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FACT: One child dies every **8 seconds** from a **preventable** water related disease.  
(World Health Organization)

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Dear Friends

Have you ever been thirsty? Well of course you have. For most of us the solution is as close as our kitchen faucet or better yet, a short reach to a bottle of purified water. For the people I met in the village of Gidika the solution was much different.

Gidika is in the Hanang District of the Manyara Region of the country of Tanzania, East Africa. It is one of sixty-two villages in the district and is certainly one of the worst when it comes to the availability of clean water. I was led to this village by the district water engineer after I asked to be shown the three villages that had the most severe water problems.

Upon my arrival, I was introduced to a woman who stood on behalf of the village to communicate their remarkable situation. I asked her to show me the village's source of water. She led me down a path for a mile or so into a ravine and to the edge of a hand-dug well. The well measured about 5 feet in diameter and was about 35 to 40 feet deep. As I toed up to the edge of the well to peer down its throat, I was startled to discover a pair of eyes looking back at me. The eyes belonged to a young girl, perhaps 7 or 8 years of age. She stood ankle-deep in mud while she filled a bucket with the best water that the mud pit had to offer. Other children at the top of the well would then pull the bucket to the surface and lower another.

I asked the old woman how this well could supply the water needs of the village, to which she replied..."It can not". She then told me that the women and children would walk for two days to the next nearest water source, a lake called Basotu. It would take a full day to get to the lake. Because the walk back to the village at night was so dangerous, they would sleep on the shore of the lake after washing the family clothing. Then at dawn on the following morning they would fill their buckets and journey back to the village. Their precious cargo, as dirty as it was, would last them for two days so they could tend to their fields and flocks. Then the process started all over again.

Gidika isn't the only village in the Hanang District in need of clean water. It may not even be the worst. It is, however, one of the villages that God has led me to and one that He wants you to know of.

As a Living Water volunteer I have the privilege of raising awareness and funds, and then participating in the drilling of water wells in villages like Gidika. If you feel called to partner with me in this effort with your prayers and/or financial support, do so through Living Water International in the project name of "Hannah's Hope". I have enclosed an envelope for your use.

Before I sign off I want to tell you what some are doing to support "Hannah's Hope". Consider making a two week commitment to make your only beverage...WATER. Set aside the money that you would have spent during that two week period for coffee, tea, sodas etc. and send it to LWI in the project name of "Hannah's Hope". This certainly is a win-win opportunity.

Thanks for taking the time to listen.

Blessings

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