IMPOSSIBLE!

The problem is not the corona virus.

The problem is not Donald Trump or Joe Biden.

The problem is not the Republicans, the problem is not the Democrats.

The problem is not the immigrants – legal or illegal.

The problem is good people who do nothing.

May God give you the grace never to sell yourself short; grace to risk something big for something good; and grace to remember the world is now too dangerous for anything but the truth and too small for anything but love (The Rev. William Sloane Coffin)

Tom Logan

MMM Co-founder and President

Sing a Song

*Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands!
Serve the Lord with gladness,
come before His presence with singing.
- Psalm 100:1-2*



There is a lot of singing in Malawi. Before training on my first day in 2008 in Embangweni, all the volunteers walked to Chapel. While we waited for the service to begin, two Africans began to sing a capella. It was melodious and soulful. With tears in my eyes, I knew that I was going to love Africa.

There are times the music is loud – raucous. We’ve been met by young boys running down the hill drumming the entire way and villagers that drum their water buckets making a circle around us singing and dancing. In church the teen choir will begin to sway and move their feet in unison, singing in the most perfect harmonies. Music in Africa brings joy that connects all who are present. Teilhard de Chardin says that joy is the most infallible sign of the presence of God.

Often when we pull into the village for a well installation, we are surrounded by villagers singing and dancing. Sometimes this continues all the way to the well. And then, the water is pumped, and we all stand in awe because the water is clear and clean. We recognize that this well will improve the health of this village and the singing of thanks begins again. Last year we had two wells that were within walking distance of each other. An elder followed us to each well giving us thanks for the wonderful gift of clean water, telling us “God must love you.” We told him that God loves him. Being part of this mission brings me such joy of wellbeing and a connectedness with the people of Africa and God.

Application: Today break out in song, either solo or with the people you are with. Make up words, like I often do, or hum along. You’ll begin to recognize the African songs after a week. Then allow yourself to feel the presence of God.

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank You for this day, for each song heard and sung, for the joy and connectedness that we feel for one another through song. We pray in Your name. Amen

Betty Samelson
Volunteer and MMM Board Member, Colorado

In the Midst of Setbacks



Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus
- *Philippians 4: 6-7*

With 20+ days of field work, there are going to be inevitable setbacks. Through the grace of God, most if not all will be minor and perhaps even comical upon reflection.

Like the time I ripped off the bumper of the truck. Or the time I drove into a pothole so big that it took 10 volunteers to get the truck out of that hole. I won a t-shirt from Mr. Logan on both occasions providing great laughs for all.

But there were also the two days I was so sick I couldn't get out of bed in Chitipa. Or the time when our lodging was taken by government officials and we had no choice but to sleep in the back of a bar. I knew this was a serious situation when our Field Officer was scared and instructed us to put all our belongings against the door.

Whether it was a lighthearted situation or a time that was simply quite frightening, I found peace through prayer and scripture. The Apostle Paul writes that we should not be anxious but rather by prayer and petition WITH THANKSGIVING, present your requests to God. Doing so will be peace which transcends all understanding...

Jesus's disciples experienced the ultimate setback on the Friday that they thought their Lord was lost to them forever hanging from the cross. And then came Sunday. The story of Easter is the ultimate example of overcoming a setback and proves beyond doubt that "the worst day is never the last day." All of us WILL have a setback of some kind during our time in the field. WHEN that setback occurs remember that God is with you. He will provide you with the strength you need to deal with whatever the situation is.

Application Question: How will I respond to setbacks in my life?

