

The Ndop Water Program..... March 2012 Visit report by Mick Toolan

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

The main focus on this visit was the start up of the Well Management , Maintenance and Repair training program. The village of Bamessing hosted the first training course with trainees from the visiting villages of Babungo, Bamunka, and Bamali attending. This is the first in a series of this type of training.

This report gives a basic overview on some of the activities that took place. More details will be posted very soon on the Water For Cameroon web site www.waterforcameroon.com

Included in this report,

- The March Team
- Well Management, Maintenance and Repair training program.
- Wells constructed.
- Bio Sand Filters.
- New business started in Bamunka.
- New business started in Bambalang.
- Gospel of Luke dedication in Bamunka.
- Tippy Tap project.
- Drip Irrigation Trials.
- Department of Education Ndop..... schools program
- Torch Bearers Foundation Cameroon
- Stone Radio --- Ndop

The March Team

Four WA Associates volunteers from the USA participated in all the training and other activities. Two visitors from the Dublin based church (Grace Bible Fellowship) were with us for part of the time there.



Jerry



Otis



Tait



Don



Phil



Radu

Jerry, Otis, Don and Tait are WA volunteers from the USA. Phil and Radu are members of Grace Bible Fellowship in Dublin, Ireland. Jerry and Otis were part of the first WA Team to come to Ndop in November 2009. Don was on the team in December 2011. This trip was Jerry's 3rd to the water program on Ndop. For Otis and Don it was their 2nd visit. This was a first visit for Tait, Phil and Radu, hopefully they will get to return.

Well Management, Maintenance and Repair One of the biggest challenges facing communities on the Ndop Plain is the lack of proper well management, maintenance and repair in the villages. Sometimes the reason for a well not working can be very easily rectified. It's very often a broken or loose riser pipe. In such cases the well can be repaired for very little cost and be back providing clean water for the community very quickly. Our hope is that the trainees will be confident enough to begin assessing and repairing the wells that are currently broken in their village.

This first, in a series of training courses was hosted by the village of Bamessing. Trainees learned the basics in well management, maintenance and Pump repair. A similar course was hosted by the village of Babassi. Trainees showed a genuine interest in learning how to repair their wells. More than 80% of the training was conducted in a "hands on" practical way in the class room and also at well sites in villages. At the completion of the courses six wells were repaired by the trainees resulting in a lot of confidence being gained by all trainees. Some of the trained maintenance teams have acquired a set of tools that will allow them to repair wells. Other maintenance teams will acquire the tools as time goes on. We do not give tools free of charge.



A full working model (India Mk 2) Pump was set up in the class room and used as a teaching aid. This allowed for easier teaching on the basic principals of the pump.

Trainees were able to get acquainted with the pump before attempting to undertake a pump repair job in the village.

A total of six wells were repaired as part of the training course(s). Water is now flowing from these wells.



Trainees discuss the pump



The Full working pump in class



Trainees gain confidence



Wells constructed One Type B well was constructed and handed over to the community in the Quarter of Ngwalla (Bamunka). The local church together with the local community will see that the well is maintained. This new partnership / cooperation is beginning to work very well. One of the church members has joined the community well maintenance team. This whole team were trained at the first training course in the village of Bamessing and actually “ repaired “ a well in their Quarter.



The Type B Well at Ngwalla under construction. This well is more than 22metres deep. All dug by hand.

Currently there is another well under construction at the government secondary school in Ngwalla. A partnership between the School management and the community will ensure that this well is maintained and that clean water is available for the three hundred students and the community.

Plans are underway for a Type B well at a local church and church school in the village of Bambalang. This well will be maintained by the community and the church .The school caters for more than three hundred students and the numbers are growing. We are encouraging well maintenance partnerships between Church and Community also Schools and Community. Its early days yet, but seems to be working.

The total of Wells constructed to date (March 23rd 2012) is 26 This includes Refurbished wells. Its possible that we will reach the target of 30 wells by August 2012

This does not include the additional 3 wells that were repaired during the training.

