

MARION MEDICAL MISSION

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In this issue...

A UNIQUE FUNDRAISER A LEGACY OF LOVE



Cover photo credit:
Snow on the Road

1412 Shawnee Drive
Marion, IL 62959

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

Phone: 618-997-5365
Email: info@mmmwater.org



For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. Ephesians 2:10

I wear a safety pin with colored beads...my effort to let folks know they are safe with me regardless. On the window of my car is a picture of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, and this quote: "I've decided to stick with love, hate is too great a burden to bear." Some folks, when they see it, give me the thumbs up. I don't recall getting a negative and it's been on my car for years. When I go through the drive through at a fast-food restaurant to pay or pick up my food, I look to see if they check out the picture. If they do, I ask if they like it. They always say, "yes", usually enthusiastically. I then tell them I took the picture of Rev. King in Selma in 1965, a week after Bloody Sunday. One young lady's response: "You are really old." Yes, I guess I am. How in the world did that happen... how have I lived so long?

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

Tony Campolo has said: "Too often we tiptoe through life, so we can arrive at death safely."

These are troubled times, difficult times. People are more divided, separate, apart than we have been for many years. We seem to be drifting back to a place we must not go. The light that shines through Marion Medical Mission is so desperately needed... especially now.

Marion Medical Mission's story is one that defies the logic of the secular world. It is the story of Jesus. It's His story. The funds we receive are sacred. They are holy and belong to Jesus.

People tell me, the experts tell me, "You can't build a well 8,500 miles away in rural African villages for \$450. It would cost at least 5 times as much. What you are talking about is impossible." I agree. It's impossible.

There are NGOs that do great work, and at times in remote areas. But not tens of thousands of wells. Not with this efficiency. Not with a system where the extreme poor know how to maintain the wells. A well the extreme poor can afford to maintain. A system where we know where the wells have been built. A system that verifies the functionality yearly. A system where a new well is built for an entire village for \$450. 100% of all donations go to their designated purposes. No overhead deducted from the US side unless so designated by the donor. 100% of all undesignated donations go to the mission field in Africa. How can we do this? It is a God thing.

Last year, construction started on September 1st, and by December 31st Marion Medical Mission had built 3,413 wells covering 60,000 square miles in Malawi, Zambia, and Tanzania. These wells provide 315,120 of the extreme rural poor with a sustainable source of safe drinking water. MMM has built 45,000 wells over the last 36 years providing an estimated 5 million people with safe drinking water.

2022 is going to be a great year! Join us! Only together can we be who God created us to be. When we pray, we move our feet!

A Unique Fundraiser

By: Dr. David Quam
Chemistry and Physics Teacher, Nicolet High School

I first donated to Marion Medical Mission well over a decade ago. My church had an alternative Christmas market. I read the description of the MMM's mission, and it really struck me. I understood the impact clean water had on disease prevention and how impactful that could be. What I didn't realize was the lost opportunities for education children, especially girls, have when they have to spend so much of their time walking to get water. As a teacher I know how much of a lifelong impact an education has on people's lives. The lack of education can lead to more poverty for future generations.



One of the biggest things that attracted me to MMM's well program was its long term effects. It is solving problems well into the future. Clean water reduces diseases and therefore makes people more productive, healthy, and happy. Allowing girls to get an education lifts them and their future families up. I like being involved with something that has a long lasting effect in helping people.

I also liked how committed the organization is to getting the donations to the places of need. There is very low overhead so the money you donate goes to the building of wells. I also like that the people where the wells are built are taught how to maintain the wells so it provides jobs and keeps the wells working.

Given all of these reasons when I had to do a service project for my Black Belt test, this was the first thing that popped into my mind.

I started taking Taekwondo about four and a half years ago. It was at a really tough time in my life, and I felt like I needed a mental and physical challenge. I needed to try to accomplish something that was difficult to accomplish. I had been interested in martial arts before but had never done it. Events seemed to keep placing this idea in front of me so despite some hesitancy I signed up. I found a truly, truly wonderful and committed staff at JK Lee. They were so supportive, helpful, and motivating. Over the four plus years I passed ten different belt tests to become a black belt. I made a lot of new friends, got more fit and flexible, and gained confidence. It was hard, but it was also what I needed.