Prayer: Father God – I know that I'm going to get stressed out at some point during my time in the field. During that time, help me remember that You are there. Help me to be calm; to go to You in prayer; and give me strength to overcome the obstacle in my path. Help me remember Your resurrection and that the worst day is NEVER the last day. In Your name we pray. Amen

Grant Arends
Volunteer, Colorado

The Words of God Are Enough

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters; He restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for His name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil for you are with me. Your rod and your staff --- they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

- Psalm 23



Did you know that this Psalm is one of a triptych – a threefold portrait of the Messiah? “In Psalm 22 we have a picture of Jesus in the past – the suffering Savior dying a humiliating death. In Psalm 23 we see Jesus in the present – the caring Shepherd guarding and guiding his sheep. Then in Psalm 24 we have a song about Jesus in the future – the conquering King returning and reigning in splendor.” (Douglas Connelly in *The Messiah*)

And third, it seems to me that this psalm is enough devotion for today. With the exception of the final line, this tells us everything we need to know. God is watching out for us. God provides for us, maybe even to the point where we can thumb our nose at our enemies. God knows where we are and what is happening to us. God will not wander off to other business and leave us alone. That final line is more often translated “forever,” which I think is closer to truth. We will be with God for eternity.

Application: *Read the psalm again, substituting your own name for the pronouns “I” and “me.” Does that alter your thinking?*

Prayer: Almighty God, thank you for always being present, no matter where I am or in what circumstances I find myself. Thank you for Your love and Your promises. And, Lord, if I forget today that You are near, forgive me in love. Amen

Carol Nussbaumer
Volunteer, Colorado

It All Adds Up



*Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.
A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.
- Ecclesiastes 4:12*

I once heard a Christian speaker and author in the United States say about the American culture, “We celebrate the hero over the citizen in America.” I have thought a lot over the years about that statement. I think it is true, yet also strange. While so much attention in American culture is given to heroes and people who do heroic deeds, it is the citizen who makes a country work. Citizens, common ordinary people who show up each day and do what needs to be done, is what a nation needs. Common ordinary disciples (you and me) are the people God uses to make good things happen through the church. Ordinary people willing to do simple work are the backbone of nations, churches and movements.

Marion Medical Mission has been doing the Christian disciple work of helping people get clean, protected drinking water for 38 years now. It is simple work. The wells are not that expensive (it’s a \$450 hand pump well, not a \$50,000 bore hole well!). The work is not that complicated. It is ordinary work for both the African workers and the American volunteers.

Yet, God has used that work over the last 38 years to install 50,000 wells that have helped hundreds of thousands of people have clean, protected drinking water!

God works through the ordinary. God uses the common disciple. God makes things add up!

Application Question: Where do you see God working in ordinary ways in your life?

Prayer: Lord God, thank You for using ordinary, common disciples like us to make big differences in peoples’ lives. Amen

Reverend David Fisher
Volunteer, Colorado

Uplifting Others

*Carry each other's burdens and in this way
you will fulfill the law of Christ.
- Galatians 6:2*



This verse teaches us to uplift those that are in trouble. This is not far from what MMM and volunteers are doing to people of Malawi, Zambia, and Tanzania.

We have communities which have been lacking safe water as well as having hunger. MMM has always been there to provide them with safe water as well as providing maize during time of hunger, hence removing the burden which has been among the communities.

The love of our fellow Christians in America through MMM protected water program has proved to fulfill the law of Christ by knowing that lack of safe water as well as hunger is the burden carried by the community in Malawi, Zambia, and Tanzania and had to be removed. We thank God that this is being achieved by MMM together with the field officers as well as MMM volunteers.

There has been reduction of water-related disease such cholera and diarrhea through the provision of safe water. All this, is because of love from MMM volunteers and other well wishers who take part in contributing to MMM resources.

Application Question: As a Christian what burden have you ever carried for somebody?

