



Hunger News & Hope

...a Seeds of Hope publication

From Water Crisis to Water Justice

This issue of *Hunger News & Hope* is sponsored by the Alliance of Baptists. Since the Alliance has emphasized Creation Care this year, the HNH editorial team wanted to choose a theme for the issue that was in keeping with that emphasis. We discovered that we haven't published a "water issue" since 2009. So we began gathering information and writing stories until we discovered that our normal 12-page summer issue would not hold the half of it. We decided to expand this special report on water justice to 16 pages, and we still had to leave some good information out.

Maude Barlow, the former Senior Advisor on Water for the United Nations, is quoted in the documentary *Bottled Life* (see page 15) as saying, "The water crisis is perhaps the most urgent ecological and human threat of our time. And, more children die every year in our world of water than HIV/AIDS, traffic accidents and war combined."

We have watched as citizens of Flint, MI, brought out bottles of brown, toxic water to show their municipal and state leaders that their tap water was poisoned with lead and other contaminants. We have followed the saga of Cape Town, South Africa, as that great city came so very close to running completely out of water. We have watched documentaries of women and girls walking for hours and hours every day to get water for their families—water that may not even be safe. We have watched while powerful companies divert safe drinking water from local populations in order to make huge profits—and while governments endanger their people (always poor people) by cutting corners.

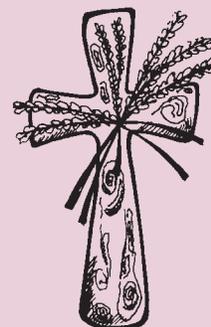
Our planet is on the brink of a catastrophic water shortage. Scientists have told us for decades that this was coming, but few of us have listened. People have to have clean, safe water to live—and many of them don't.

But there is something we can do. Read on. You will learn of many injustices and dire situations, but you will also learn of a myriad of ways you can help become part of the solution. —lkc



What You'll Find Inside:

- 2 *Special Report:*
Water Issues at Home & Abroad
- 6 The Flint Water Crisis:
Is It Over Yet?
- 8 10 Things You Can Do
to Conserve Water
- 9 Bittersweet:
*Nestlé Battles Local Groups
on Water Rights*
- 10 Water in the Desert
- 11 Cape Town:
Countdown to Day Zero
- 12 Innovations in Water
Technology
- 15 Water Justice Resources
- 16 Quotes, Poems
& Pithy Sayings



Cover art: *Earth Justice* by Sally Lynn Askins;
Cross & Wheat logo by Erin Kennedy Mayer.

Special Report:

Water Issues at Home & Abroad

by Linda Freeto

“Water, water everywhere – and not a drop to drink.”
—from *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*
by Samuel Taylor Coleridge

The sun’s rays flow across the eastern sky as morning begins. You roll out of bed. Thinking about a warm, clean shower is not the first thing on your mind. You are focused on all the things that need to be done. You reach into the shower and turn the shower tap on. Something is wrong. The smell is sulphuric. You quickly pull your hand out. It is covered with brown water running down your arm.

As you hurry to turn the water off, you can hear excitement outside. Something has happened to the water system. You run to the front door, thinking maybe the water line has broken; or maybe the city water department is working on a line and contaminated water is seeping into the main water line.

There must be an explanation, and surely it can be fixed quickly—right?

As other people look out of their front doors and walk out into their yards, looking for the same broken line, you realize that their water is also dirty and smelly. The community water is contaminated and unsafe. But this doesn’t happen in the United States!

AND YET...

In March 2016, the city of Flint, MI, experienced a real water crisis. Flint was faced with budget cuts, and the city officials decided to switch their drinking water source from Lake Huron water to the Flint River, which resulted in a serious lead contamination issue—the worst in the history of the city.¹

On May 3, 2016 in Geneva, United Nations experts called for immediate action to address the contamination of Flint’s water supply and the devastating consequences for its residents:

The Flint case dramatically illustrates the suffering and difficulties that flow from failing to recognize that water is a human right, from failing to ensure that essential services are provided in a non-discriminatory manner, and from treating those who live in poverty in ways that exacerbate their plight.²

United Nations experts also claim that there could be permanent impairment in the health of thousands of people, particularly children, and they said the psychological impact of the crisis has been severe.³

Today, Flint health officials confirm that 91 cases of Legionnaire’s disease, including 12 deaths, were linked to this contamination. Fertility rates have decreased by 12 percent. Fetal death rates have increased by 58 percent. In addition, health officials report incidents of severe damage to the brain and nervous systems of children.⁴

Claire McClinton, of the Flint Democracy Defense League, stated:

We have been very distressed with the response of the federal government and the state especially



photo courtesy of Watering Malawi

... every time they hear of the slightest improvement in the lead levels they almost declare that the crisis is over.⁵

The Flint water crisis is far from being over. [See “The Flint Water Crisis: Is It Over Yet?” on page 6.]

People in the United States believe all their water is safe and clean, that only other countries lack safe water. But this is not true. The United States is coming closer and closer to the dangerous edge of either contamination or loss of access to clean drinking water.

“Public water supplies in 42 US states are contaminated with 141 unregulated chemicals for which the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has never established safety standards,” according to the Environmental Working Group (EWG).⁶

EWG continues, “Another 119 regulated chemicals—a total of 260 contaminants—were found by the environmental group in a two-and-a-half-year analysis of more than 22 million tap water quality tests.”

After decades of neglect, US cities are quickly becoming aware that replacing obsolete water systems is going to cost billions of dollars and that cost is rising with every year that passes.

As construction projects are pushing forward, some cities are finding wooden water pipes that were laid down in the 1800’s. In New York City, construction workers are finding pipes that were put down in 1917 and 1936.⁷

According to *US News & World Report*, the American Water Works Association (AWWA) reported that “the cost of fixing just the immediate, present dangerous condition of lead pipes (in the US) could be in the range of \$30 billion nationally.”⁸ And, according to the Associated General Contractors of America (AGCA), “our nation faces between \$400 and \$600 billion in costs over the next 20 years for safe drinking water and wastewater treatment systems.”⁹

Water systems cannot be neglected forever. Someone will have to pay for that neglect. To continue overlooking the water issue is to especially neglect children, pregnant women, and the elderly. Can we afford to allow water infrastructures remain unchanged?

Water resources are critically impacting the lives of people not only in the United States, but all around the world.

Afghanistan: “Only 13 percent of the country has clean, safe drinking water readily available.”¹⁰ There are places in Afghanistan that physically do not have

water sources of any kind. For instance, Faryab Province is one of 34 provinces of Afghanistan. The province is in the northern part of the country, and its population is approximately 948,000 people.¹¹

The Faryab Province government has dug wells throughout the province where people get their water. However, the water is contaminated with bacteria. Even so, women and girls gather the water to use in cooking and washing their clothes and bodies, which spreads the bacteria from one person to another. When the wells are dry during parts of the year, women and girls can walk up to six hours a day gathering water from streams, rivers and unprotected springs. These water sources are often contaminated also.

Ethiopia: The country of Ethiopia continues to struggle with poverty and unclean water supplies. It is estimated that the population of Ethiopia is 82 million people. According to World Water Day, 42 percent of Ethiopians have access to clean water and 11 percent of the population has improved sanitation.¹² That leaves 58 percent without clean water and 89 percent without improved sanitation. This causes major health problems for those who live there.

Women and children are responsible for gathering water for washing, cooking and drinking. Again, in most cases, women and children walk up to six hours a day to reach any form of water supply, often including contaminated water.