LEGACY *of* LOVE

January 29, 2020 was the day our mother, Jean Puryear Dennis moved into the face-to-face with her Lord seeing everything clearly and claiming the promise that love really is the only thing that lasts forever. Jean moved in the background of most things that she was interested in. She supported her husband, Brown Dennis, and all of his activities, but she had gigs of her own that included helping at a baby clinic and starting a homeless shelter at Central Presbyterian Church.

She helped start a second homeless shelter at First Presbyterian Church when she and her husband moved there to worship. Mom was an encourager of people to become involved in the lives of other people. She sought to do the most-good with her financial resources. The first ten percent went to a tithe, and then with the remainder of it, she sought to do the most-good that she could. Mom realized that her remaining 90% was to take care of folks whose 90% was not enough.

My father, Brown W. Dennis, was always interested in medical missionary work and was the physician for all missionaries for the Presbyterian Church, USA going and coming from their posts. It rubbed off on Mom, and she found that clean water was a unique way in which she could benefit people for generations after by helping to provide clean drinking water. Mother dug wells with her giving, not with her actual labor, as in later years she was afflicted with arthritis and other conditions that did not let her be as mobile as she wanted to be. She never complained about her physical limitations. Jean believed in the “living water” that Christ spoke of and that by providing life giving clean water for the physical body, she would help nourish the spiritual body. She never went to Africa nor saw anything other than pictures of the wells and towns where she did so much good. She dug wells in places that she had never heard of for people that she would never meet, people that she had never met and people who she would probably never see.

When she died, 17 wells were given in her honor. She never asked for nor sought any credit for her efforts. She sought only to do the work that Christ had laid before her.

Peace and Love,
Julie Dennis Maxwell
Margaret Dennis Hoch
Brown W. Dennis, Jr.



VISION STATEMENT

By Rev. Marlin Otto
Vice-President, MMM Board of Directors

*WE SEEK TO SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST WITH THE
EXTREME POOR IN AFRICA BY PROVIDING A
SUSTAINABLE SOURCE OF SAFE DRINKING WATER.*

This is the first of a series of articles trying to share how MMM differs from other water programs. Let's begin by looking closer at the MMM Vision Statement.

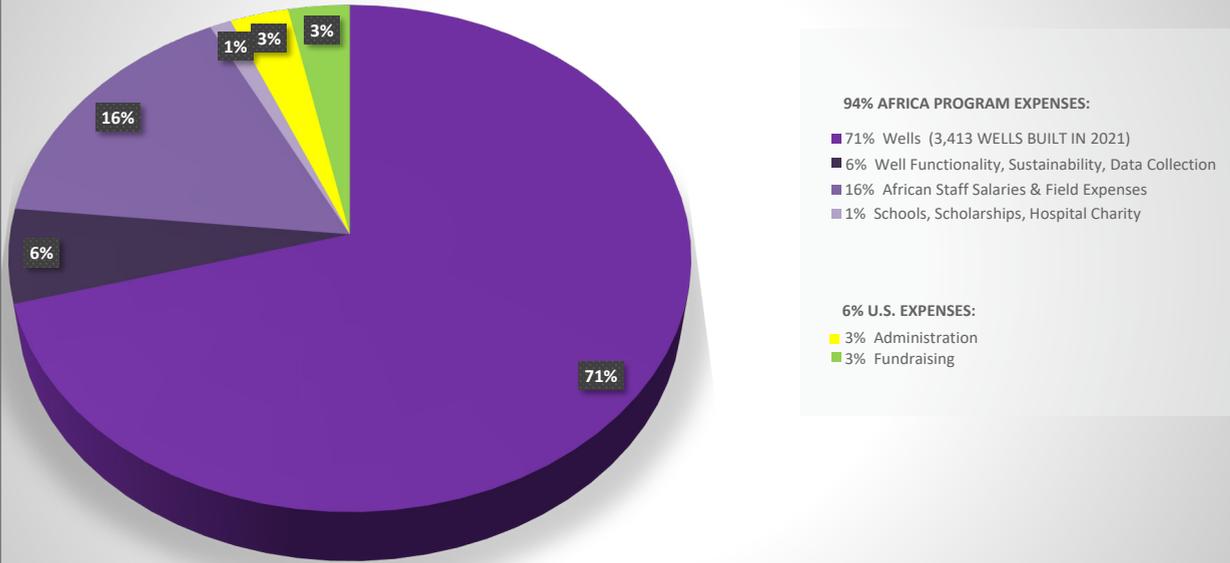
“We seek to share the love of Christ.” We are an unabashedly Christian organization. MMM takes seriously our Christian principles and seeks to proclaim them in all our words and actions. We value all of our Church Partners: The Church of Central Africa Presbyterian in Malawi and Zambia and The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. The best testimony to this commitment is indicated by the words inscribed in the cement on the top of all our wells: **“Glory be to God”** in English and the native language. Every well, every bucket of water, every person who draws water, testifies that this work was done in God's name and to God's glory, not to glorify ourselves.