Bio Sand Filters There are now three Bio Sand Filter business's on Ndop Plain.

1. James at Bamunka.
2. Christopher at Babungo
3. Samson at Bambalang.

During this visit we were able to discuss ways of improving production and the quality of the Filters with the constructors. Remember its very early days in this Filter project. It's a learning process for all involved. There are many news skills be to master. This will take time, but it will succeed.

March 23rd about eighty (80) Filters in total have been made.

New business started in Bamunka A new Bio Sand Filter Media preparation business has started in Bamunka. Media is the collective name for the sand and gravel that is placed inside the Filter during instillation and set up at the customer's home. The correct preparation of Media is very important.

Desmos and Sebastian are two young men from Bamunka who have started a business preparing Media. They will sell the Media to the Bio Filter stores (One in Bamunka and one in Bambalang) also directly to Filter constructors. They have been trained by Magdalene in the correct preparation and storage of Media. In their first two weeks of starting the business they managed to prepare enough Media for twenty Filters. This is a wonderful achievement. The availability of Media gives the Filter constructors the option of buying the Media from the store or preparing the Media themselves. This is all challenging, but achievable.

A new business start up is not easy; it's likely that there will be many challenges facing the business owner(s). These are young men with no business experience what so ever. However, they do seem to have some of the essential requirements for any new business to progress, a desire to succeed and a willingness to work hard.

Of course its early days yet, but we are hopeful that their interest will grow and that the business will prosper. Having Media prepared by some one other than the Filter constructor can be a good thing. It frees up the constructor to concentrate on Filter construction and at the same time it creates another job(s) for someone else in the village.

The selling price of the prepared Media (including purchasing the sand and gravel) must be maintained at an agreed price. Profit has to be available for the Filter constructor, for those who prepare the Media and for the person who installs the Filter. So everyone must get their agreed profit and at the same time the Filter must be available for sale at the agreed / fixed price.



Magdalene congratulates Sebastian and Desmos on starting their new Media Preparation Business in Bamunka.

In their first two weeks of business they prepared enough Media for twenty Filters. This is an excellent result.



Desmos and Sebastian wash Media at their workshop in Bamunka.

They seem to be two enterprising young men. They hire other young men from the village to help them.

Hopefully they will continue with their new venture.

New business started in Bambalang Samson is a Bambalang man who has recently started a Bio Sand Filter construction business in his village. Already he has constructed and installed three Filters. He has worked very hard to source the materials required, construct the Filter, prepare the Media and Install the Filter at the customer's home. This is a really good start for him. He was trained in December 2011 by Magdalene, James and Christopher. He intends to continue constructing Filters at his compound in Bambalang.

There is a supply store in Bambalang selling most of the materials required for the Filter construction. Having a store like this makes it a lot easier for constructors to purchase the necessary materials. Hopefully this one stop supply shop will eventually include all the items required for Filter construction. Of course this shop must also be a viable business and be sustainable.



Samson is now constructing Bio Sand Filters in Bambalang.

There are currently three BSF Businesses up and running.

About 80 Filters have been made to date.

Gospel of Luke dedication in Bamunka



Sunday March 4th 2012 will be remembered in the village of Bamunka for a long time to come.

Many years from now they will talk about that landmark day. The day that the book of Luke was published in the Bamunka language.

This photo shows Pastor Martin, Pastor Edward and Mr. George at the dedication in the Quarter on Mbanka.

Work on the book of Acts is now well underway.

Translator Michal from supervisor / teacher Daniel parcels containing the dedication ceremony in March 4th. 2010 .



Mesow and Literacy from Mbanka carry book of Luke at the Bamunka on Sunday



Pastor Edward, Pastor Martin, Pastor George, Pastor Ezekiel, Michael and Daniel at the Book of Luke dedication on March 4th 2012 in the village of Bamunka

Tippy Tap project The Tippy Tap is inexpensive and easy to make. About eighty Tippy Taps were made on this visit. WA volunteer Tait Powell worked and trained young boys from Mbanka to make the taps.