Chad: Chad, located in the Horn of Africa, continues to have extreme food and water shortages, causing huge numbers of malnutrition and death.¹³ The communities of Chad obviously have a great need for clean, safe water. The poor communities that surround N’Djamena, the capital of Chad, do not receive clean water through the city’s water utility grids.¹⁴

Correspondent Guy Hubbard from the United Nations Children’s Agency (UNICEF) talked with Ms. Adoum, a resident, about the water shortage. Ms. Adoum explained that she would buy two jerry cans (steel gas cans) of water every week, but it was not enough for her family.

It was so expensive,” she said, “that we couldn’t buy enough water for everything, so we would just buy one or two jerry cans for drinking and cooking. But for the other things, like washing, we would use dirty water, and there was a lot of disease and a lot of diarrhea in the children.”¹⁵

UNICEF was given the opportunity to partner with Secours Islamique France to provide these communities with clean water delivery systems.

continued on page 4

Ms. Adoum and her family now live across the street from one of the water points.

“Before, it was so expensive to buy water,” Ms. Adoum says. “But now, since this was installed, my daughter, my grandchildren and I go to collect water whenever we want. It is so much better for us.”¹⁶

Clean, safe water changes lives.

Cambodia: According to UNICEF, 84 percent of the Cambodian population does not have access to clean, safe water.¹⁷ Contamination of the world’s water supply causes many water-born illnesses and death. It is known by many community workers that access to clean, safe water is essential to improve health issues for not only the Cambodian people but for the entire world.

According to the 2010 Cambodian Demographic and Health Survey “only 25 percent of Cambodia’s rural population has access to sanitation, while only 5 percent have access to improved sources of drinking water.”¹⁸

However, the good news from the Demographic and Health Survey is that 66 percent of primary schools have access to improved resources of drinking water and 79 percent to improved sanitation facilities.

In the past several years, the Cambodian government has prioritized the needs of the poor communities; but the needs of women and children are low priorities. Physical infrastructure is at the top.

Haiti: Water.org reports that one in five people in Haiti lacks access to a sanitary toilet and half of the population lack access to clean water.

To this day, Haiti struggles to recover from the 2010 Magnitude 7 earthquake that killed an estimated 316,000 people, devastating buildings and residences in and around the city of Port-au-Prince.¹⁹ Being a water-stressed area, finding clean water resources in Haiti has always been a challenge.

However, for some, help has reached Haiti.

Jean Michel lives near the town of Les Cayes, in the south of Haiti. He and his family used to bathe in the local river. “You clean yourself in the water that everyone uses. Anything can happen,” he says. A World Bank-funded program gave him access to clean water in his own home, and he has seen considerable improvement in his life, starting with the fact that, his skin “doesn’t itch anymore.”²⁰

The challenges Haiti faces every day are softened a little by the help that comes from The World Bank, UNICEF, and many other sources.

Puerto Rico: Communities can be destroyed by a powerful Category 4 hurricane. Television and computer news reported hourly in the US about what was happening in Puerto Rico as the people began to venture out of their homes. Many of us saw the devastation before our own eyes as 155-mile-per-hour winds and 20 inches of rain hit Puerto Rico.

Each night we saw crops decimated, people roaming the streets because their homes were destroyed or looking for family, but the big news was—no drinking water.

When Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico, it caused major damage to the already fragile water infrastructure. Today, 44 percent of the island is still without safe drinking water. Families are having to depend on bottled water for clean, safe water and are often using unsafe water sources for cleaning, drinking and cooking.

Mayor Carmen Yulin Cruz, of San Juan, Puerto Rico, pleaded for help for her country, stating “the residents are living in near-death conditions.” Months after Hurricane Maria, Mayor Cruz is still asking for help for her country.²¹

Ways Clean Water Changes the World

In researching water issues, I came across the excellent website of The Water Project. The following is from this website and lists ways that clean water changes the world. I was surprised by some of this information and wanted to share it with you.

- Clean water improves water supply, sanitation and hygiene.** The United Nations suggests that each person needs about 5-13 gallons of water a day.
- Clean water reduces death and disease.** Globally diarrhea is the leading cause of illness and death. 30 thousand deaths occur every week from unsafe water and unhygienic living conditions

Transboundary River Basins

Rivers	Length in Miles	Countries
a. Brahmaputra	1,802	India, Bangladesh, China, Bhutan
b. Colorado	1,450	United States and Mexico
c. Danube	1,777	Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova, Ukraine
d. Ganga	1,569	India and Bangladesh

Content sources: transboundary Waters Assessment Program (www.twap-rivers.org); www.unwater.org.

(that's approximately 4,286 deaths each day). Ninety percent of deaths are children under the age of 5 years.

3. **Clean water increases healthy food.** Water for irrigation and food production constitutes one of the greatest pressures on freshwater resources.
4. **Clean water reduces conflict.** The world's 276 Transboundary River Basins set the stage for conflicts over access to water, especially clean water. Of these, 92.7 percent, or 256 out of 276, are shared by two, three or four countries. (See the chart on page 4 for examples of Transboundary River Basins.)
5. **Clean water enhances Gender Equality.** In Africa, 90 percent of the work gathering water and wood is done by women. Women and girls often spend up to six hours every day fetching water. This amounts to 40 billion hours spent each year walking for water in Africa alone.
6. **Clean water increases school attendance.** Many students' academic performance and attendance rate suffer because they must fetch water, care for sick parents and siblings, or suffer from hunger or a water-related disease themselves.
7. **Clean water improves impoverished communities.** Women who no longer spend hours each day fetching water can spend time working or growing food for their families.
8. **Clean water reduces pollution.** Today, up to 90 percent of wastewater in developing countries flows untreated into rivers, lakes and highly productive coastal zones, threatening health, food security and access to safe drinking and bathing water.
9. **Clean water protects biodiversity.** Freshwater holds more than 10 percent of all life on the planet, 35 percent of all vertebrates (for example: fish, birds, crocodiles and humans having a backbone or spinal column) and supports all terrestrial biodiversity (variation of life forms within a given ecosystem—for example, protection from the sun's harmful ultra-violet light, water cleansing and climate regulation, i.e. the rainforests). Between 1970 and 2000, the populations of freshwater species declined by 55 percent.
10. **Clean water improves climate change impact.** More than 2 billion people have been affected by drought, more than any other physical hazard. Since 1900, more than 11 million people have died because of drought.

destruction of the world's water resources. Whether it is Afghanistan or the United States, our water systems are being contaminated. People everywhere are paying a huge price with their lives as they drink, clean and cook with contaminated water.

If we all do our part by working together, the water crisis that we now face and will continue to face can be resolved. Let us not reach the point where we will mourn, "water, water everywhere—and not a drop to drink."

—Linda Freeto, a frequent contributor to Hunger News & Hope, has received a number of Associated Church Press (ACP) awards for her Special Section reports in the HNH summer issues, including one for in-depth coverage for last year's "Special Report: US Poverty, Food Security and the Federal Budget." A former member of the Seeds Council of Stewards and former volunteer Business Manager, Linda has recently agreed to serve again as a Council Member.

Endnotes

1. *CNBC News*: "America's Water Crisis Goes Beyond Flint, Michigan" by Dina Gusovsky; www.cnbc.com.
2. United Nations Human Rights Report; "Flint: Not Just about Water but Human Rights" by Leo Heller; www.ohchr.org.
3. *Ibid.*
4. *Atlanta Black Star*: "Two Years After the Declaration of a State of Emergency In the Flint Water Crisis Activists Say Many Have Escaped Accountability," by D. Amari Jackson; www.atlantablackstar.com.
5. *Ibid.*

continued on page 7



We are all "citizens" of the world. We can no longer turn our backs and close our eyes to the

The Flint Water Crisis: *Is It Over Yet?*

by Deborah DeMars Conrad

Water, fear and where from here. “Is it over yet?” That’s the question I get most often when folks hear I’m from Flint. Is the water crisis resolved? Is everything okay?

