



WATER

H O P E
FOR SURVIVAL

PRIESTS OF THE
SACRED HEART



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HISTORICAL
THE OCCASION FOR
«ONE DROP OF WATER
TO SHARE»

As you may know, culture shock can have a positive aspect: it forces us to move beyond ourselves.

One day I was listening to the experiences of a young Camerounian man. He was telling me about the way his 65 year old mother had to live in her village. In answer to my question, he told me that in his country the majority of rivers were badly polluted. In order to get clean drinking water, it was normal to have to walk at least 5 to 10 kilometers from the village. Of course, half that way one would be loaded down with heavy buckets. His mother had to hire young girls from the village

to fetch and bring her the water that she needed.

The little ones of school age would do this three time a week, every two days, a trip which took them well into the afternoon. Depending on their youth and their stoutness, these girls could bring back between 5 and 20 liters of fresh water. Each one would return with their container balanced on their head.

No matter the distance to be covered, a litre of water always weighs one kilogram. And these little ones probably had other clients as well, who hired them on other days. So they would end up doing this every day, several times a day, so goodbye to an education.

Like all children, these too loved to play, and would often be waylaid along their route and wouldn't have time to reach the water source. Of course they didn't want to lose their pay so necessary to

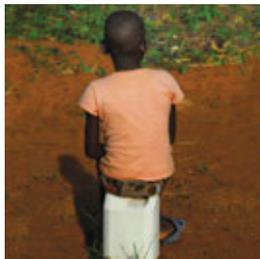
their families, so often they would fill their water containers with surface water, taken from streams and rivers nearby, which would seem relatively clean, but would in fact be a breeding ground for bacteria, viruses and parasite carriers of disease.

There should be little surprise then at the frequent outbreaks of cholera, an almost epidemic presence of typhoid fever, Hepatitis A, dysentery, malaria, and skin diseases such as, scabies and scurvy.

This story touched me deeply. Was there nothing that could be done about this

situation? That was when the young Camerounian told me that he knew a certain missionary who employed two squads of workers who dug artesian wells. Without losing a moment, we got in contact with this man, and since 2003 we've been working together to have these wells dug in villages in need of clean drinking water. In some larger villages we've put in up to five wells, thus shortening the distance to access to about 500 meters, and this for the most distant inhabitants.

Continued →



Access to pure drinking water, just like education and medical care, is a universal human right. Such a right accrues to all people, regardless of age, social standing, race or religion.

And so, we are digging wells without any form of discrimination. Water is a basic necessity for survival, for all. All that is required to claim this right is to be a human being.

Since this time, the Procurator for Missions of the Priests of the Sacred Heart, through the project «One Drop of Water to Share», has supported the digging of 245 artesian wells and established as many water pumps, due directly to the generosity of those who have donated to this project. The need

for these wells is so great that there is actually a long waiting list at present.

One detail which is worth mentioning about the project is that now Muslim villagers are beginning to meet with their Christian neighbours in order to socialize and work on common projects. Among these is the development of primary schools, dispensaries, and agricultural co-operatives. I am personally full of admiration at what is taking place. Who could have imagined that a source of clean water would become a source of unity and collaboration?

WATER IS A BASIC NECESSITY FOR SURVIVAL, FOR ALL

SOME REVEALING

STATISTICS

According to a report put out by the WHO and UNICEF, published in 2014



**1.6
BILLION**

OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION
DO NOT HAVE READY ACCESS
TO HEALTHY WATER;



**748
MILLION**

OF THESE PEOPLE HAVE
NO ACCESS TO CLEAN
DRINKING WATER;



**1.8
MILLION**

CHILDREN DIE EACH YEAR
AROUND THE WORLD BECAUSE
OF A LACK OF CLEAN DRINKING
WATER. THIS WORKS OUT TO
205 CHILDREN EACH AND
EVERY HOUR.

In the Cameroun, the situation is not much brighter. At the beginning of the year 2014, an epidemic of cholera broke out, connected to the consumption of impure water, given the lack of access to clean water.

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN
«ONE DROP OF WATER
TO SHARE» AND THE
VILLAGES BENEFITTING
FROM THE PROJECT**

The conditions for candidature of a village to receive a well are accessible to all.

The chief of the village or area applying for a well must furnish an appropriate plot of land accessible to all his people. This usually is in the center of the village or else on the grounds of the local school. A document is then signed by the village leadership which assures that the well is common property of all villagers. They must then clear the ground once a source of water has been found.

The village leadership are then responsible for naming a **'Pump Committee'** which will take responsibility for the maintenance of the equipment, adequate training to be furnished by knowledgeable technicians. Since underground water tables are not bottomless, this committee must develop a schedule of water distribution

in collaboration with villagers. This distribution would normally take place twice a day. In case of equipment failure, the committee will be able to access the necessary technical aid.