Prayer: Dear God, we ask for Your guidance and protection in our everyday activities as we are helping those that lack safe water. We have hope and confidence in You, God. Amen

Edwin Nyondo
MMM Field Officer, Malawi

Like a Spring of Water



*And if you give yourself to the hungry
and satisfy the desire of the afflicted
then your light will rise in darkness
and your gloom will become like midday.
And the Lord will continually guide you
and satisfy your desire in scorched places,
and give strength to your bones,
and you will be like a watered garden
and like a spring of water whose waters do not fail.
Those among you will rebuild the ancient ruins:
you will rise up the age-old foundations
and you will be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of the streets in which you dwell.
- Isaiah 58:10-12*

These are incredibly strong words. They empower us, they give us permission, and they give us obligation. The well season is a time of very hard work and long hours. African staff and workers have spent many long weeks preparing. We mzungu have given much to “come so far to do so much in so little time.” The words from Isaiah can serve to inspire us and give us strength when the days are too hot and the hills too steep!

As we move from village to village dedicating new wells and celebrating with the people there, we really can feel the light rising from the darkness and the gloom becoming like midday. Every time. At each village, joy and gratitude are expressed through smiles, laughter, and song.

And so it goes, even on the most difficult days, we can stay reminded that we are all here to bring water to the thirsty, to provide desperately needed help to people in need, and to witness the simple miracle of loving our neighbors.

Application Question: How may you stay focused and strong in your mission?

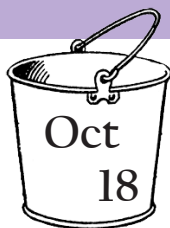
Prayer: Heavenly Spirit, thank You for the strength given to me by You that enables me to be a part of the MMM miracle. Help us to be mindful of the needs of all our neighbors and keep us humble as we go about being the people You desire us to be. Amen

Jim Calloway
Volunteer, Illinois

Hidden Treasures

*I will give you hidden treasures, riches stored in secret places,
so that you may know that I am the LORD.*

- Isaiah 45:3



In the middle of a hot day in the middle of Malawi, with the wind whipping about me, I reflected how there was water beneath the surface of this dry and arid land. The Bible verse of riches stored in secret places came to mind. The water came from the well as clear and clean as could be and I marveled at what a gift this water was to the people of this village and each village I had visited this week. It was a source for cooking, bathing, drinking, and life.

God has hidden treasures for us all and we, like the villagers, need to seek these treasures. This water had been below the ground for generations and with the help of Marion Medical Mission this treasure was brought to the surface. As we give our dedications for the well, we give glory to God so that he may be known each time water is drawn from the wells.

Treasures in Africa which I will never forget were the joy of the people, the smiles, the community and the love they expressed for this gift. But all gifts are from the Father who gives freely.

I continue to seek hidden treasures. Today I will search for those treasures stored up for me. Perhaps the sunrise, or blooming flowers or a harvest from the garden, a smile from a stranger, the laughter of children, peace of mind amidst turmoil in the world, the opportunity to help those in need. But the greatest treasure we seek is that of the Father's love and the great homecoming to be ours when our earthly struggles are past.

Application Question: Where will I look for hidden treasures today?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, open our eyes and hearts to those things You desire for us. Let us seek You fully, realize the value of the treasure You have given us and share it with others so Your name may be glorified. AMEN

Kay Price
Volunteer, Illinois

The Healing Power of Water



*If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria,
He would cure him of his leprosy.
- 2 Kings 5:3*

Without water nothing can flourish or even exist. It maintains vitality in us, infused by God. Water has tremendous healing potential for the human mind, body, and spirit. When Naaman – the commander of the king of Aram’s army – was struck by leprosy, he needed the healing power of water to be cured from his condition.

When the first cholera case was recorded in the lakeshore district of Nkhata-Bay in Malawi in August last year, the outbreak spread rapidly to other parts of the country in no time. Lakeshore districts soon became a hotspot, recording a total of 1,514 cases. The nation was sick, the government panicked, and most social gatherings were banned from taking place in the hotspot areas. The Synod of Livingstonia’s annual general meeting was suspended from taking place in Nkhata-Bay and moved elsewhere, “It needed the healing power of safe drinking water.”

