

1 Thessalonians 5: 14 encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

This five year trial Water Program on the Ndop Plain moves ahead slowly. As to be expected, there are ups and downs, highs and lows. Overall the program is making progress, with the communities slowly taking ownership of their Wells and showing an interest in having Bio sand Filter business's started in their villages.

During this visit there were two Wells constructed in the village of Bafanji, one in the Quarter of Mundua and the other in Mbashie

Bambalang acted as host village for the three day Bio Sand Filter training course, with trainees from the neighbouring villages of Bamunkumbit and Bafanji attending.

The WA team had involvement with the Well construction, the Filters training course and also took part in meetings in the villages as we made final preparations for the Well Maintenance, Repair and management training course(s) that will take place in March 2012.

There will be three foundational training courses (one in each host village) in March with Development Union appointed trainees participating. Much time over the past few visits was given to encouraging serious participation in preparing the training course(s). The villages have shown seriousness in preparing for the course. Many Thanks to the Pederson's and Williams, for coming to help with the program.

Meet the Team



Magdalene from Bamunka, Christopher from Babungo and James from Bamunka worked very hard to ensure that the trainees fully participated in the Bio Sand Filter training. The three of them designed the three day training course to suit the needs of the communities. All training is in Pidgin language. Our aim is, to eventually have all training courses designed and implemented by Cameroonian people.

Joyce & Jim Pederson (at back), Don & Sanna Williams are WA volunteers. They worked tirelessly on this trip and have helped the program move ahead another step.

WA Volunteers who have an interest in coming on one of these trips in the future should contact Bart Maley bart_maley@sil.org

Bart will be happy to discuss the program with you.



Well Maintenance, Repair & Management Training Course in March 2012

Well Maintenance, Repair & Management.....One of the biggest challenges facing the communities is the lack of proper Well maintenance and repair in all the villages. We have been providing some very basic training for the communities as the Type A Wells have been constructed. However this training course in March will be the beginning of a series on Well Maintenance, Repair and Management. The course content and how it will be implemented has been put together with the full involvement of the communities. These courses are designed to give the necessary know how to enable the water management team(s) in the village(s) to maintain and repair their Wells.

Trainees will also be thought how to review the existing broken Wells in their village and how to determine the best course of action necessary to repair them over time. There are numbers of Wells in all the villages not in use because of poor maintenance. Most of this training will be hands on, actually working on broken Well(s) in the host village. There will be three host villages with each of them “organising” a training course. Neighbouring villages will travel to the host village for the three days of training. There will also be one day practical training in each of the visiting villages giving an opportunity to the trainees from of these villages to work on a broken Well in their own village. The host villages are Bafanji, Bamassing and Babassi.



Photo No. 1



Photo No. 2



Photo No. 3



Photo No. 4

Photo No.1 Mr. George, the headmaster of the Government School in the Quarter of Mbukong in the village of Bamunka at the school / community Well. The school teachers and the PTA are working with the local community to establish ways of maintaining this Well. Some further work is necessary on this Well. They will work together to construct a concrete apron around the Well and also build a wall enclosing the Well. Now the school and community have clean water. Prior to this Well they used dirty water from a “bog hole”.

Photo No.2 Some of the community at Mudwa Quarter in the village of Bafanji at the new Well. This particular Quarter is reputed to have a population of more than 3,500. There is no other public Well in the Quarter. About 600 live within a short walking distance from this new Well.

Photo No.3 The Type B Wells are fully lined with concrete Rings such as these. The Rings are 1m internal diameter and 0.5m tall. Rings extend 5m below the water table. Metal bars are encased in the Rings as they are constructed giving the Rings added strength. They are all constructed on site by Mr. Ambe and his team.

Photo No.4 The Well constructor Mr. Ambe explains to WA Volunteers how he and his team construct the Wells. All the work is done by hand, there is no machinery used at any stage of the construction. All digging of the Wells and mixing of Concrete is done by hand.

The depth of a typical Well is 12m to water table. Then another 5m into water.

Bio Sand Filter Training course at Bambalang



Filter Media Preparation Magdalene is a BSF Tutor. This photo shows Magdalene and Pastor Pius (from Bambalang) checking the Media sand.

The sand must be washed, but not over washed. The test they are conducting is undertaken after the sand has been washed a few times. This test enables them to determine if the sand is sufficiently clean. It is a simple visual test.



Bafanji Trainees These trainees who came to Bambalang from the neighbouring village of Bafanji are very happy with the Filter they made. They are planning to begin a Filter construction and implementation business in Bafanji.

Bafanji has agreed to host one of the Well Maintenance, Repair and Management training courses in March 2012.



WA Volunteers Williams & Pederson's and Trainees WA Volunteers visit the Ndop Plain from time to time to participate in the Water program. They bring their own levels of expertise, particularly encouraging the communities to engage in resolving the water needs of their villages.



Bio Sand Filter Training The course is designed to have full participation from all who attend. A lot of work was done prior to the course within the communities, to ensure that the most suitable people attend the training. The communities choose those who they consider to be the best equipped to make the most of the training opportunity. Hopefully Filter construction businesses will start in Bambalang, Bafanji and Bamunkumbit soon.