It is not.

By my estimate, about 20 percent of Flint’s pipes have been replaced, but it is hard to find anyone who thinks that will really solve the problem. All the pipes won’t be getting replaced, and it is hard to segregate poisoned water from non-poisoned water.

That thing Dr. Martin Luther King said about “injustice anywhere is injustice everywhere”? It’s the same with water. Plus, we live in a city with too few people for our infrastructure, which means water sits in pipes rather than flowing as it needs to—which means bacteria have a great opportunity to grow.

Water issues here were caused by political misdealings, a power struggle that caught 90,000 people in its claws. The political situation isn’t better; the water isn’t better. We are as unsure as ever about whom to trust.

I realized a couple of years ago that I have had a hard time focusing. My writing isn’t as sharp, my thoughts wander. I pull out my phone to do something, something really important, and I stare at the screen wondering what I was about to do and which app I need to touch.

I leave messages for people and forget why I called them. Forget *that* I called them. It happens more and more.

After 35, it’s easy to chalk these things up to age. Or too much busyness. But I also drank lead-poisoned water for a year before anyone told me it had lead in it. Lead poisoning can, among many other things, make it hard to focus, so even minor symptoms create fear.

In all fairness, I’m sure you asked about the water crisis because you want to help. I appreciate that. In the early days, folks sent money; it was helpful. And we still can use it—now, mostly, to help families avoid a water shut-off.

Because when one family is shut off, the rest of us are at greater risk of a public health crisis.

But lately, besides sending money, it’s hard to imagine what to do. So I keep trying to point to the larger system, the national issue, the global problem.

If you want to talk about this water crisis, talk about public policies, since at least the Reagan administration, that have robbed the public coffers to enrich the private interests.

If you want to talk about this water crisis, talk about how we chose to bail out banks—at a published cost of 700 billion dollars, though investigative reporters tell us it was more like 14.4 *trillion*—rather than to put unemployed people to work rebuilding our infrastructure, like municipal water systems. And consider how those same banks are back to their old ways, aided by a Trumpian Congress, with the likelihood of another crisis on the horizon.

If you want to talk about this water crisis, talk about the ways Michigan depended on the industrial cities to float the state’s budget when the times were good, but then refused to return the favor to the cities when industry went elsewhere. Talk about what “common good” means in your hometown.

If you want to talk about this water crisis, talk about democracy in this country: how we’ve been screwing with voting rights for a very long time, stacking the deck against the poorest and most vulnerable, alienating and incarcerating people of color, depleting the voices of communities in this era as effectively and thoroughly as when we were murdering Native Americans and stealing Africans.

If you want to talk about water, realize it is way bigger than water. And generosity isn’t going to make it better. Like me, the church also has a hard time focusing; the church also is afraid. Our mission, handed down by prophets and poets for thousands of years, is to speak of a new creation; to engage in direct action as Jesus did; to challenge, as Amos did, the way we worship on



Sunday, and then go about our harmful or negligent self-dealings Monday through Saturday.

We forget. We are afraid. Generosity often seems to me like the faith-based equivalent of using leeches as a medical procedure. When our faith-based instinct is to donate things

I realized a couple of years ago that I have had a hard time focusing.... After 35, it's easy to chalk these things up to age. Or too much busy-ness. But I also drank lead-poisoned water for a year before anyone told me it had lead in it.

like water or groceries, we cede the justice call. When we worry about tax-exempt status, we capitulate to empire.

When we focus first on Christian unity, we forget how Jesus warned us that his politics would create division. We end up handing out literal cups of cold water when what we need are new policies, new protocols. Has the church become parasitic, living off a deadly system?

What's the cure for inability to focus, lack of memory? How do we get past the fear?

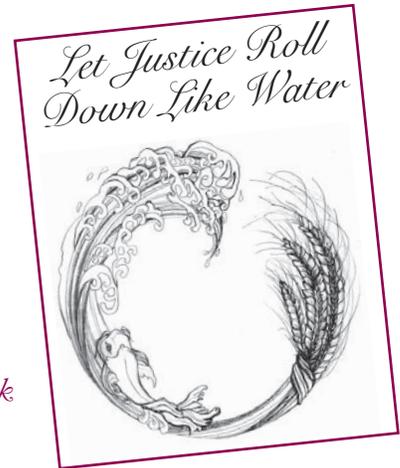
I hope these are the questions that haunt our Bible studies, infuse our worship, guide our public witness.

It's not over yet.

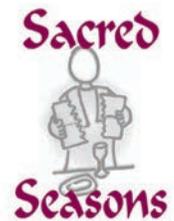
—*Deb Conrad has been Senior Minister of Woodside Church in Flint, MI, since 2014. A native of South Carolina, she has moved around the US in various ministries and has been a pastor since 1988. She is also director of UrbanSpirit, a poverty education center in Louisville, KY, and coordinates a summer mission intern program for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).*

Resources about Water Justice for the Creative Church

Last year's Hunger Emphasis worship packet from Seeds of Hope featured water justice. Email seedseditor1@gmail.com to ask for a free copy.



Sacred Seasons is a series of creative worship tools to help raise awareness of hunger and justice issues. A year's subscription of US\$100 includes Advent/Christmastide, Lent/Eastertide and a fall Hunger Emphasis resource. To order, call 254/755-7745 or e-mail seedseditor1@gmail.com. Single packets are US\$40. (Non-US subscriptions are US\$115; individual packets are US\$50.) For more information, go to www.seedspublishers.org.



Water Issues at Home & Abroad, *continued from page 5*

6. ThoughtCo: "Tap Water in 42 States Contaminated by Chemicals: EWG Tap Water Probe Reveals 141 Unregulated Chemicals Flowing into US Homes," by Larry West; www.thoughtco.com.
7. *US News & World Report*: "A National Water Crisis: Fixing the Water Infrastructure Is One of the Greatest Challenges of Our Time," by Henry Cisneros; www.us.news.com.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
10. "Healthy Drinking Water Availability;" www.nationmaster.com. See also "Afghanistan's Water Crisis;" www.hydratelife.org.
11. Ibid.
12. World Water Day: "10 places most in need of Clean Water;" www.ecorazzi.com.
13. UNICEF: "Chad;" www.unicef.org.
14. Ibid.
15. Ibid.
16. Ibid.
17. UNICEF: "Cambodia;" www.unicef.org.
18. Ibid.
19. The Water Project Organization: "Water in Crisis—Haiti;" <https://thewaterproject.org>.
20. World Bank: "5 Things You Need To Know About Water in Haiti;" www.worldbank.org.
21. Go to <https://thewaterproject.org> for more excellent information about water issues.

10 Things You Can Do to Conserve Water

by Chelle Samaniego

Did you know that the average person uses 80 to 100 gallons of water each day? Just by leaving the water running while brushing your teeth or taking long showers, your everyday life has a significant impact on our Earth's water table.

Here are some simple tips to help easily lower your water consumption.

