

The Water Gazette

ISSUE TWO

Today, the 27th April 2009, marks exactly nine months since all of us came together at Bossey to begin the first ever Ecumenical Water Network Summer School on Water. I think that we all arrived with much anticipation and it turned out to be a great 8 days.

Since then though we've all been working hard on projects in various parts of the world and the following are a series of accounts from several of the participants on what they've been doing since the conclusion of the Summer School.

This publication is coming to you to give you some motivation and support as you work in your own part of the world towards the same overall goal as others, which is to see clean potable water freely available to all people.

Thank you to all of those who contributed something and thank you to all of those who are now reading this.

Dave

Youssef in Egypt writes

Missing you all so much. I'm really so happy to meet some of you in the fifth world water forum but [at the time of writing (ed.)] I'm still waiting for the hotel reservation to finalize my visa request applications.

Changing minds is not an easy issue, especially in a country full of crisis which doesn't give much care about the environment and environmental issues, so I decided to start from my place as a science teacher and a young leader in my Coptic orthodox church. I've got a course about the vision and the strategic plan and also about the power of positive things and from all these courses and the EWN summer school I managed to point at environmental preservation in the vision of our members in my church.

And about my school, I've managed to put in a programme – a kind of non-formal education – which is called "Education for life. Education for change", the main aim of which is to promote environmental preservation especially for water issues. And during the following days I will share a part of our discussion and activities .

My church also has new activities in 2 of the poorest villages in Egypt .They are all Christian and they don't have a church but just small room to pray together. We are going to start developing social activities starting from the basic human needs and educate them all the life fields especially most of them are ignorant.

So I found a new message in another part of the life in Egypt needs much care not only in Cairo, the crowded capital, but also in other cities surrounding it.

I've more news to tell but I've just 300 words.

Thanks and pray a lot for me

News from Kelly in Massachusetts, USA

Kelly Forbush hosted the premiere of the Water Dance Project at the Helen Hills Hills Chapel, Smith College on Saturday February 28. The event featured the performance of “Essentially One”, a dance about the global water crisis involving core dancers as well as community dancers from the Smith Community. Community dancers joined the core dancers on Saturday afternoon to learn and develop choreography. That evening core dancers and community dancers performed to a gathering of 100 people (a great turn out for Smith). Before the performance Kelly gave a brief overview of the water crisis with questions for the audience to consider while watching the piece. After the show Kelly led a discussion based on the questions about the dance. People had a lot to contribute and were eager to learn. After a discussion the audience broke up into pairs to discuss what they would do as individuals, utilizing a hand out of specific ideas. Kelly shared means to actually change behaviour she learned in a psychology class. Participants wrote their commitments and comments on slips of paper and offered them up to the front of the room before leaving. The event was a spectacular way to kick off this awareness-raising project. The Water Dance Project is scheduled to perform at the local high school, two local churches, and the national gathering of my communion, the United Church of Christ.

Friends, it has been amazing to watch a vision become a reality. Thank you for your support and love – when dancers had issues or I got stuck on choreography or had a fight with the costumes and wondered if I should even be doing this, the memory of you all with your incredible spirits and truthful stories completely pulled me through. Thank you so very much!

At the back of this publication is the handout that I used in the show is attached. I am not an expert on water issues...and some of you know far more than I do, so would you read through the handout and perhaps add or modify the list of action steps? The items on the list are intended for Americans, so some (if not most) would not really work for most people in our group. However, if you think there is something specific Americans can do for water issues- in general or in your specific country- let me know and I will add it!

Peace and love,
Kelly

From Tewaney in Ethiopia.

Part I - Introduction of the project which Ethiopian Orthodox Church is Implementing

Kedida Gamela Water Project, Ethiopia

The Ethiopian Orthodox Church is implementing different developmental projects and among this is the ***Kedida Gamela Water Supply, Sanitation; Hygiene Promotion & Environment Project*** which has got the biggest fund and scheme. I would like to break down this article in to two and I will provide the second in the coming edition of Water Gazette. This water project is found in Kedida Gamela district which is in the southern region of Ethiopia, in Kenbata Tenbaro Zone, in Kedida Gamela district which is 350km from the capital Addis Ababa. This water project commenced on December 2006 and expected to be finalized on October 2009, financed by European Union (75%) and Christian Aid (25%) of the total budget cost of 1,770,400.00 Euro for the mentioned three years. The total number of beneficiaries from this project is 41,152 peoples and 22, 000 head cattle. 60% of the money from the project is spent on water supply. The project will increase the water supply coverage from 3.8% to 70%. The water will be provided in

combination ways: the first scheme is a Pump gravity system on this scheme until the capping of the spring is finalized. The project have built a collection chamber down stream and we are now waiting for the process of purchasing of pipes to connect the reservoir to the water points, cattle troughs, washing basins and shower rooms. For this system the construction of 35 water points, 11 washing basins, 12 cattle troughs and 18 shower rooms and pipe laying from the spring to the collecting chamber and to the reservoir (2.8 km) is complete. But pipe laying from the reservoir to the water points, cattle troughs, shower rooms and washing basins are waiting purchasing of different size inches, also waiting for the provision of electricity. Once the water reaches to the reservoir and distributed it will benefit for thirteen thousand (13,000) people.