“If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria, He would cure him of his leprosy.” A call was made to Marion Medical Mission to be part of curing the sick nation. By the end of October, 240 wells were built in Nkhata-Bay District. People got a sustainable source of safe drinking water. These wells brought the power of healing to the area, so much that by the end of January of this year, cholera cases were reduced drastically, the nation was healed with no cholera case reported from the affected areas since mid-January. What a marvelous God we serve!

Application Question: God can do His part to change every situation for the good, but we have a key role to play to sustain it. What can I do to embrace the sustainability of MMM interventions?

Prayer: Our heavenly Father, I adore You. Thank you so much for this day You have made for us to realize how wonderful You are and the mighty things You can do for us. Help me to realize what I can do to embrace the sustainability of Your work. Amen

Jordan Banda
MMM Program Coordinator, Malawi

Until You Do Something

On that day Isaac's servants came and told him about the well they have dug. They said "we have found water!"

- Genesis 26:32

For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule:

"The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat."

- 2 Thessalonians 3:10



"Whoever refuses to work is not allowed to eat." Indeed, everyone of us has responsibility to do something so that an achievement is registered in our life. Our God had already put in place a lot of treasures in our communities which ought to be utilized for us to sustain a living. Some of the resources are land, water, animals, manpower, knowledge, and skills.

Therefore we must work to get water, so we dig a well, collect sand, break down stones into quarry, and mold and burn the bricks to have our well, to attract funding from Marion Medical Mission to be protected so that we can drink clean potable water.

To be honest, not all the villages manage to work hard and have a reliable water source within their villages. As such only active villages will benefit with MMM assistance if they work and report to MMM Field Officer that we have done our part hence come forth to us with MMM support.

We can't expect breakthroughs in life if we cannot maximize our intention and skills to have clean water in our respective villages.

Application Question: Can we have a protected well in our village if we don't do something?

Prayer: May the almighty God bless us all remember that we all have a role to play so that something helps happen to support our health and life. Amen

Reverend Fletcher Makala Mbewe
CCAP Nkhoma Synod, Malawi

With Actions and in Truth



*If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.
- 1 John 3:17-18*

We often think this verse applies primarily to those who are wealthy and choose not to share with those less fortunate. Instead, it reaches to all who have resources and/or abilities that are available to help others.

For MMM it includes not only potential donors, but volunteers, coordinators, field officers, installation supervisors, builders and even villagers as they see the need that others ignore.

This need (clean water), although obvious, escapes the attention of those outside of MMM as too expensive, too much or beyond the realm of possibility.

The difference that makes the MMM mission possible is a Love of God among those who have accepted His gift of grace and have chosen to respond with actions and in truth by moving their feet in spite of the magnitude of the need or the lack of resources.

Application Question: How have you seen those in MMM reflect God's love for them, and their appreciation for His grace as they work among those in need?

Prayer: Lord, thank You for all those in MMM who have recognized the needs of their brothers and sisters, and who show gratitude for Your gift of grace and demonstrate Your love for them through the work they do in Your name. Amen

Wayne Schultz
Volunteer and MMM Board Member, Colorado

Making a Difference

*One thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see.
- John 9:25*



These are the words of a man born blind who Jesus heals in John 9. For the entire chapter there is a huge debate: Was it his sin that caused the blindness? Was it his parents' sin? Religious leaders investigate because it was on the sabbath: Who did this? By what authority? By what power? He can't be from God, someone is lying. All the while the man born blind keeps on saying: "I don't know about all of this, but I was blind, now I see!" Amazingly, the leaders eventually drive him out! His response is: "Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

Now don't get me wrong, I would never say that MMM is Jesus! But this passage came to mind when I read Betty Samelson's quote in the Spring 2023 MMM newsletter. A village headman said after MMM had installed its well: "Since the world has begun, a well has never been put in this village!"