1. Turn the water off when you brush your teeth. Turn it on only when you need it; turn it off when you don't.
2. Shorten those showers! The average American takes a shower that lasts over eight minutes and uses 17.2 gallons (65.1 liters) of water. Shortening your shower to five minutes would significantly lower your water use. Could you turn off the water while you soap your body and shampoo your hair? Try it! You'll be making an even larger impact on the environment.
3. Want to know the biggest culprit of wasted water in America? It's the toilet! New technology has greatly reduced the amount of water needed to flush our friendly thrones. If possible, replace your out-dated toilet with a new high-efficiency (HET) model. Or you can adhere to the water-conservation saying: "If it's yellow, let it mellow. If it's brown, flush it down."
4. Hand-wash your dishes. Hand washing dishes by filling the sink with water, then turning off the faucet, uses less water than running a cycle of your dishwasher. If you must use your dishwasher—and, let's face it, we love our dishwashers—make sure it's a full load to get the maximum impact of your water consumption.
5. Watch those laundry loads! Like dishwashers, clothes-washing machines use substantial amounts of water to keep our clothes smelling clean and fresh. Make sure you wash only full loads, if possible. And, installing new, high-efficiency appliances will lower the amount of water needed to do their jobs properly.
6. Check those drips! A small drip can easily add up to several gallons of wasted water. Over time, a faucet that drips 60 times per minute will waste 192 gallons (726.8 liters) per month, which amounts to 2,304 gallons (8,721.59 liters) per year. Get drips fixed immediately to prevent unintended wasted resources and added expenses to your pocketbook.
7. Use native landscaping. Having a beautiful yard in the summertime can employ more water than you will use for the entire year. By planting only water-wise, native plants, trees and shrubs, you will use far less water. These plants will survive without the excess water needed for non-native plants to stay alive.
8. Eat less meat. Jaimi Dolmage, in a 2016 article* says

that animal agriculture is one of the most resource-intensive industries on the planet. According to the article,

The average American consumes roughly 54 pounds of beef, 46 pounds of pork and 83 pounds of chicken each year. The water alone that it takes to produce just a pound of each one of these is about 1,799 gallons, 576 gallons and 468 gallons respectively. That's 2,644 gallons of water to produce three pounds of meat! To put this into perspective, it only takes 357 gallons of water to produce three pounds of potatoes.

If one person stopped eating meat, it would save 162,486 gallons of water each year. Read on:

The average human needs to drink approximately 1 gallon of clean water per day to survive. With the global population topping 7 billion people and 2.7 billion of them facing clean water scarcity, just one person's decision to cut out meat could free up the water needed for 445 people.

I know. That's asking a lot. But, if you can't go cold turkey, reducing your meat intake even in the smallest way will help save water.

9. Be a part of the solution. Find out who is fighting for water conservation in your community and join them! It takes a planet to save a planet! Get with like-minded people and be the change we all need.
10. Share these water conservation tips with your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and church folk. In fact, share this issue of *Hunger News & Hope!* Send a link of this latest edition of HNH to everyone on your email list. Let them know they can email us at seedseditor1@gmail.com to receive our latest editions in their inbox each quarter.

—See page 9 for Chelle Samaniego's bio. This list was inspired by and adapted from Salif Mahamane's Special Section in the last *Hunger News & Hope* special water issue: "The Global Water Crisis and What You Can Do About It," HNH Vol 10 No 3, Summer 2009, pages 5-8. At that time, Salif was an undergraduate student at Baylor University, studying psychology, environmental studies, and French — and interning at Seeds of Hope. Salif now teaches at Western Colorado State University in Gunnison, in the Psychology Department and the Environmental Sustainability Institute.

*Jaimi Dolmage, "Shut the Front Door! If We Ate Less Meat, This Is What Would Happen to the Planet," *One Green Planet* (www.onegreenplanet.org.) For more water-saving tips and resources, visit *Home Water Works*, a project of the Alliance of Water Efficiency, online at www.home-water-works.org.

Bittersweet: Nestlé Waters Battles Local Groups on Water Rights

by Chelle Samaniego

When you hang out at editorial meetings for a publication where we focus on hunger, poverty and social injustice, you hear things. You hear about good things such as the “Acts of God” carried out by like-minded people around the globe, described in our last issue of *Hunger News & Hope*.

And you hear what should have been sweet in flavor but ended up leaving a bitter taste in your mouth, as was the case when I heard about the recent (and ongoing, evidently) escapades of the Nestlé Company.

On the heels of the recent Flint water crisis [see “*The Flint Water Crisis: Is It Over Yet?*” on page 6], the tiny town of Osceola Township, MI, 100 miles from Flint, is ensued in a battle with Nestlé over water rights, the environment, how much water is too much water and whether water is a human right.

What is going on, you ask? Nestlé Waters is pumping a tremendous amount of ground water out of the local area for ridiculously small costs, then bottling it and selling it under its Ice Mountain brand name. The company’s request in April to increase to 400 gallons per minute was approved by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality—even with 80,000 residents protesting the decision. (Only 75 people supported it.)

And, this is not just in the United States. Let’s head north to Canada where the Council of Canadians is battling with Nestlé to come clean about its “sustainable” certifications and its lack of respect for creation.

The Canadian group claims that bottling plants are “putting local drinking water sources at risk,” according to member Suzy Coulter. She continues, “These projects are going forward without the free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples.”

Nestlé was a founding member of the Alliance of Water Stewardship. So when the company received its certification in March 2018, it was accused of self-certifying its water sustainability certifications.

Let’s head over to the Nestlé Waters North America website for Nestlé’s side of the story. The company is up front about the issue, stating that it is aware of “critics” of its work in Michigan, but it asks us to know the facts about its sustainability practices and the work the company is doing to make each area better.

There is an entire page dedicated to the company’s operations in Michigan, as well as pages for California and Pennsylvania. Nestlé says, “Water is our business, but also our passion. We are committed to providing safe, clean drinking water for communities across North America, caring for water sources we rely on, as well as the land around them.”

In a 2005 video, former Nestlé Chairman and CEO Peter Brabeck suggested that declaring water a right is “extreme” and asserted that water was a foodstuff best valued and distributed by the free market. At some point, however, a Brabeck statement showed up on the Nestlé website, saying that the quote was taken out of context, and that water is, indeed, a human right, and it must be made available to everyone, even if they cannot afford to pay for it.

When God put Adam in the garden, Genesis 2:15 says that he was “to work it and take care of it.” Aren’t we to do the same? This is *our* water, *our* earth that *our* God has put us in charge of to take care of, protect and defend.

In Jeremiah 2:7, the prophet quotes God as saying, “I brought you into a fertile land to eat its fruit and rich produce. But you came and defiled my land and made my inheritance detestable.”

Is recycling our bottles enough? Is trying to use less water enough? Or should we become a louder voice for water justice? Should we reach out to our governments about these issues? Should we reach out to Nestlé and let them know that we stand with Osceola Township and British Columbia? Should we quit buying those bottles of water that promote possibly unsustainable and controversial business practices?

—**Michigan sources:** *Detroit Free Press*, “Michigan OKs Nestlé Permit for Increased Water Withdrawal for Bottled Water Plant,” www.freep.com; *National Public Radio*, “Michigan OKs Nestlé Water Extraction, Despite 80K+ Public Comments Against It,” (www.npr.org); *CBS News/Associated Press*: “Michigan Under Fire for Letting Nestle Bottling Plants Pump More Water,” (www.cbsnews.com). **British Columbia source:** Council of Canadians, “Challenging Nestle’s Sustainability Certification,” (<https://canadians.org>). **Nestlé sources:** “Know the Facts about Nestlé Waters in Michigan,” “Your Community: Michigan;” above quote from “Your Community: Pennsylvania,” (www.nestle-watersna.com). See also Chelle Samaniego’s review of *Bottled Life*, a documentary about Nestlé Waters, on page 15.

—Chelle Samaniego is a freelance writer and social media specialist living in Waco, TX. She worked with the Heart of Texas Homeless Coalition as a VISTA volunteer and is an active member of the McLennan County Hunger Coalition. She is also the Seeds Social Media editor. This year, she received an Associated Church Press award for one of her stories in *Hunger News & Hope*.