Tait did a great job teaching the boys and was a great encouragement to them. The taps are being sold to raise money for the orphan fund that has been started by Daniel. Materials cost about € 1-50 (\$2--)

The Tap is usually placed close to a latrine. Very little water is needed to wash hands. Encouraging good hygiene practice and also saving water.



A headmaster uses the Tippy Tap



Children at a school in Babassi



Otis demonstrates the Tippy Tap

Drip Irrigation Trials There are a number of Drip Irrigation kits on trial. These kits are produced by Chapin Living Waters, a US based Christian organisation. Get more information at www.chapinlivingwaters.org

The kit we are trialling is known as the Bucket kit. It is intended for use in a family garden and comes complete with 100 feet (33m) of tape / pipe. Using the kit allows a family to grow crops in their garden during the dry season with little labour required for watering the plants. Of course you must have a source of water reasonably close. Pastor Pius (Bambalang translator) is using a kit in his garden. He is very happy with the results so far. The corn seeds he planted in January will be ready for harvest at about the same time that most people in the village are preparing for planting. A number of people are prepared to buy a kit.



Pastor Pius's garden at Bambalang



Note the drips of water



A drip Irrigation demo. At Babungo

Department of Education Ndop schools program For some time now we have been meeting with a number headmasters of primary and secondary schools in some of the villages. The head master at one government primary school in the Quarter on Mbukong (Bamunka) is very enthusiast about developing a water program that will benefit the children and their families.

Currently there is one Bio Sand Filter in this school. The children from 5th and 6th class have been trained on how to use the Filter. The school intends to have a total of six filters in the school. One Filter for each class.

We have also constructed a Type B Well close to this school. Our idea is to have the school partner with the local community to maintain the Well. This cooperation is at the early stages, but is already showing some positive results.

The school management are the main drivers of this project, encouraging the community to play their part in keeping the Well maintained. The intention is to have the school and community take full responsibility; we will support them with training etc.

The government primary school Inspector General has taken a very keen interest in what is happening at the school. He met with us to discuss future cooperation with all the schools on Ndop. Though this is the first meeting we have had with him, its very encouraging to have such interest from some one who can “make things happen “.

Torchbearer Foundation Cameroon Water For Cameroon is partnering with the Cameroonian Christian organisation Torchbearers Foundation. Plans are being prepared to train seven of their full time workers as Bio Sand Filter constructors mobilises and Installers.

This organisation is working all over Cameroon including the North West region. This is a good opportunity to introduce the Bio Sand Filter to other parts of Cameroon.

Torchbearers have agreed to buy two Filter moulds. Preparations are underway to arrange the B.S.F training course. This could be another step in progressing the Filter project.



Some of the Torchbearers Foundation team

Stone Radio --- Ndop A new radio station operating in Ndop town named Stone Radio interviewed the team about the water program. Magdalene and Daniel spoke in their native Bamunka language and Pidgin.

For some days after the interviews, many people commented to us that they heard the interviews and were very interested in learning more about the water program. As a direct result of the broadcast one person came to the house of Daniel asking to buy a Bio Sand Filter.

We hope to develop our relationship with this radio station in the future. It could provide us with some very good opportunities to publicise the water program, Literacy and other things.

The radio presenter is Anabi Zacks, a Cameroonian man I have got know over the past two years. He seems to be genuinely interested in the water program.



Team members are interviewed on Stone Radio. The station has a large listenership in the Ndop area

Praise and Thanks

We can give praise and thanks for

- The progress the local people involved in the water program are making.
- The training program that has started successfully.

Pray for

- Wisdom, Patience and endurance for those coming to work on the program.
 - That the right people from the community will be willing to get involved and stay involved.
 - The many relationships developing within the communities and the water program team.
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