WOW! My first thought was, "That can't be true!" In our country, protected water wells have been a part of our world since the first immigrants touched our shore 400+ years ago. They brought the technology of well building with them. But in that country, in that village, and in that man's life he speaks truth! MMM brought the technology to them. Talk about making a difference: not since the world began!

Marion Medical Mission truly makes life changing, mind blowing, and yes, even never before seen in earth's history! In each village where an MMM well is present, life is certainly healthier, it is easier. They have more time to work their fields, more food, more income, more time for their children to go to school, and every one lives longer because of it. MMM makes a difference. Another lesson to the John 9 story is that without God, MMM could do nothing. We truly believe it and seek to live it in all we do. What we are doing is as basic and life changing as what the blind man said: "I was blind, now I see!" That village was dying with bad water and now they have life giving water! "Glory be to God!"

Application Question: How can I make a difference?

Prayer: Dear God, use me, use my gifts, use my resources and empower my service to make a difference. AMEN

Reverend Marlin Otte
Volunteer and MMM Vice-President, Illinois

Love with Action



Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with action and in truth.

- 1 John 3:18

Each of you should use whatever gift received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various form

- 1 Peter 4:10

There is my heart, and then there is you, and I am not sure there is a difference. Loving someone without knowing how, or when, or from where. Loving you is simply without problem and pride. Marion Medical Mission loves villagers because it is only in this way to show love to the villagers through safe clean water.

With the gifted life that God gifted me I am so happy and proud being part of the team to change people's lives in the rural areas by providing safe clean drinking water through MMM. It was like a dream since people never expected change in their homes, safe clean drinking water which will put their lives on the safer side. It was like a storm which covered them, never finding peace of mind as only open wells were the major source of water and full of contaminants. No hope among people in the village, as children becoming sick, high school drop outs, early marriages, and diseases. Hospitals were crowded due to sickness; infant mortality rate was higher. There was no rest among people in the village because each and every day we could see children dying due to unsafe water.

God indeed loved so the world. Marion Medical Mission is defined as love and blessings to people like us because it makes our lives better and gives meaning to many lives in Africa. With unconditional love from MMM, we are who we are today, and the well program forms one link with friends from the U.S. who come for well installation season. Marion is different from any other organization as it does exceptional work.

Now people in the villages have hope as the awaited rain has come, love from Marion Medical Mission is the only hope for people in the village. If we can, let's do it today, and tomorrow shall never be the same.

Application Question: As sons of God, do we really communicate our love through touch or action not words?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, By the power of the holy ghost, I cast all unclean spirit to the lake of fire. I cancelled all the curses and evil from my life and I return all evil intentions and curses back to the originator ten-fold. Cover me, heavenly Father, from wickedness and evilness. In the name our lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

Happy Kamsonga
MMM Field Officer, Malawi

Asking for Help



*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

Walking to a new well is obviously a group activity. This group includes our installation crew, a builder (who thankfully knows where the well is located), a Field Officer, one or two American volunteers, exuberant villagers, and giggling curious children. Without this blessed group of experienced Africans, all of the volunteers from the USA would be hopelessly lost! Often when I'm driving, I count my blessings that I am not in the bush without someone to tell me on which goat path to drive!

It was a typical day of well installations. We arrived at the vicinity of our next well and everyone exited the truck, gathered and double-checked all the well parts and took off down another dusty pathway. For some reason, I stayed a little longer at the truck and when I looked up – everyone was out of sight. I gathered my hat, my water bottle, the laptop, the truck key, and started down the unusually quiet path. Suddenly I found myself at the point where the path became two paths – one to the right, and one to the left. No problem – I thought – I can find our team by following the sound of the celebratory singing. I paused – I listened – I heard nothing. Venturing off alone was not an option especially since I was the one with the truck key.