Water in the Desert

by Larkin Rossitter

Despite the recent decrease of immigrants through the Sonoran Desert in Arizona—in fact, an historic low in Border Patrol processing—Good Shepherd United Church of Christ in Sahuarita, AZ, still delivers 60 gallons of water a day into the desert. Our volunteers observe heavy usage of the water, and, of course, some travelers who have died in the desert.

Immigrants who are not refugees, or asylum seekers unwilling to wait for days—or even weeks—to be considered, may try to cross the Mexican border unseen, despite the presence of Homeland Security forces like Customs and Border Patrol and the armed forces of the US National Guard.

The current US administration's attitude toward people of color in general, and specifically Mexicans and Muslims, also discourages the migrants we need for jobs. Ironically, given the misstatements from the

administration about immigrants being violent criminals, the border region tends to have one of the lowest crime rates in the USA.

The preceding observations are thanks to Good Shepherd's Lead Minister, Randy Meyer, and Assistant Minister, Nathan Watts. The following statistics are based on the 2017 Annual Report of the Pima County Office of

Death due to dehydration. This is why many good-hearted people who live in the Sonoran Desert put bottles of water along trails used by immigrants.

the Medical Examiner in Tucson, AZ.

Officials recovered 128 human remains in that area's desert in 2017, as compared to 222 remains in 2010—the most ever recorded. Most of these deaths happened during the summer. They were mostly individuals 20-39 years of age, and overwhelmingly male. The cause of death cannot be determined for a majority of the persons, but almost all the identifiable ones, according to the report, are due to “environmental exposure to extremes in heat or cold combined with dehydration.” Virtually all were of Mexican or Central American nationalities.

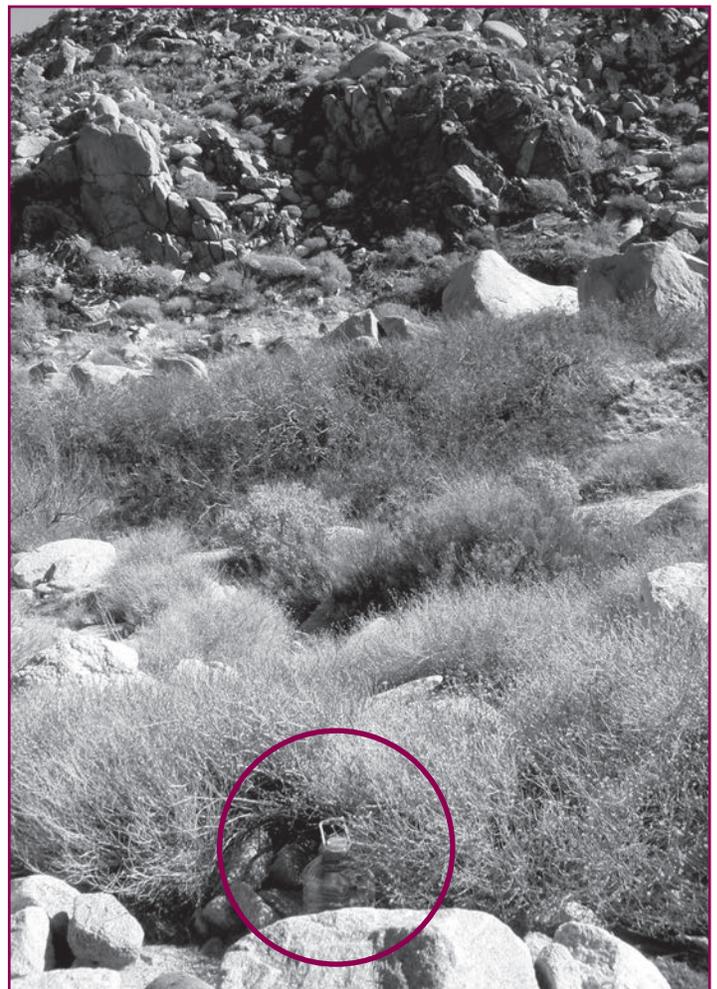
Death due to dehydration. This is why many good-hearted people who live in the Sonoran Desert put bottles of water along trails used by immigrants. These trails were probably originally produced by deer. The ruts in the road

were further cut by Native Americans and Native Mexicans over the millennia preceding European invasions.

We have no idea how many people have actually died of dehydration in the Arizona/Mexico desert region. The primary reasons for these deaths stem from US policies and attitudes toward immigrants from the south. No Statue of Liberty stands here at this border announcing a gateway to a new world of freedom and prosperity.

—Larkin Rossitter is a somewhat retired United Church of Christ minister in Nogales, AZ, where he has lived for 25 years. A former ethics professor at Shaw Divinity School in Raleigh, NC, he now teaches Moral Philosophy at Cochise College in Cochise County, AZ.

The photo below was taken by Alexandra Mueller during an Immigration Immersion trip for seminary students to Tijuana, MX. The water jug left by the students is partially hidden between a rock and brush in the foreground.



Cape Town, South Africa: *Countdown to Day Zero*

by Sarah Westbrook

In Cape Town, a metropolis in South Africa, the 4 million citizens were faced with the hard realization that their city was running out of water. Their dams were down to 26 percent capacity after a three-year drought and city officials restricted households to 13 gallons per person, which is about the amount of water that you flush down the toilet in three or four flushes.

This led to one toilet flush a day, one sink wash for dishes a day, two-minute showers standing over a bucket to reuse the water, and other life-changing new habits.

The residents weren't overly to blame for the lack of water, but they were held responsible for making sure Day Zero didn't happen. If it did, the majority of the residents would have to line up at communal water points to collect their daily allotment of water (6.6 gallons) while being watched by armed guards.

One of the reasons this forced lifestyle change was so drastic was due to the lack of awareness among the citizens, and the city officials downplaying the water crisis for years—before the people were told to dramatically cut down on water usage.

Last September, they were told to reduce to 23 gallons of water per day per person, but due to the sudden nature of that limit, less than half of the city met it. Because of the lax attitude, the water they did have ran out quickly and, only a few months later in February, all citizens were lim-

ited to just 13 gallons a day, which is less than the United Nations' recommended amount for domestic water use.

May 11 was the predicted Day Zero, prompting a rush to buy bottled water and water tanks to collect rainwater. Buying plastic and paper dishes to stop dishwashing became popular, and people were showering in a bucket, then using that water to wash their clothes.

Thanks to all of their efforts, the citizens of Cape Town held the crisis at bay—for now. Although Cape Town was saved, we need to take note of the crisis, not only to help them, but also to learn from their mistakes and take preventative actions in every city. Cape Town has made major lifestyle changes: the city built four new desalination plants, new water wells, and is making efforts to save water—all in a hope to keep Day Zero away forever. We can only hope that these changes work.

—Sarah Westbrook, a native of Longview, TX, is the Summer 2018 Seeds of Hope intern. Among her many skills, besides being able to keep up with a scattered editor, are being able to consume mass quantities of Dr Pepper and television—often at the same time. She will graduate next May with a degree in Professional Writing from Baylor University.

—Sources: Lynsey Chutel, "How Cape Town Delayed Its Water-Shortage Disaster—at least until 2019," Quartz Africa (www.qz.com); Aryn Baker, "What It's Like to Live Through Cape Town's Massive Water Crisis," Time (www.time.com).

Prayers for Malawi

This summer, during the annual, highly acclaimed children's music camp at Seventh & James Baptist Church, where the Seeds offices are housed, the children learned about Malawi's great need for water and other resources. The children brought offerings and wrote prayers for the people of Malawi and for the people who are trying to help them. We have inserted some of these prayers in the next four pages and on page 16. Many thanks go to Leslie Rosencrans, Minister for Congregational Life, for sharing these prayers.

