



Learning Exchange:

The 2011 Learning Exchange! From April 4-8 Seeds of Hope was privileged to host water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) practitioners from around the world as they shared strategies and knowledge. The participants were from WASH Expertise Training Centers, or WET Centers, and represented both new partners and established organizations affiliated with the Center for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST).

The week was an opportunity for all of us to glean from each others' strengths and to work together to solve common problems and focus on the challenges we face in our field. Sharing our struggles and successes and designing solutions created a tangible atmosphere of camaraderie, and by the end of the week tears were shed as participants parted ways and returned to their respective countries.

In many ways, hosting the learning exchange was a dream come true for Seeds of Hope. CAWST felt that we had raised the bar for future learning exchanges. Some of our heroes (like the water organization based out of Kale Hewyet

Church in Ethiopia and has distributed 30,000 biosand filters), were impressed by our work and wanted to replicate aspects of what we do at our resource center. Because of our partnership with CAWST, we were honored to share our advanced technology and expertise with the organizations that attended the event. For example, we were able to give the participants a tour of our resource center, highlighting our BioSand filter factory which has been designed to have a high capacity for sand

production, producing a consistently high quality of media (sand, gravel, and rocks) used in the BioSand filter, and has the ability to recycle the water used to wash the sand. It is the first of its kind in the world.

But we did not have all of the answers. Evans Chiyenge, director of AFMAC (training department of Seeds of Hope), noted, "The best part of this was the exchange of ideas. Everyone wanted to say something. They had experience and were eager

to share their own knowledge and experience." It was exciting to learn from people who are saving lives all over the world.



"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20

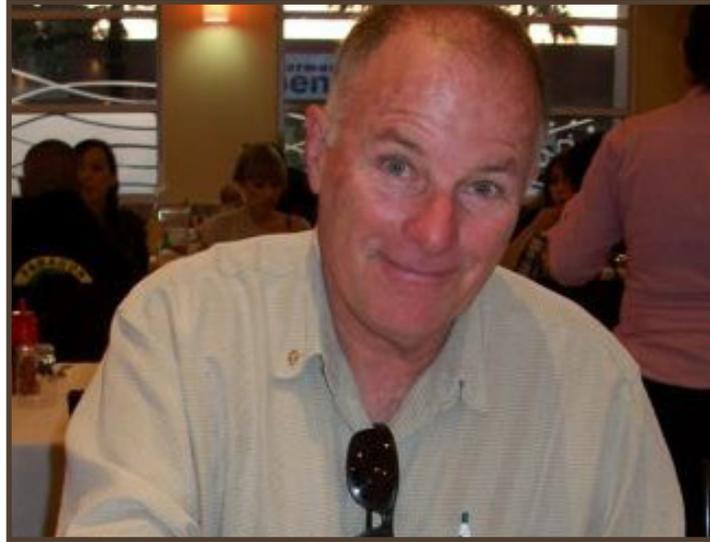
In Memoriam:

On April 21, we received the sad news that our friend and colleague Raju Shrestha had passed away. Raju attended the learning exchange, representing the Environment and Public Health Organization (ENPHO) in Nepal. During the learning exchange Raju was an amazing contributor of ideas and encouragement, often sparking life and laughter into projects and conversations. He was a true delight to work alongside and will be sorely missed by everyone at Seeds of Hope and by the international community of WET Centers around the world. Seeds of Hope expresses our sincere condolence to his family and friends, and we pray for strength for those carrying on in the work to which Raju committed his life.



Champion Spotlight: Dennis White

This month, we would like to spotlight the newest member of the SHIP U.S. board of directors, Dennis White. Dennis heard about Seeds of Hope while attending Mountainbrook Community Church in San Luis Obispo, California. In 2008, he was part of a group from the church that traveled to Zambia. They joined in the day-to-day activities, such as helping build and deliver BioSand filters. As the overseer of International Service on the Cambria Rotary Club Cambria Rotary, Dennis has helped promote fundraising and awareness raising events for Seeds of Hope. One of these was instrumen-



tal in helping Seeds of Hope send BioSand filter trainers to Zimbabwe during a major outbreak of cholera. The

organization they trained has since installed 1,300 filters in Zimbabwe!

Dennis is now using the things he has learned working with Seeds of Hope to help similar work get started in an indigenous community in Ensenada, Mexico. Of his time in Zambia, he says, "The trip radically changed my life and perspective. It's a good thing when we can treat the symptoms of a community's issues, but it's wonderful when the root causes can be addressed, bringing lasting, sustainable change that affects a family for generations." Dennis joined our board of directors this March, and we are so glad to have his heart and vision on the team.

What's New at Seeds of Hope

SHIP U.S.

- On May 10, Kirk and Evans will attend the "Well:Done Celebration" in Nashville, Tennessee to celebrate the 1,000 wells drilled through *Blood: Water Mission's* partnerships with organizations throughout Africa. Evans Chiyenge, the director of AFMAC, will speak at the events, sharing information about the work being done in Zambia.
- On May 18, we will be hosting a booth at the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce "Annual Mixer Showcase". If you are in the area, come join us as we share about Seeds of Hope's work with thousands of people from the all over the Central Coast.
- We are currently accepting applications for a Director of Donor Development. For more information about the position, please send an email to info@sohip.org.

SHIP Zambia

- We are getting ready to start computer classes for Seeds of Hope staff and community members in July.
- We are accepting applications for a Chief Operations Officer in Zambia. For more information about the position, please send an email to info@sohip.org.

Check the online version of the newsletter at www.sohip.org for links to the latest videos.

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