Again, listening for and hearing no familiar well installation noises, I decided it was a good time to ask the Lord for some help. Leaning on my own understanding was definitely not working. As I opened my eyes, I looked down again at both paths, and studied the footprints in the dirt. In the left pathway, I saw the definite outline of a Nike tennis shoe that was nearly covered over by little children's bare feet. I knew that the barely visible shoeprint was indeed my partner's shoe and the left pathway was my answered prayer. I followed the path until I finally found our team surrounded by large banana trees that had obscured my view and had muffled the happy sounds of this village. Thank you Lord for showing me the way...again.

Ulemu Kwa Mulungu - Glory to God!

Application Question: Why do we often call on God for answers to problems only when we are in trouble?

Prayer: Forgive us Lord when we try to figure out the answers to problems without Your guidance. Thank You for giving us answers to situations even when we don't turn to You first. Amen

Jan Van Heiningen
Volunteer, Georgia

Woman at the Well



*Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."
- John 4:13-14*

Jacob's well had been there for a very long time, "since the beginning of time." It still provides clean water today. The "woman at the well" came in the heat of the day. She did not come in the morning when most women would come with their family and friends. I imagine it would sound a lot like the women in Malawi, singing, talking, laughing. But at noon it would be very quiet. The woman would be there alone.

My ladies' group has been studying *Jesus and Women* by Kristi McLelland. It discusses how women in Jesus's time were low in society, even talking to a rabbi was not acceptable. The Samaritan, a divorced woman, was the lowest of the low. But Jesus loved and respected her. Jesus lifted her from shame to honor. She was to be the first person that Jesus explicitly told that He was the Messiah, the Christ. She became a witness to her community. "Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in Him because of the woman's testimony" (John 4:39).

"He reached out with radical kindness and grace and in so doing, He changed her life" (McLelland).

He wants us to do the same. Reaching out not only to lowest of the low but reaching out to those who may make us uncomfortable. Those who are of different color, ideas, abilities, interest, religion.... (you get the idea). Reach out to them to show kindness and to share the gospel.

Application Questions: Today, how can you show kindness and grace to one who may be "different"? How can you follow John 4:39 and use your testimony to help others believe in Him?

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, help me be Your hands and feet. Please, help me see how you see those You love and share Your truth with them. Thank You for the love and grace that You have shown me. Amen

Pick Up Your Mat and Walk



*After this Jesus went to Jerusalem for a religious festival.
Near the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem was a pool with five porches;
in Hebrew it is called Bethzatha.*

*A large crowd of sick people were lying on the porches -the blind,
the lame, and the paralyzed.*

*A man was there who had been sick for such a long time;
so he asked him, do you want to get well?*

*The sick man answered, "Sir, I don't have any one herewith to put
me in the pool when the water is stirred up;
while I am trying to get in, somebody else gets there first."*

Jesus said to him, "Get up, pick your mat, and walk."

*Immediately the man got well;
he picked up his mat and started walking.*

- John 5:1-8

In life we at times believe nothing can better our lives, we believe we are poverty-stricken for life. There are communities that need safe drinking water but they don't have the where abouts; who does what at an appointed time. For 38 solid years, this man was lying on the porches, when asked if he wants to get well, he expressed ignorance.

People need safe drinking water and know that MMM through its African partners render the service, but they aren't requesting. We need to explain to them, thereafter ask them if they need the well.

Tell them to take a step and move.

Application Question: How can we encourage others?

Prayer: Lord, help us encourage one another to pick up our mats and walk. No situation is permanent. Amen

Isaac Tindi
MMM Field Officer, Zambia

I Am Because We Are



*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 4:13*

I have learned much about the essence of being human through Tom and Jocelyn Logan. The wells installed by MMM have enabled over five million villagers to have safe drinking water. Only a small number of them have ever had safe drinking water, “since the beginning of mankind,” according to one of the village elders my wife, Susie, and I met in Malawi in 2016.