Watering Malawi was envisioned at a 2008 conference involving youth from the Presbyterian Church USA, the Episcopal Church and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Partnering with Passport, Inc., a youth missions camp based in Birmingham, AL, Watering Malawi was organized to bring clean water to one of the poorest countries in Africa. That year, the folks at Passport also produced Vacation Bible School curriculum called "Water U Doing?" For more information, see "Watering Malawi" and "Water U Doing?" *Hunger News & Hope*, Vol 10 No 3, Summer 2009, pages 1-3; or go to www.wateringmalawi.org.

Innovations in Water Technology

by Sarah Westbrook

Editor's note: We sent Seeds of Hope intern Sarah Westbrook (see the bio on page 11) to dig around and find some of the more innovative and creative ways that people and groups are helping to solve the water issues of our world. Below are a few of the more interesting ones that she found.

LifeStraw

Having access to clean drinking water is a luxury most of us take for granted, and it's difficult to wrap our heads around the fact that over a billion people don't have access to clean drinking water, and that this leads to the deaths of 1.5 million children from diarrhea every year.

Driven by this reality, a group called LifeStraw came up with an idea to create a straw that filters water while you drink. The group wanted to make a product for the poorest people of the world, something that didn't need electricity. So they invented a personal purifier that looks like a clunky straw but can filter around 1,000 liters of water, just about enough for one person to use for a year.

From that invention evolved the family version, which looks like an office water cooler with a tube hanging down. It can filter 18,000 liters, enough to last a typical family for about three years.

For the first several years, a lot of the filters had been donated to help in the aftermath of natural disasters and

in developing countries. When LifeStraw started selling them as a consumer product in North America, the company promised to donate one product for each one that is bought, a policy that continues to this day.

The LifeStraw team's next passion is to help young children to receive education, whether that means giving every child a water bottle to make sure they're well enough to go to school, or whether it means making sure families have water, so they aren't sick and unable to work.

LifeStraw has a feature on its website that directly allows donations to a number of charities, including ones that provide safe water for schools in Kenya and hurricane relief in Puerto Rico.

It then allows you to track where your donation is going and the direct impact you are having. The site also includes interviews with the children the organization helps with its water products and how their lives have changed.

These inventions aren't just for people in need, though. They've made a big wave in the United States, whether it be for campers who want to drink straight out of streams, or adventurers who don't want to worry about where to find safe water. They can just fill up from the nearest fountain or tap water and go.

LifeStraw is an interesting mix of creating a product that genuinely helps the people who most need it, and is useful to everyone. The group keeps growing and evolving in a positive way. They provide a direct link if you want to donate and help the world get cleaner water. When it comes to small ways you can help make an impact, here is an opportunity where you can buy your own product and, through that, donate to people in need. Or you can just donate to help people in need.

—Source: LifeStraw (www.lifestraw.com).

New Technologies in Water

Technology is taking over the world, and nowhere is it more forward-thinking than in water purification. These companies are looking to the future and are trying to solve the problems we face now as well as the problems we will face in the future. In trying to solve those problems, technology is being used in ever more interesting ways. Here's a rundown on a few of the newest and most forward-thinking water-purification projects.

Aquaporin filtration uses biomembrane technology to filter water by blocking its contaminants instead of drawing out the pure water. It uses less energy and it takes out even the smallest contaminant. At this moment this process is only being used in industrial situations, but officials are planning to privatize the technology. Some

Prayers for Malawi

Dear God,
we pray that
out of the money
that we give
them they will
get more wells
near their homes,
so that they
don't have to
walk hours to
get water.



Prayers for Malawi

Please let the people in
Malawi get water so
that they won't
get diseases and they
will be hydrated. Let
them get rain a lot
so that they will
have good harvest.
Let the girls in
Malawi be able
to be educated.
Let them be healthy
and have a long
life.



of the most useful new technologies are just perfecting what people had already been doing, and the Aquaporin filtration system is an example of that.

The Noble Purification Company has developed a microorganism that eats the waste in water. It is called the **Euglena BioFiltration System**. The company's CEO started researching this for his high-school science fair and has made it his life's mission to help eliminate water waste. This system is different because it's specifically designed for waste water, and it changes the waste the system produces into biofuels and fertilizer.

The Tata Swach is a water purifier designed for low-income families in India who don't have running water or ready access to clean drinking water. This water cleaner purifies three to four liters an hour and can filter 3,000 liters before it needs to be changed. It is also fairly inexpensive, made with rice-husk ash mixed with nano silver particles. This purifies the water to get rid of germs, bacteria and impurities, and, most importantly, runs without electricity.

A longtime cause of water waste has been badly maintained toilets and the effect the improper collection and treatment of toilet waste has on the environment and on human health.

The **Blue Diversion Toilet (BDT)** has been developed specifically for low-income urban areas to combat problems caused by the normal waste situations in urban slums and the use of latrines in those areas. These practices are harmful to the environment and to the humans who live in those areas.

The Blue Diversion Toilet was developed to help fulfill the Sustainable Developmental Goal to have safe sanitation for every person. The BDT has an extra water system specifically for hand washing or menstrual hygiene to keep the user clean. It also uses a closed water cycle to prevent leakage of wastewater.

The whole idea of technology can be a little frightening sometimes, but when technology is being used for good and for helping people, the future looks bright. No one should ever have to worry about water, whether it's drinking water or wastewater, and the steps we make now will make it better for everyone.

—Sources: Issam Najm and R. Rhodes Trussell, "New and Emerging Drinking Water Treatment Technologies," National Academies Press (www.nap.edu).

Ocean Desalination

People have been dreaming of turning ocean water into fresh water for a long time. Now this ideal is getting closer to becoming a reality. Ocean desalination is a fairly controversial technique that removes the salt from seawater to make it drinkable. Countries in the Middle East like Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Israel rely heavily on desalination and are leading the way in this field, based mainly on their need for fresh water with not enough natural resources to aid them.

Although this could be a game-changer in the fight against water shortages, it doesn't come without its drawbacks. One negative aspect is the expense. It obviously costs more to draw the salt out of the ocean water than it does to just get fresh ground water and purify it. The expense is the main reason desalination isn't a more widely practiced technique.

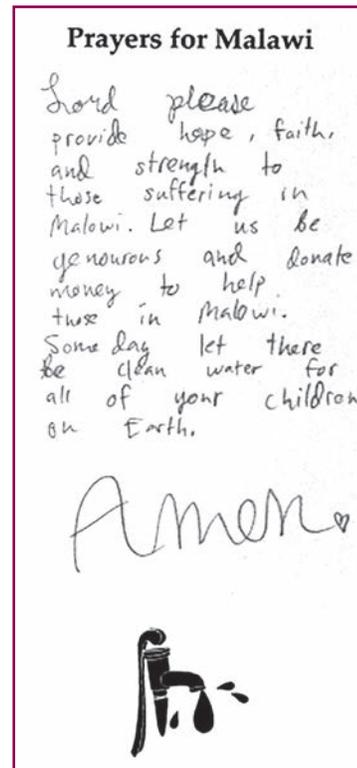
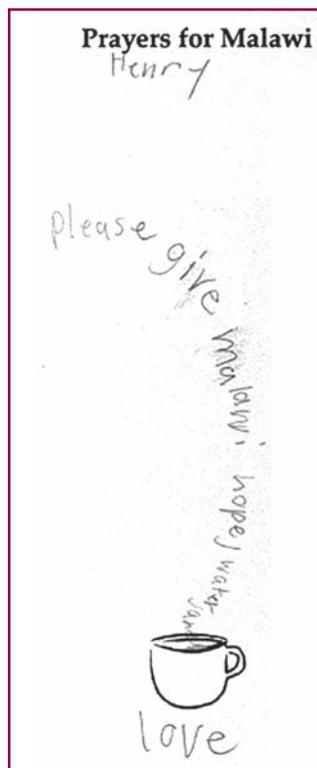
Another shortcoming is its negative effect on the environment, based on requiring more energy to draw out the salt. It also produces twice as much salt as it started with. The other main flaw is the effect the process has on fish and small organisms in the ocean. It filters them out and injures them.

