



WATER WELLS

WATER WELL PROPOSAL: To help bring life to others through providing fresh, clean, drinking water for remote villages in Western Zambia where waterborne illnesses are a major contributory factor to death, especially children younger than five years old.





THANK YOU

Thank you so much for your interest in giving financially towards our **Water Wells Project**. We trust that this proposal will provide you with the necessary information you may need.

PROJECT BACKGROUND AND VISION

The Zambia Project was started in 2003 when Paul and Marinette van Coller moved from Cape Town to Mongu, the main center in Western Zambia, to reach the people with a message of hope, truth and love. Our vision is to see every community in the Western Province of Zambia uplifted through strong Christ-centered churches and to have a church within walking distance (one hour each way) of each person in this province. We aim to uplift the rural communities we work with by improving their lives. Starting with their primary needs, such as water, will be a huge step towards this goal.

The **Water Wells Project** started in 2009. To date, we have established 50 wells that provide safe and clean drinking water to roughly 50 000 people. The area is vast and roughly a million people are spread out in small villages in about 250 000 square kilometers. About 12 000 more water wells are needed to achieve our vision for every person in Western Zambia to have access to safe drinking water! The task is enormous and we will appreciate your assistance.

THE NEED

One of the major challenges the people in Western Zambia face is the lack of a good, clean water source. Without clean, safe drinking water, problems such as diseases, dehydration and premature death constantly plague the people.

Babies and children are especially vulnerable. Thousands of mothers make a daily choice to watch their children die of dehydration or give them water that is polluted and full of deadly bacteria.

Contaminated water causes 80% of all sickness and disease, and kills more people every year than all forms of violence, including war.





During the dry months, many communities are forced to walk for up to four hours to access water, and even then the water they access is unclear. Young children are often responsible for collecting the family's water. Collecting water is not only physically stressful, but extremely time consuming. One of the most serious effects is that the children are often not able to attend school.

HOW WE ESTABLISH A WATER WELL

A research team usually starts by establishing a relationship with the village elders. Then the work begins. We use a drill rig to drill a borehole to a depth that will sustain the community throughout the year, and then cast a concrete slab to seal it. We install a MKII hand pump on top of the slab to ensure that the well does not silt up or get contaminated.

The well installation is done using labor from our team together with the community. By participating in and becoming part of the process, the community learns to understand the benefits of a clean water source and the need to maintain it. This is a foreign concept for many who have only ever lived a meager existence. These rural communities are exposed to nature and the seasonal devastations or blessings that it brings.



In our area of focus, 3 out of 5 children die before their 5th birthday! A major contributing factor is lack of access to clean and safe drinking water.





WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE WELL IS BUILT?

The positive change in the communities is phenomenal and so encouraging. The delight on the people's faces, especially those of the children, as they drink water without having to spit out soil or other particles is a joy that is difficult to express. Where there was once the stress of no guarantee in drinking water, there is a sudden change – their lives improve dramatically as their health improves steadily. The daily drudge of always looking for water is now dealt with – mothers can feed their babies, and children can attend school and concentrate. Once communities have a reliable water source other possibilities become available, such as growing vegetables, planting fruit trees and better personal hygiene.

The local community assists in the well building process and carries out small tasks for no remuneration to reduce labor costs. This encourages community participation and ensures ownership after the well is complete. Each community forms a water committee. These committees are educated about the importance of hand washing and proper sanitation and are responsible for ensuring that the well stays clean and maintained.

WATER CHANGES EVERYTHING!

COST

The average cost of each well is approximately US\$4 000. This might seem a lot of money, but it is a small price to pay when we see the hope that it brings to people. Each well provides water for an average of 1 000 people. This means that a child can receive a lifetime of clean water for as little as US\$4!

Please contact us if you would like any further information.

Warmest regards

Paul & Marinette van Coller

www.thezambiaproject.org
hello@thezambiaproject.org



TheZambiaProject