The wells belong to the villagers; we were only there to assist. Only together, Africans and Americans, were we able to be who God created us to be. Only together did safe drinking water become available to thousands of villagers. Together, people of color and white people actualized a dream, became friends and established relationships, and served one another. Together, we sang songs and praised God for His goodness. The verses to one song are, “Who will enter into Heaven? Our Father is there. Only the holy will enter. You are holy. Enter into Heaven. Our Father is there.” Susie and I felt we had entered into Heaven for those moments of the song. Gestures of love from God’s children are powerful. The people of Malawi have such open and warm hearts.

Our experience in Malawi illustrates how people who are different can effectively come together and achieve a dream. In the United States the “American Dream” is at stake. The only way people of color and white people can actualize that dream is to become friends, establish relationships, and work together, as we did in Africa. The time for such an encounter is now; it is long past due. And, if we do not succeed today, what kind of world will our children and grandchildren inhabit tomorrow?

Application Questions: How will I reach out to build relationships with people who are different from me? How can I demonstrate Ubuntu?

Prayer: Ubuntu; I am who I am because of who we all are. Many of us know very little about people who are different. Only through relationship building can we learn who we all are and, as a consequence, learn who each one of us are. I am because we are. Amen

Dan Selock
Volunteer, Illinois
(adapted from an article written for *The Table Setters*)

Our Impact

*Owe no one anything except to love one another.
Love does no harm to a neighbor.
- Romans 13:8,10*



A friend recently read this devotional from *Moments With God* by David Jeremiah.

“A young, deaf girl in Tanzania heard about Jesus and the Good News of the Gospel from a church planting team visiting her school. Because she accepted Christ, her Muslim family rejected her and kicked her out of her home. A deaf church responded to her need and cared for her. They also helped her family by paying the medical expenses when her father became ill. Because of the love of the church and the testimony of his daughter, the father also came to Christ. The testimony from one team of church planters changed the life of this young girl. The sacrificial giving of one church changed the life of the father. and who knows how many lives will ultimately be changed – one life at a time – from the testimony of their lives.”

This story particularly struck me, not just because I served in Tanzania last well season, but more importantly, it illustrates the potential that MMM has every time we install a well in an African village. The words we speak to the villagers – that the well is being provided through the love of Jesus Christ – sends a message that Christ loves them. Our demonstration of sacrifice as it relates to our time and comforts shows our personal love to the villagers. “We may never know how God will use our witness in the lives of people we encounter or in their response to the Gospel. But we know that when we walk with Him, obey His word, and follow His will, He will use our words and actions to draw people to Himself” (*Moments with God*).

We are so blessed to have this opportunity to impact the lives of thousands of villagers through the gift of clean water, but we may never witness or know the many other blessings and impacts these acts of kindness will have on each person in each village. Praise God for this opportunity to serve him and have an impact on others.

Application: As you go about your day, look for a way to impact the life of one person for Christ.

Prayer: Gracious God, help us to show your love through our words, actions and deeds today as we visit each well to perform Your work. Amen

Slade Exley
Volunteer, Mississippi

So Many Blessings



*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing
in the heavenly places
- Ephesians 1:3*

My trip was shortened by two weeks last year. So, instead of sadness at not being at the wells, sharing the first sight of clear protected water with the villagers, I decided to count my blessings.

- The man walking in the road as we drove by, yelling out “God bless you.”
- The women at a well singing a new song I’d never heard in the 13 years I’ve come to Malawi, “May God bless you with wisdom to take care of others, so we have peace within our community.”
- The end of an installation when the headman gave us blessings, “For you, your family, and your country.”
- The man who said, “Since the world has begun, a well has never been put in this village.”
- An elder who followed us to two wells that were within walking distance. As we left the village each time, he caught our attention and said, “God must love you.”
- The large village with so many happy dancing women and children.
- Bringing water to hundreds of people.
- One young women who caught the attention of both my partner and me. Neither of us had ever seen a reaction like hers – not just total surprise and awe at the pristine water gushing from the pipe, it was bewilderment, almost as if we had pulled a rabbit out of our hats.
- And a t-shirt that read, “Life is simple. Are you happy? If yes, keep going. If no, change something.”