The next step in the desalination process is to make it more environmentally friendly, possibly through solar power. Perhaps the biggest step forward is to make portable desalination devices. In this endeavour, William Janssen is ahead of the curve. He invented the **Desolenator**, a portable device that uses solar power to purify water from rivers, boreholes, rainwater and ocean water.

It soaks up the heat to bring the water to a high temperature, which converts it into steam. It is then converted back into clean water through another tube. The device can produce 15 liters of distilled water a day, which is enough to sustain a family for cooking and drinking.

One of the biggest fights for desalination is raising awareness. Awareness of the work in this field will hopefully result in making desalination a priority to policymakers. The field's leaders believe that this will change water pricing for the better so that it can become more common and not

continued on page 14



simply seen as a safety net in case of severe drought, as in the case of London, England's desalination plant. It might not be the first choice now, but there's so much potential that the process is worth significant investment.

—Sources: *Earth Talk: "Can Ocean Desalination Solve the World's Water Shortage?"* (www.thoughtco.com); Peter Gleick, "Why Don't We Get our Drinking Water from the Ocean by Taking the Salt out of Seawater?" *Scientific American* (www.scientificamerican.com); Meghan Werft, "Is Desalination the Answer to Water Shortages?" *Global Citizen* (www.global-citizen.org).

Water Recycling

Although we think of recycling as a fairly common practice now, water recycling isn't usually what first comes to mind. Water recycling reuses wastewater for agricultural irrigation, industrial processes, and toilet flushing. Although recycled drinking water does exist, it's not as common and requires more treatment. So far, however, no human health problems have occurred due to contact with recycled water that has been treated according to industry standards, criteria and regulations.

Another type of recycled water is known as "gray water," and it is reusable wastewater from bathroom sinks, bathtub shower drains and clothes-washing drains and then is reused onsite, normally for landscape irrigation.

Recycled water is important because it allows us to save water. It can be used for almost everything, although it is mostly used for non-drinking water. It's also important for several other reasons. It cuts down on the amount of water taken from sensitive ecosystems, which is good for the fish

and plants that live there. It also cuts down on the discharge of waste water to those same sensitive ecosystems.

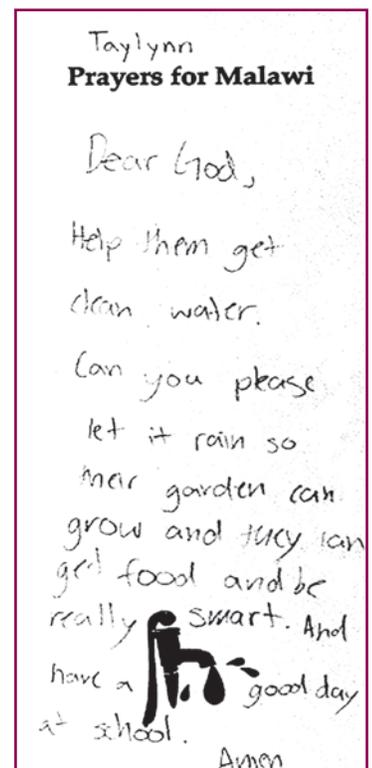
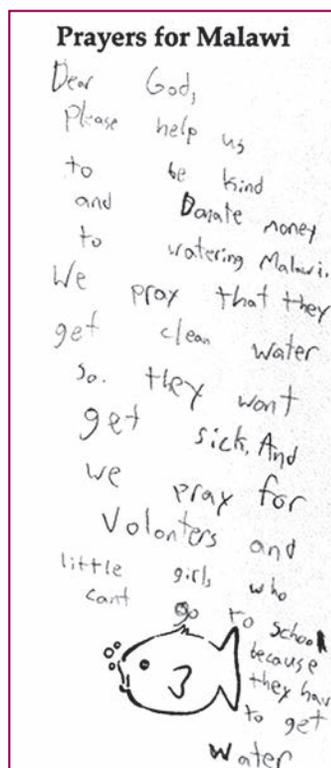
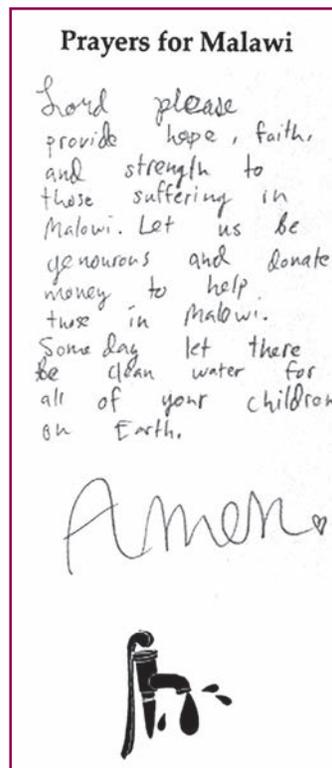
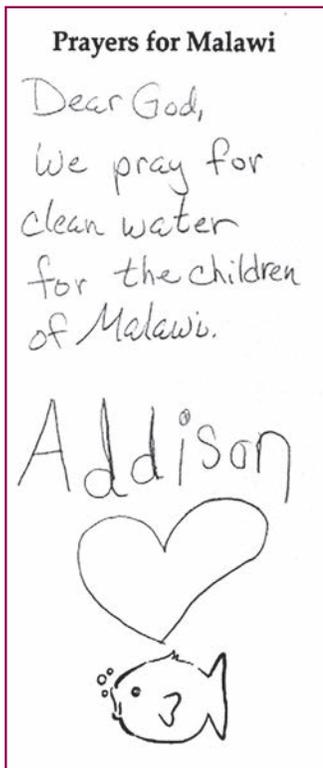
Recycled water helps restore wetlands and create new ones. Streams that have dried out can be restored with recycled water. When water is recycled and then introduced back into bodies of water, obviously those bodies of water are cleaner and fresher. It can also save energy. If you can recycle water from a source near you, you don't have to transport water from a long distance or pump it from a deep aquifer.

Recycling waste and gray water takes much less money and energy than desalinated water, so these practices will increase in the future. As the need for water energy grows and we become more environmentally conscious, water recycling will play an important role.

The biggest barrier that water recycling faces is scepticism and distrust among the larger population. Implementing water-recycling projects is difficult because of public misconceptions. Agencies can do a better job of informing the public early in the planning process about centralized facilities or recycling projects, in order to address concerns and misconceptions.

Communities and businesses need to work together to start with local water needs and use their talents to expand local resources, support the environment and strengthen the economy. With everyone working together and staying informed, we can change the way recycled water is perceived, and we can do much to address the world's present water crisis.

—Source: *United States Environmental Protection Agency* (www3.epa.org).



Water Justice Resources

compiled by Chelle Samaniego

Blessed Earth focuses on the stewardship of God's creation. Its website includes creation care scriptures, links and quotes, plus recommended books and videos. You can also sign up to receive Blessed Earth's monthly newsletter and articles in your inbox. The site's downloadable tip sheets section is unsurpassed and includes everything from green cleaning, to lawn and garden, to—of course—water. (www.blessedearth.org.)

You may have seen **Water.org** on commercials for the Belgian beer company Stella Artois. They say, "Buy a limited-edition chalice and you'll provide five years of clean water to one person in the developing world." For the last 25 years, Water.org—co-founded by Gary White and Matt Damon—has brought clean water and sanitation to 12 million people in 14 countries.