MMM is not evangelistic in that we personally seek converts to the Christian faith; we leave that work to our church partners. But we are sharing the love of Christ through the life-giving gift of a **sustainable source of clean, safe drinking water** to those who are thirsty. As Jesus said, “I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. . . . When you have done it for the least of these, you have done it for me.” Through our personal testimony, attitude and example we are following Christ's example. We show generous Christian love by building the wells in any and all villages that are in need of clean water and are willing to work with our program. Regardless of their personal beliefs or community religion; we simply ask “Are you thirsty?”, “Do you need safe water?” Christ fed the hungry 5,000 without checking credentials or making an altar call. We at MMM view ourselves as Christ-like servants and instruments of God's grace.

Stewardship is a very important part of Marion Medical Mission.
We conscientiously spend every dollar as designated by the donor.



2021 Marion Medical Mission Expenses



100% of designated donations go directly to their designated purpose. 100% of undesignated donations go directly to the mission field in Africa.

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

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



How did you hear about MMM?

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

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

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

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Marion Medical Mission

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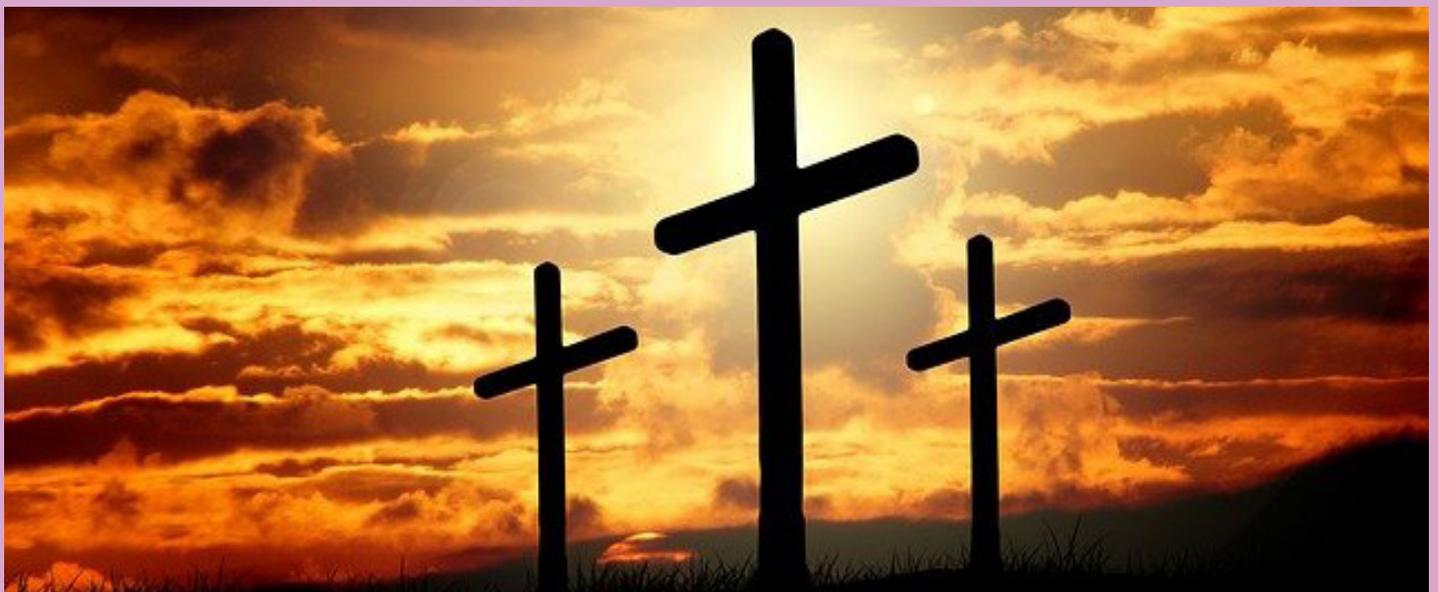


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EASTER GREETINGS

in the name of the One we seek to follow



“He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.”

Matthew 28:6