My trip was shortened but filled with so many blessings.

Application Questions: What blessings have you experienced? How will you share your blessings with others?

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank You for the blessings that You have shown me. Help me to remember to count these blessings every day. We pray in Your name. Amen

Betty Samelson
Volunteer and MMM Board Member, Colorado
(adapted from the Spring 2023 MMM Newsletter)

Find Grace to Help



*Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace,
that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

- Hebrews 4:16

I became aware of MMM best through friends from our church making a mission trip to Malawi in 2017. The more I learned, the more special this whole mission appeared. Just the way it got started is interesting and meaningful. To correct the source of something wrong: the lack of good drinking water.

Then their Malawi trip was shared and it clearly showed people in need. The time was now – “In time of need.” So the next year I applied and did the process with interview, vaccinations, supplies, and prayer. Church and family were a support. It was a great experience to see the process of getting protected wells to these needy villages. Somehow I couldn’t quite believe how those folks were living with the little spots of water, not cleaned, shared by cattle and all. So the need!

For me it was kind of fun to drive one of those Toyota pickups, having grown up on a farm with uneven land and all. But being in Zambia it seemed mostly less hilly – God making it easier on my near 80-year-old body. There was mercy and grace from God to do this help.

But another part of this was seeing the native Africans at work; they knew just what to do and I learned that my duty there was not really digging wells, or even doing the well installation, but being a connection of Christians from America with those needy people in remote villages. And then they could continue to do installations during the pandemic which is significant to the operation. It reminds me of giving one a fish is food for a day, but teaching one to fish is good for life. In thinking about it some more, they are probably more efficient driving, knowing the territory, and if nothing else not so crowded in the pickup cab with one less person!

The need continues for some outside support, especially for purchasing certain things for the wells, as well as supporting the local workers. Those workers are well trained and devoted to the task.

Application Question: How might I find the grace to help others?

Prayer: Lord, we pray for mercy and grace for the local workers and for support for the mission; may it continue to grow. Amen

Wayne Peterson
Volunteer, Illinois

Sheep and Goats



He will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

- Matthew 25:32-33

As Jesus tells us, the sheep and the goats are separated not on the basis of their goodness or badness but based on what they did or did not do. They were separated by who had fed the hungry, who had given the thirsty something to drink, who had clothed the naked, who had cared for the sick and visited those in prison.

The cost of a well for an entire village is \$450. This is a higher quality and better well, than the one we built in the 1990s for \$500 (think about that for a moment).

A Marion Medical Mission well represents self-help. The villagers do what they can. They make the brick, and provide the stone, sand, and unskilled labor. A Marion Medical Mission well is one that uses the talents of the Africans. A Marion Medical Mission well is one the extreme rural poor know how to maintain and one they can afford to maintain. The impact of this self-help 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.

We want to follow Jesus; we want our Master Christ to live in us. Yet, we want to do it in a rational, logical, reasonable way where everything is in its proper place and order. The two don't readily mix; they don't completely match; the two don't and won't always work together and when they don't, that's when the Master's light shines brightest. And we need to make sure we let it shine.

- Forgive us...for choosing ourselves over others. For prioritizing the rich over the poor...For trusting in the sword more than the cross...For creating a world where so many have so little...and so few have so much. For building prisons rather than schools and building walls instead of bridges. For forgetting the most vulnerable...
- Deliver us O God from...the myth of redemptive violence... The seduction of wealth...The cancer of hatred...The violence of our silence...The ghettos of poverty...And the ghettos of wealth...
- Give us fresh dreams...of your upside down kingdom where the last are first and the first are last...Where the poor are blessed and the peacemakers are the children of God. Where we study war no more...
- Make this a land of love...with a love that does not stop at borders and no wall can hold back.
- I pray all this in the name of the God...who welcomes us all...(Shane Claiborne)



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