The group's website gives facts and statistics regarding the impact of unsafe drinking water, as well as a way to provide micro loans to assist in providing clean water all over the world. (<https://water.org>)

The World Health Organization (WHO) is one of the best sources for information about the status of safe water in the world. The United Nations coordinating authority on international health issues, the WHO offers numerous fact sheets and infographs on its website in six languages. (Go to www.who.int. and look under "Water Sanitation and Health," and, under the newsroom tab, look for "Drinking Water.")

Home Water Works, a project of the Alliance for Water Efficiency, is a website with the sole purpose of teaching us about water. Use the site's online Water Calculator to see how much water you use and waste, and ways you can conserve. The site also includes water conservation tips, indoor-water-use

statistics and advice on lowering your outdoor water usage by ensuring your landscaping is indigenous to your area. (www.home-water-works.org)

Within the halls of the United States Department of the Interior is the **US Geological Survey**. USGS scientists provide data regarding the impacts

of climate and land-use change, the threat to our natural resources and the health of America's ecosystems and environment. Water conservation and use, underground water tables and drinking water quality reports are only a few of the studies you will discover on this website. (<https://water.usgs.gov>.)

Bottled Life: Nestlé's Business with Water

Documentary Amazon Prime stream/download or DVD available on Amazon.com. Duration: 1 hour and 29 minutes

In Nigeria, safe drinking water is not easy to find. Enter Nestlé Waters and its Pure Life brand. Now, clean drinking water is readily available in Nigeria. Except that one bottle costs more than a day's wage for most Nigerians.

Bottled Life: Nestlé's Business With Water, released in 2013, documents the business of bottling and selling nature's resources, with the burning question: Who owns our drinking water?

Directed by Urs Schnell with Res Gehrig directing investigations, this Swiss-based film crew from DokLab GmbH traveled through Pakistan, Nigeria and the United States to share how Nestlé uses the business of water to make US\$9 billion for the company annually—just in water sales.

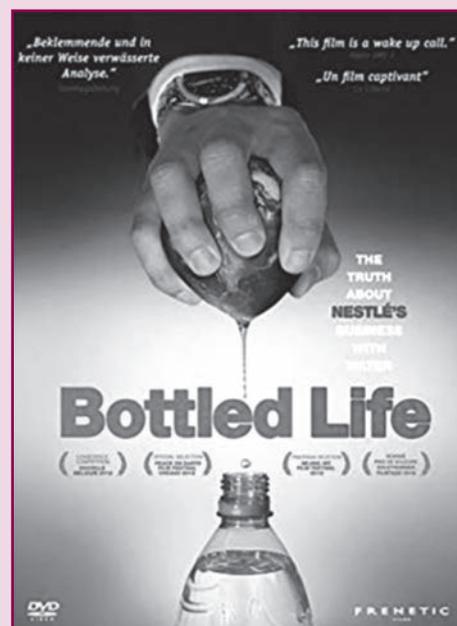
According to this investigation, Nestlé Waters pays \$10 or less for a truckload of extracted water. After bottling, this same amount of water is sold to consumers in the United States for \$50,000 over the counter.

Representatives from the film repeatedly reached out to Nestlé for comments and consideration; however, they were repeatedly denied entry and communication.

This film is a must-see for all of us who want to know more about big business, small-town activists, and what too much money can do. Peter Brabeck, past chair and CEO of Nestlé, is showcased in the film, along with interviews with activists, consumers and those deeply impacted by Nestlé's water extraction techniques.

Is access to clean water a commodity or a human right? *Bottled Life: Nestlé's Business With Water* addresses this issue with tact, logical statistics and informed content.

— See page 9 for Chelle Samaniego's biographical information. Sources: Amazon Prime documentary description, International Movie Database.



Hunger News & Hope
is published quarterly by
Seeds of Hope Publishers.

*This issue is sponsored by the
Alliance of Baptists.*

Staff and Volunteers

Editor.....L. Katherine Cook, OEF
Acting Business Manager.....John Segrest
Editorial Assistant.....Sarah Westbrook
Copy Editor.....Ellen Kuniyuki Brown
Social Media Editor.....Chelle Samaniego
Library Assistant.....Bill Hughes
Artists.....Robert Askins, Sally Askins,
Peter Yuichi Clark, Robert Darden,
Van Darden, Jesse Manning,
Erin Kennedy Mayer, Lenora Mathis,
Kate Moore, Sharon Rollins,
Susan Smith, Rebecca Ward

Seeds of Hope Council of Stewards

Sara Alexander
Guilherme Almeida
Sally Lynn Askins, Vice Pres.
Meg Cooper
Meg Cullar
Derek S. Dodson
Linda Freeto
Sandy Londos, Secretary
B. Michael Long, President

Board of Advisors

Dale A. Barron
Daniel G. Bagby
H. Joseph Haag
Andy Loving
Kathryn Mueller
Jo Pendleton
Jacqueline L. Saxon
Ken Sehested
Jon Singletary
Leslie Withers

Statement of Purpose

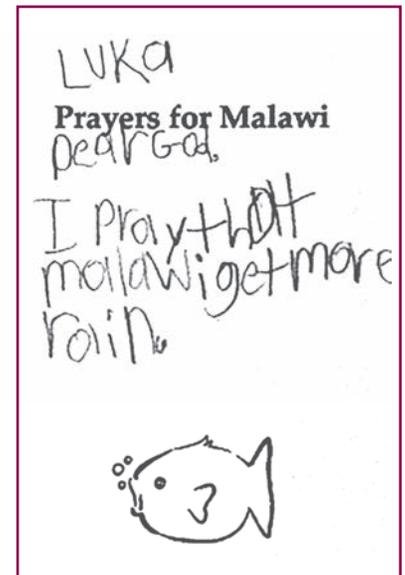
Seeds of Hope is a private, independent group of believers responding to a common burden for the poor and hungry people in God's world, and acting on the strong belief that biblical mandates to feed the poor were not intended to be optional. The group seeks out people of faith who feel called to care for poor and vulnerable people; and to affirm, enable

Quotes, Poems & Pithy Sayings

Let us go now, into all the earth
Land set loose the waters of justice.
Let us go into this drought-stricken,
disaster-ridden, toxic planet
with a word of hope for those
who hunger and thirst.
Let us become caregivers for Mother Earth,
our Sister,
like we never have been before.
Let us take good news into the world
for all of God's creatures.

As we go, may God open the windows of heaven
and send healing waters onto our blighted landscapes.
May the Holy Spirit brood
upon the face
of the deep,
birthing a new hope
for God's creation.
May God help us
to change the bitterness
of our water
into everlasting sweetness.
May God transform our deserts
into bountiful gardens.
May God quench our thirst
for living water

May we, co-creators with God,
fill the earth once again
with abundance.
Amen.
—Katie Cook



and empower a variety of responses to the problems of poverty.

Editorial Address

Seeds is housed by the community of faith at Seventh & James Baptist Church. Mailing address: 602 James Ave., Waco, TX 76706; Phone: 254/755-7745; Fax: 254/753-1909; E-mail: seedseditor1@gmail.com. Web: www.seedspublishers.org. Copyright © 2018; ISSN 0194-4495. Seeds of Hope, Inc., holds the 501(c)3 nonprofit tax status.

Seeds also produces *Sacred Seasons*, a series of worship materials for Advent, Lent and an annual Hunger Emphasis—with an attitude “toward justice, peace and food security for all of God's children.” These include litanies, sermons, children's and youth activities, bulletin art and drama.

All scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the New Revised Standard Version, Copyright © 2003 by the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Used by permission.