

## The Ndop Water Program ..... March – April 2013 ..... Visit report by Mick Toolan

Isaiah 43:1 ..... Fear not, for I have redeemed you .....

This visit report gives an overview of the Type C trial that took place at Missi in the village of Bamunka and also updates on some of the other projects we are working on. The WA team from the USA was to consist of Jerry Ohs and Don Willams. Unfortunately Jerry had an accident a few weeks before he was due to come to Ndop, severely damaging his back. Thankfully he is making a good recovery and is planning to return and participate in the program on a future visit. We are very grateful to Jerry, Don and their families for their continued interest and support of the program. To all those who support and encourage the program, we say a big thank you.

- **Type C Well Trial** Trial at Missi, Bamunka
- **Health Promoters** Health Promoters continue their work.
- **Bio Sand Filters** Filter Construction continues.
- **New Health Post** update
- **Children's Education Project** update
- **Water For Cameroon (Cameroon)** update
- **Bamessing Prison**
- **Video of Type C Well work** Video on YouTube <http://youtu.be/swX1dww2TKI>
- **Video of Pastor Divine** Video on YouTube
- **New partnership agreement with St. Johns, Ndop**



Don and Jerry are regular visitors to the Ndop Program. Jerry first came as leader of a WA team in November 2009. That year was the beginning of the Bio Sand Filter project.

Don's first visit to Ndop was in December 2011. His wife Sanna also joined him on that trip.



## Type C Well Trial

The trial took place in the Quarter of Missi in the village of Bamunka. Site no.1 and 2 proved to be unsuitable for the well. Very hard soil or a rock prevented us from drilling to the required depth. It was decided to abandon both of these sites and move to a new place about one kilometre away, still in the quarter of Missi. When funds are available we will convert site no. 2 into a Type B Well. The new site (site no. 3) proved to be suitable and a well is now in place there. It's difficult to know exactly how many people will use the well. It's likely that at least twenty families will take water from the well each day.

This is our second trial of this type of well. The purpose of these trials is to find out if this well type is suitable for use on Ndop. Also to find out the true costs of the well and to examine which model type should be used, if the well is suitable for use on Ndop.

This well / pump design was developed by Water For All International. They have been using this well in South America and also some African countries for a few years now. They have been able to keep the material cost of each well to about \$100. WFA use a model type that they call "the water club". This idea works on the basis of ten families agreeing to join together to work in such a way that will eventually mean that each family will have their own well. The families are trained to participate in the construction process.

The cost of materials in Cameroon is very expensive. It will not be possible to construct a well costing \$100 (for materials). So for now, our challenge is to see if the soil conditions on Ndop is suitable for this drilling method. Assuming the soil conditions are ok then the next challenge is to decide what model will be used. The type C Well is unlikely to be suitable for use as a community well. Water For Cameroon (Cameroon) will have the final decision on the model type to be used. When that is decided we will conduct further trials. Hopefully these trials can happen in November 2013.

A Video of Type C Well nearing completion at the site in Missi is on You Tube ----- <http://youtu.be/swX1dWu2TKI>



**Photo No. 1** Workers use the WFA drilling method to bore the hole. This is an effective way of drilling. However it is a little labour intensive. A team of about ten persons is required. If the labour has to be paid for, then the costs can become very expensive.

Our current cost estimation for a type C Well at a depth of 20m is about \$450- This cost is for materials only. That cost would rule out using the WFA water club model. The cost is simply too high. So we are considering other possibilities.

**Photo No. 2** Water from the well is tasted by Augustine.

**Photo No. 3** The pump handle is fixed to the pump stand. We do have a pump stand and handle made from wood. The wooden one is a lot less expensive than this metal one. We intend to trial the wooden one in the future.





Most of the piping will be purchased from a manufacturer in the city Douala. We are discussing the possibility of bulk buying of piping from this supplier at the moment.

Prices will be a lot less expensive buying that way. The current estimated cost is based on these cheaper prices.

The manufacturer produces pipes of a very high standard.



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**Photo No. 4** The pump handle is fixed to the pump stand. We do have a pump stand and handle made from wood that will be trialed at a later stage.

**Photo No. 5** Two workers guide the drilling pipes into the bore hole . The soil is “ pumped” out from the hole in this way.

**Photo No. 6** Don and Ivo with a community worker ( red shirt ) place the 40mm diam. riser pipe into the casing. The water comes out through this riser pipe.

**Health Promoters** Mercy, Margaret and Christopher continue to work as health promoters. Their work is very important to the success of the filter project. They go from house to house informing families about the benefits of using the bio sand filter, encouraging them to buy one. Though they are volunteers there are some costs associated with these roles. The long term aim is to have these roles self funding. That is not easy to achieve and in the mean time funding is required to continue with this work.

