



SPECIAL MESSAGE

From Ambaye Zekewos of Living Water Liberia

Dear Friend,

My name is Ambaye Zekewos. I'm the Country Director for Living Water Liberia. When I began working here six years ago, Liberia was waking up from a brutal civil war. The country's infrastructure had been destroyed. Babies, children and the elderly were dying. Villages complained that their hand-dug wells were contaminated...by corpses.

I have seen enough death in my lifetime. But I'm so encouraged by the innovative ways Liberians on our staff—and in the villages we serve—are saving lives, before we even drill a well! I desperately want to see the same all over the world, and Living Water needs your help to make it happen.

The efforts I'm witnessing through Living Water International in Liberia are producing some of the best improvements I've seen in my 29-year development career.

I'm amazed at the impact of our local Hygiene Promoter, Abigail. Long before we begin the drilling process, she paves the way for the introduction to safe water. By building long-term relationships with entire communities, she helps them identify hygiene challenges and, through their own efforts, eliminate the practice of open-defecation.

Becoming open-defecation free is an official status awarded to communities by the Liberian government's Ministries of Health and Public Works. We work with a village for six months to a year to help them achieve the government's environmental, personal, food and water hygiene benchmarks.

Only then does Living Water drill a well in the village—*after* staff like Abigail have identified and trained community leaders to accomplish something so

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JOHN 4:10-14

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remarkable it's recognized by the national government.

Likewise, I am so proud of Raymond, our local Operations Manager, and the resourceful ways he's leading communities to create tangible sanitation solutions. Under his leadership, villagers are building their own thatched-roof showers and latrines, integrating hygiene and sanitation principles into their everyday lives.

In one town, a reverend named Yombie showed me a bamboo table he made and boasted, "This is an African design—it's called a 'dish rack!'" Now his utensils can air-dry on a safe, clean surface, away from the contamination of animals. This may seem commonplace to you, but the entire town now beams with pride after developing its own solutions.

Making water wells locally sustainable is a huge challenge, but here, I am seeing real, workable, locally led solutions! I hope you don't mind my bragging like this, but I can't help but celebrate this stark contrast to the experience that began my development career in 1984. A horrible drought and famine plagued my home country, Ethiopia, killing more than 400,000 people—I have seen lack of water take too many lives!

I'm sick of death. You should be too. You have a chance to stop it by giving now—and at the same time you'll glorify the God who gave us life!

In Liberia this year alone, we still need \$492,400 to make this work possible—serving 15,200 Liberians with safe water and life-saving lessons.

Our staff needs your support to continue laying the hygiene and sanitation groundwork for clean water. Please give now and help my staff in Liberia—and my colleagues around the world—continue saving lives!

I've given my life to this work. Please give what you can to help.

In Jesus' name,



Ambaye Zekewos
Country Director, Living Water Liberia



P.S. – Partnering with Living Water is a real blessing. I've done this kind of work for almost 30 years with the biggest and best organizations in the world, and I can say this Living Water approach is truly innovative and life saving. Please, help us do more.