



We Need Hope, Every One of Us

Far from the bright lights of the concert stage, and about as far as you can get from Nashville's Grand Ole Opry, a 3 time Grammy award winning rock star and four guys from Zambia stood up to their ankles in mud. The rock star: Dan Haseltine, lead singer of the Christian band Jars of Clay. The four Zambians: Seeds of Hope's well drilling crew. The reason: drilling a well in Twapia.

Dan founded Blood: Water Mission (B:WM), an organization that raises money to combat the water and HIV/AIDS crises in Africa. B:WM, Seeds of Hope's largest partner, launched the 1,000 Wells Project in 2005, and this year they are celebrating reaching the goal of creating the 1,000th well and bringing clean water to as many as five million people through the Project. 261,293 of those helped live in Zambia alone. So, as part of the celebration, Dan, Jena Nardella (Executive Director of B:WM), and Austin Bello of the band Forever the Sickest Kids visited Zambia from January 12-20, to see firsthand the impact of their fundraising and championing.

While they were in town, the typical January downpours stopped, and the sun shone on the group as they toured communities and talked with people whose lives had been transformed simply by having access to safe water. Dan actually operated the drill rigs in Twapia, and the guests helped repair a hand pump. In the community of Nkwazi, one of the councilmen told them

that the community's clinic records showed that water-borne diseases had nearly been eradicated since the B:WM funded water, hygiene, and sanitation projects started there.

One hundred local Zambian champions from throughout the Copperbelt Province joined us for a celebration service at Seeds of Hope's Ndola resource center. It was a happy time of singing and dancing, and an opportunity for people to testify to the way B:WM's projects had changed their lives. Dan sang a moving impromptu song for Seeds of Hope, declaring "We need love, and we need hope, every one of us." In the atmosphere of joy and thankfulness, we began to thank God for the wells B:WM has also helped fund in the Central African Republic, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Rwanda. It was a powerful celebration of the victory sweeping across Africa that is replacing disease and despair with health and hope.

Seeds of Hope's greatest strengths are our incredible partners. We thank God for the honor of hosting Dan, Jena, Austin, and their teams, and feel privileged to partner with Blood: Water Mission to continue transforming lives in Africa.



Champion Spotlight

This month, we would like to highlight the incredible volunteer work of Seeds of Hope Champions Brandon and Kristen Silva, Seeds of Hope's new Volunteer Coordinators. The couple first learned of Seeds of Hope in 2003, when the church they were attending at the time partnered with Kirk to take a large group of volunteers to Zambia on Kirk's second trip. Brandon and Kristen fell in love with the warmth and hospitality of the people they met, and were touched by the joy people carried despite their great need and few material possessions. While in Zambia, they helped with pump repair trainings and hygiene classes. They have continued to give their time and energy to Seeds of Hope, and other organizations, providing clean water to people in developing nations.

"I really believe in the gift of safe water," says Kristen, "and SHIP is an organization that is really saving lives." Each week, Brandon, Kristen, and 18-month-old Micah can be found at the Seeds of Hope office helping people get connected to our work and developing ways for people to get involved.



What's New at Seeds of Hope

- This year, we are coming into our vision to be more holistic, and establish agricultural and vocational skills classes and projects at our Ndola resource center.
- Last week, a container with supplies and a new drill rig, which will make our work more holistic and integrated, arrived in Zambia.
- Derek (CAWST) and Ron Ryde are returning to Zambia to keep improving our Ndola BioSand filter factories. With their help, we have already started producing 4 times the sand for the filters than we were able to in the past.
- We are excited to begin training on how to add an HIV/AIDS education component to our programs.



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