

UZIMA

THE GIFT OF WATER



WISE ON WATER

- WATER COVERS 70% OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE
- 31% OF SCHOOLS IN THE WORLD HAVE NO ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER
- WATER-RELATED ILLNESSES CAUSE 443 MILLION MISSED DAYS OF SCHOOL WORLDWIDE EVERY YEAR. THAT'S A LOT OF ABSENCES!!

NOT A DROP TO DRINK?

Nicaragua, the largest country in Central America, is known as the "Land of Lakes and Volcanoes." But in this place of plentiful water, almost 1 million of the 6 million people who live there **do not have access to clean water**. What this means is that the water they drink is unfiltered, untreated, and full of contaminants. **And that makes people sick.**

Farming, mining, and poor sanitation (1 in 4 people in Nicaragua do not have access to a clean toilet) mean that, for Nicaraguans who have to drink unfiltered water, water-borne diseases like typhoid, malaria, cholera, and dysentery make them sick every day. They can't go to work; they can't go to school. When children can't go to school, they stop learning. When people can't work, they go hungry.

In Nicaragua, World Renew wants to help families have clean water.

Sometimes this means we help them drill wells; sometimes it means we provide them with large water filters so they can use the streams and rivers near their houses. This saves women and children time and energy they would otherwise spend walking long distances to get clean water. In the village of Ochimogo, community leaders and World Renew spent the last two years drilling of a well together. In the meantime, water filters from World Renew let families there stay healthy and keep working and studying.

Do you remember the story of the woman at the well? Jesus offered her "living water." What he was really talking about was the Holy Spirit and here's what's cool about that: later on in the New Testament Jesus declares that **"out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water."** The Spirit that God put in YOU naturally flows OUT. So when you hear about kids in Nicaragua who are sick from dirty water and you want to help, **that's the Holy Spirit flowing out of you.** Let it flow!



OVER 844 MILLION PEOPLE IN THE WORLD HAVE NO ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER.



LIVING WATER

We've all watched our brown and dusty gardens appear to bloom before our eyes after a long rainstorm. It does seem miraculous, the power of water!

Water is mentioned in the Bible over 700 times. From Genesis to Revelation, Scripture uses water as a metaphor for life and, if you know how scarce water is in the Middle East and how precious rainfall was to the Israelites, you can see why water was a powerful symbol. In the Old Testament, water was strongly associated with the presence of God. Isaiah cries out "**Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters!**" and later he promises that, in God, "**you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.**"

In the New Testament, Jesus offers a Samaritan woman at the well "living water," saying "**whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life**" and invites a throng of worshipers to "**Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink.**" We know that Jesus is promising US that living water too.

Here's the most amazing thing about that invitation: Jesus follows it by saying "**Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.**" What? Jesus promises us that the water he pours *into* us will flow *OUT* of us. When we see ourselves as a natural spring bubbling from a secret source deep within, the water will always flow. Giving to others is a GIFT from God. He has supplied us endlessly and we can sing with joy "**I've got the river of life flowing out of me.**"

A FEW EXTRA SPRINKLES...

There are a flood of resources for lessons on water! Here are just a few delicious drops:

For elementary-aged kids, Roger Canavan's *You Wouldn't Want To Live Without Clean Water* and Rochelle Strauss's *One Well: The Story of Water on Earth* offer fun and accessible ecological and environmental perspectives on water.



"WATER" YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

Clean water for an entire family for only \$112? This is a goal your group can reach!

Raising money for a family-sized water filter is an effort most kids can relate to because they drink clean water every day! For a challenge that's personal, have kids make a coin bank out of an old can and bring it home to **challenge themselves and their family members to contribute every time they use water in any way** -- drinking, bathing, washing hands, laundry, watering lawn, feeding animals. Even a nickel for each time will add up quickly and provide a powerful visual for how vital clean water is to us all.

For an active fundraiser kids can do together, try a **Water Walk**. Have every kid in your class pledge to carry a litre jug of water everywhere they go for an entire day. If they collect sponsors, this lesson in empathy can turn into cash for filters!

A much easier but still very visual fundraiser is to collect \$1 in exchange for a blue **water drop face-paint "tattoo."** Older kids can do the painting and sell the tattoos at school, at the next football game or church event, or even the local ice cream parlor.

For more ideas, visit
www.worldrenew.net/kidsfundraisingideas



Young ones will love *Our World of Water* by Beatrice Hollyer, a picture book that features children from around the world as they obtain and use water.

Easily searchable lesson plans about water scarcity for all ages abound online. Of all the gifts in the catalog, a water filter and the problem it addresses is best suited to lengthy classroom exploration.

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