To finalize this project we are facing different challenges among these, the unresolved issue of **Value added taxes**, according to EU financial rule article VAT is non eligible cost especially for the purchase of bulk pipes and other construction materials. My government till now was not able to give the EU projects the VAT exemption letter so it creates big challenge to purchase 31km distribution line pipes. **Cost escalation** and fluctuation, particularly for the cost of pipe. **Unusual extension of the rainy season** in the area has dismantled access roads to Kebeles which significantly hindered the implementation of the project activities as per plan. **Shortage of pipe in the market**, this shortage was created because of hard currency shortage in my country. Similarly due to shortage of hard currency to procure transformer the project is waiting for queue to for **hydropower (transformer)** installation.

From Abdel Khalik Reda, a student of Youssef

Water Poem

Water is the key to survive
The treasured sea of pure life

We bath and we use water
Or risk emitting a nasty odour
Like one emerging from the gutter

When we are thirsty, we drink water
Otherwise sooner commit the do-it-yourself murder

While we cook, we introduce and include water
Whether we use temperatures that are colder or hotter

Everywhere you can see its presence
Glittering with an air of essence

When I am sad, I cry water
When it rains, it pours water
When I clean, I employ water
When I play, I apply water
When I am sick, I pee water
And I look at the sea and see water

Put together all men, women and children
In no chronological order
Water is still much stronger
In its simple form of oxygen and hydrogen

Kim in Florida, USA

Hi everyone! Life has been quite hectic this quarter- my job in Private Lands Conservation has been ever changing with the economy- I'm sure its affecting everyone. In my spare time, I've been getting involved in some local community gardens and taking a class in silversmithing, which I really like. In the realm of water: I've still been working on the details of how to get a non-profit organization off the ground. A couple good friends have agreed to help work with me on the water certification process: developing a standard and then implementing the standard for the many, many uses of water. It is slow going, but we are getting there!

Other than that, I was recently able to see two of our group - and that was wonderful! Matt and a classmate from Iowa State University were in Florida for a visit- so we did what tourists must do when they come- we went to Disney World. It was a great time! And last weekend I was able to meet up with David in New York for a much too quick lunch, but it was great to spend a little time together.

I hope everyone is happy and healthy- lets get started on planning a reunion!! I miss you all dearly.

Dave in Australia

Well my adventures are not very numerous but I've been continuing to have discussions with people about the water crisis and what they can do. In Australia there is an organisation called Samaritans Purse which has fairly recently launched a program called "Turn on the Tap" (www.turnonthetap.org.au). I have been utilising the resources of this program in my activities and if you're interested you should look into for yours too. I've done several talks to groups of people in the last little while which have all resulted in more people understanding that here in Australia we are really lucky that we have access to water, which so many other people, including some of you, don't have because you are unfairly treated by your governments and the big business in your countries. One of these talks I did was launching the Christmas Bowl Appeal, an annual activity of the National Council of Churches Australia (NCCA), which aims to provide communities around the world a hand-up not a hand-out. My next activity is running a Sunday School morning on water at my old church which aims to share the reality of water availability and access through out the world with kids.

Attachment
What will I do now?

- Use less water on a daily basis, specifically by _____ ...
 - as a daily reminder of the water crisis
 - living in solidarity with those who have less
 - reducing the amount of water America takes from the natural world
 - Consume less goods which uses heavy amounts of water to produce, such as _____
 - Eat locally to reduce the natural resources needed to package and transport goods
 - Never use bottled water. It takes 4 times the amount of water in the water bottle to make the bottle. Bottled water is the privatization of water and has damaged countless communities around the world.
 - Learn more about water issues from _____
 - Talk about water issues with a friend
 - Include water and environmental themes in your religious community's worship, spiritual life and social justice programs.
 - Raise awareness about the water crisis to gain political power on the issue by _____
 - Advocate for sustainable farming subsidies
 - Donate funds to build community-based programs which deliver clean, accessible water to people
 - Other action
- step: _____

What will motivate you to carry through your actions? Would you like an email reminder? If so, please provide your email below!

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