The inhabitants of the beneficiary villages must contribute 10% of the total cost of each well. In the majority of cases this sum cannot be raised, and so as an alternative form of payment we ask the village to supply room and board to the technicians and workers for the duration of the work, which usually does not exceed 21 days.

The construction of a well is just the beginning of the collaboration between ourselves and the villagers. For the inauguration of the well and the first drop of clean water to flow forth, a ceremony is organized by the local community and includes the religious, administrative and traditional elders of the place.

Letters of thanks, along with photos of the new well are sent to all the benefactors who contributed to the realization of the project.

After some time a report is filed by the committee on the social ramifications of the well on the community.





THE DIGGING OF THE WELL AND THE INSTALLATION OF THE WATER PUMP

You wouldn't believe it: all the work is done by hand. The local road conditions simply do not allow for the transportation of heavy drilling equipment.

As well as picks and shovels, and steel rods, the technicians have to carry in bags of cement, wheelbarrows, steel rods, buckets, moulds for concrete pipes, a winch, pulleys, a tripod, in short all the necessary equipment. It's important not to forget anything.

Once the source has been found and marked, installations begins. Once the land has been cleared, digging begins. Workers will dig in shifts until their feet are standing in water.

During this time other workers are making the concrete pipes which will guard against cave-in, and protect those who are digging at deeper levels. Another worker is in charge of casting the lid of the well in order to install the pump and water pipe.

The final touch comes with the construction of the coping of the well and the design for the drains.





SUBSEQUENT USE

About two weeks after the inauguration of a well, the villagers seem to be getting used to the presence of this new gadget. They adapt themselves to the schedule and the need to respect the order of use. In fact, during the hours of heaviest use, the well becomes the center of village life. While they await their turn the women use the time to sell and exchange goods. Their reigns an atmosphere of joy at these gatherings.

It is only after several months of use that we can begin to ascertain the new well's effect on the general health of the community. One of the obvious results we find is the complete absence of dysentery and of epidemics. Usually we find health returning and the need for health care and the function of the village sorcerer lessening.

As well we often see among those whom the well has brought together a real desire to collaborate on future projects. First, a school, soon a dispensary, not to mention an agricultural co-operative. And what to do with those young girls who used to transport water, and are now out of a job? They're now too old for primary school. The solution is clear: inscribe them in a practical literacy program and offer them practical job training.

At present many are enrolled in an apprentice program in dressmaking. They are learning to work on sewing machines, and work with needle and thread.

For villages that opt for a school, there is the cost of books, chalk, pens, and notebooks. Many schools in Canada will furnish these necessities.

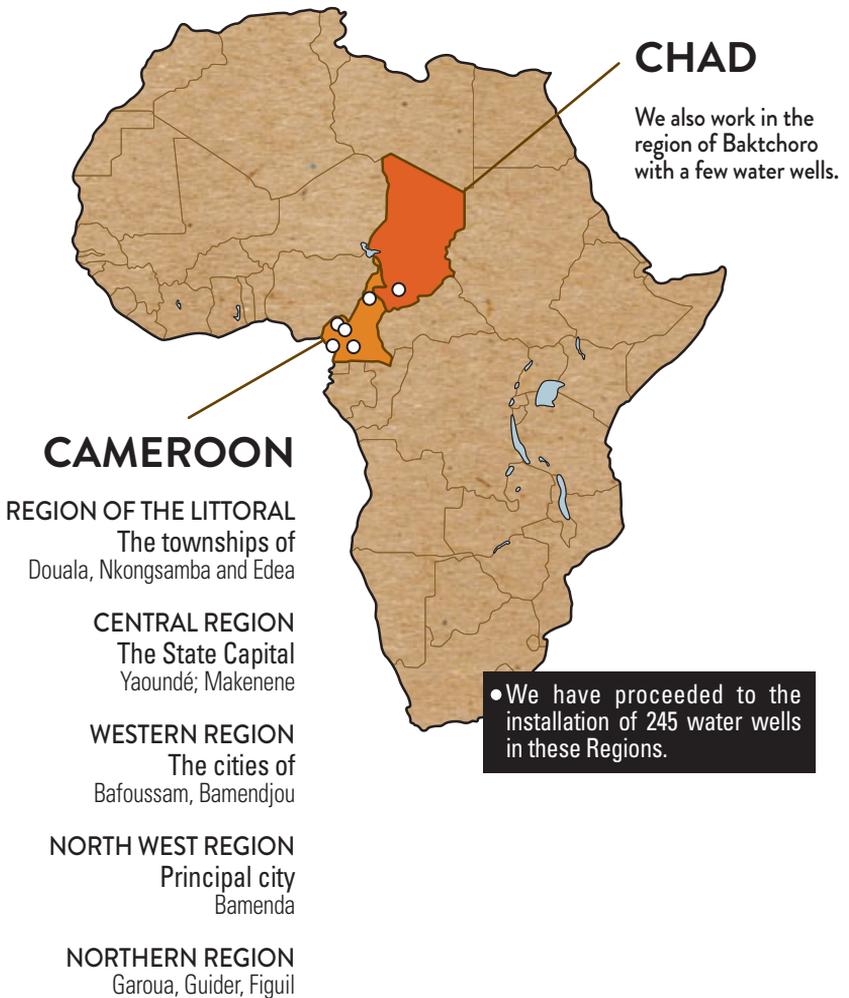
Some of the more populous villages choose to build a dispensary. Volunteer nurses will help to assure that a working system is put into place. There is, of course, the need for medicines. At the moment, the Quebec organization **'International Health Collaboration'** is helping to supply these, as well as necessary medical equipment.