**Bio Sand Filters** Currently there are four constructors making Filters. This work is also progressing slowly. Some Filters are donated to health centres etc. The model we are attempting to establish is that of total sustainability of these individual businesses.

**New Health Post** The health post is now open and people are coming there for treatment. Each month a doctor is available for consultation over a three day period. The two trained staff will be joined by another trained person very soon. The building is not yet fully complete. The concrete floors have yet to be poured, though this does not stop community members attending for treatment. The health post well is almost finished and there are two filters ready to be installed in the centre as soon as the concrete floors are completed. The well and Filters will ensure that the patients attending will have safe water to drink during their time at the centre.

**Children's Education Project** This project began life about two years ago by having some small meetings with a few orphan children in the village of Bamunka. The meetings were simple fun times organised by a member of Mbanka church and some of the orphans, with some singing and eating of some food. Now there is a small committee made up of some member from Mbanka church and orphans. Currently there are about forty children who have been able to attend primary school, supported by friends of Water For Cameroon. The project is growing and hopefully in September 2013 there will be over a hundred orphan children from the Quarters of Mesow, Mbanka and Ngwalla attending primary and secondary school. That is dependent on sufficient funds being available. The average cost per child is about \$20 -- [€15--] for the year. Without this project these children would have no hope of attending school. Most of them are being raised by extended family and friends, who themselves are struggling to make ends meet in their everyday life.

**Bamessing Prison** For the past eighteen months we have been planning to visit Bamessing prison. Our intention was to visit the prisoners and minister to them in practical and spiritual ways. For one reason or another it never quiet worked out. Recently the church at Mbanka began visiting the prisoners. WFC will partner with the church in this work. Twenty members from the church visited the prison recently and met with almost ninety prisoners. One of the prisoners is serving a twenty five year sentence. The pastor told me that everyone from the church was moved to tears when they saw the poor conditions in the prison.

**Video of Type C Well work** This is a short video taken at the closing stages of the well at Missi. You can see it on you Tube <http://youtu.be/swX1dwu2TKI>

**Video of Pastor Divine** Pastor Divine is based in the village of Baba 1. He has a very big interest in the water program and has agreed to help the health promoters as they inform the community about the benefits of using a filter in the home. A Filter has been installed in the home of Pastor Divine for his family use. People come to see the filter and learn about its benefits. Hopefully that this will generate enough interest among the entire community that families will buy one.

**New partnership agreement with St. Johns, Ndop** We are pleased to accept an invitation from the St John's Resource Centre in Ndop to partner with them on some areas of joint interest. We fitted a type C pump in a well at the centre in November 2012 and it has been producing water since that time. This was a big help to the centre and the local community during times of power cuts. A few weeks ago there was no power in the centre or the immediate area for more than five days.

This well was the only source of water for those at the centre and the immediate community. Many people came to take water.

## Praise and Thanks

### Pray

- That the Water For Cameroon ( Cameroon ) legalisation process will be concluded in a satisfactory way very soon.
- That the board and management committee members will work effectively together.
- That the health promoters are able to communicate with families the need to have safe drinking water in each home.
- For wisdom, patience and endurance for all those working on the program.
- That suitable and serious minded people from all the villages will be willing to get involved and stay involved with the program.

### Let's give praise and thanks for

- The overall progress being made.
  - The newly formed Water for Cameroon (Cameroon) committees.
  - The four Bio Sand Filter construction businesses currently operating.
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### Summary

Just to remind those who may be new to receiving this visit report. The program we are working on is a five year trial program. Three years have already passed and in November 2012 we started into the final two years of the program.

The basic thinking behind this program is that of "try it and see" approach, rather than a big push type approach. More and more over these next two years we will see the Water For Cameroon ( Cameroon ) board of directors take more responsibility for the program. The hope is that they will eventually fully design and implement a new program at some time in the near future.

The Water For Cameroon program attempts to work in a way, that encourages communities to help themselves. At this point in the program we are more interested in effectiveness rather than efficiency. That is not saying we will accept poor workmanship. It does not mean that.

We are not managers or planners. It is not our role to work out all the details and plan the projects from start to finish. Our role is to work with the communities as joint searchers and hunters. Looking and searching with them for the needs in their community and the ways to tackle those needs. They are the ones who know best what the needs are and often only need a little encouragement and support to achieve a good result.

We need to remind ourselves again and again, of the need to look through the correct lens as we view and consider the ways we work with the communities. We are limited in many ways. It's good to remind ourselves that Psalm 104 is as true today as it was when it was first written. If God is not in this program then we have a problem.

He makes grass grow for the cattle,  
and plants for man to cultivate -  
bringing forth food from the earth .....