

# Topic Paper No. 5 – 2010: Clean Drinking Water

At our 38<sup>th</sup> World Convention in May the Resolution concerning ***Clean Drinking Water*** reads as follows:

“WHEREAS general conditions of poverty in the form of chronic hunger and thirst may be the defining human tragedy of this century, the making and drinking of strong alcoholic beverages becomes a necessity in order to combat the lack of clean drinking water it was resolved that we as WCTU members acknowledge and support the concept that access to water should be framed as a human right and we will take as a project the challenge to help facilitate the accessibility of clean drinking water in countries worldwide.”

**“WATER” is the current World Project and all are encouraged to support/initiate projects to help.**

We all know, either first hand or indirectly the results of drought and then of flood – too much water!! But few of us have had to carry, or filter or boil our drinking water to be sure it is safe to drink. A World Health Organization study found that if we achieved the Millenium Development Goal of halving the number of people without access to clean drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015, the gains would include –

- 272 million more days spent in school
- more than 20 billion working days gained from less illness and less time spent collecting water
- annual savings of \$1.7 billion spent on treating water-related diseases

**It’s the Women and Girls who have the most to gain** with clean water because they are the ones who pay the highest price. In most poor countries the responsibility for collecting water, for the family, falls to the women and girls. It may mean walking up to 6 kms to the nearest water, queueing for perhaps hours and then carrying the heavy container load home another 6 kms. So many girls cannot attend school and females often fall sick from water related diseases. One in every 6 persons in the developing world lack clean drinking water and 2.6 billion people do not have adequate sanitation.

**Clean water and sanitation are essential - many countries are in need and Christian groups are actively trying to meet this need throughout the world - sinking wells, providing pumps, latrines and bringing new life to desperate people.**

**One Example** - Drought and conflict has devastated Sudan, especially Southern Sudan. With PEACE has come the process of transformation from conflict and despair to high expectation and hope for the future. In conjunction with the Church of Southern Sudan lives and communities are being changed at a grass-roots level, where people are motivated to use the skills they have for their own benefit and that of the whole community. Association of Christian Resource Organizations Serving Sudan (ACROSS) is helping people find a way to address their own needs following principles of basic Christian ministry with great success. In a programme –Water and Sanitation Hygiene – (WASH) - as part of ministry to children they are being taught the importance of clean drinking water and how to make their drinking water safe. For more information -

[www.across-sudan.org](http://www.across-sudan.org)    [www.csdw.org](http://www.csdw.org)

*Many informative web sites can be found by simply putting “clean water projects” in your search engine*

**Pray in the words of the Prophet Isaiah 44:3 for all the people who have a desperate need for pure, clean water.**

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