For the skill training centers we have called upon the Canadian population to help furnish us with sewing machines, material, thread, woolens and other things that a seamstress may need.

Several times a year **«One Drop of Water to Share»** sends a shipping container of materials needed to maintain these projects which have developed subsequent to the installation of a clean water well. Usually we rent space in these shipping containers, but when the need is great and we have a special shipment to send, we'll buy the

container and ship it ourselves for the sum of \$15,000. Believe me, no matter the date on which the container arrives

at the port of Douala (Cameroon) it is like Christmas day for all.



**RECIPE FOR THE MAKING
OF A CONCRETE PIPE**

Ingredients



**2 BAGS OF
CEMENT
(\$22)**



**2 WHEELBARROWS
OF SAND
(\$7)**



**1 WHEELBARROW
OF GRAVEL
(\$10)**





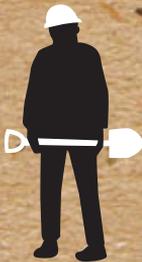
**2 IRON RODS
OF 8MM
(\$12)**



**1 COIL
OF ROPE
(\$3)**



**1 CHANGE
OF OIL
(\$1)**



**PAY FOR ONE
WORKER
(\$5 /DAY)**

FOR A SUCCESSFUL RECIPE

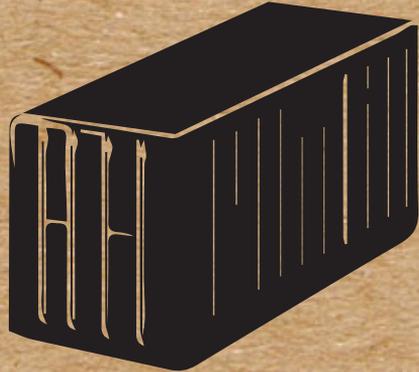
**TOTAL PRICE FOR
AN ARTESIAN WELL
EQUIPPED WITH
A MANUAL PUMP**

\$6,000.



**COST FOR THE
PURCHASE AND
SHIPPING OF A
CONTAINER:**

\$15,000.





YES!

**I AM PLEASED
TO JOIN YOU
IN THE PROJECT
«ONE DROP OF WATER TO SHARE»**

Mr Mrs _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

My contribution _____ \$ to: The Priests of the Sacred Heart

Please send me a receipt for Income Tax Declaration YES NO

OFFICIAL RECEIPT # 89598 6701 RR001

Priests of the Sacred Heart

**P.O. Box 6844 STATION A Toronto ON M5W 1X6
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Email: missions@scjcanada.org - www.scjcanada.org**



AT THIS VERY MOMENT, OUR WAITING LIST COUNTS 85 VILLAGES WHO HAVE ASKED US TO DIG A WELL.

HOWEVER, MANY OTHERS ARE ON A POTENTIAL LIST. EASY TO EXPLAIN! IN THE COUNTRY, THERE ARE AS MANY AS 300 DIALECTS AND EACH DIALECT COUNTS AT LEAST 3 VILLAGES: WHICH MAKES AT LEAST 900 POTENTIAL REQUESTS.

MANY OF THESE VILLAGES OR TOWNSHIPS ARE MUSLIM AND THEY DO NOT KNOW HOW TO REACH US, MOST PROBABLY BECAUSE THEY THINK THAT THESE WATER WELLS ARE ONLY FOR CHRISTIAN VILLAGES. FORTUNATELY FOR THEM, WE SPREAD OUR INFORMATION THAT OUR PROJECT OF “A DROP OF WATER TO SHARE” IS AVAILABLE TO ALL.

IT IS ONE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO HAVE ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER.



Justina
by Matt Small

Justina is a young girl who attended the Shitima school in Zambia. She is a double orphan meaning both parents are dead. The school provides an education and secure place to live for the many children who have lost family to the aids virus which has so greatly affected the population of the country. She took part in art work shops that i conducted alongside the artist Swoon at the school. Like all the people we met whilst in Zambia Justina had a lovely soul, she was intelligent and despite the hardships she had faced she was full of happiness....