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"Hannah's Hope"

Living Water International of Tanzania

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Dear Friends,

The first time I met the villagers of Mrumba was in early 2004. Their water problem was significant and unique in that they had two wells, neither of which worked. One well had a broken 25 year old Swedish hand pump and the other was a windmill pump built in the mid 1970's which had not worked for more than 12 years. The result of this was that for many years the people drank water taken from run-off pits which accumulated after infrequent rains. To make matters even worse, this was the source of water used by their livestock as well. Obviously sickness and death was a too common occurrence.



In late 2004, thanks to Living Water International and "*Hannah's Hope*" supporters, I and a team of Tanzanians were able to complete the repairs to the hand pump and for the first time in a very long time, a community of nearly 1500 people had access to some clean water.

This past June I had the opportunity to begin work on the windmill pump. Even though the Texas landscape abounds with windmills, as an Indiana immigrant to south Texas, I have had little occasion to get up close and personal with a working windmill pump. Nonetheless, I had to try. This was a four day project. The first two were spent making repairs to the windmill itself and the last two repairing the pump. Late on the fourth day the final rods were connected. Soon, the clear cool water which had been waiting for more than 12 years surged from the depths with each revolution of the windmill blades. I hope you can sense just how electrifying and emotional this moment was.



As amazing as this is...the best was to follow. About an hour later I, the Hanang District Water Engineer and missionaries Steve Burkholder and Nate Wolf sat with the village leadership to discuss maintenance responsibilities and other vital issues. The village chairman was keenly aware that Steve, Nate and I were in Mrumba to share two ways to quench the thirst of the people. One was certainly physical and the other was spiritual.

After I was given an opportunity to speak and share my faith in Christ, the village chairman, a Muslim (speaking in the Kiswahili language), said that the people of Mrumba were a friendly and tolerant people. He indicated that he was aware that while working on the well, we had been telling the villagers about Jesus Christ and had been handing out literature in the native language. Now, this is where I swallowed real hard. He continued by telling us that not only were we welcome in Mrumba at anytime, but that we were welcome to tell all the people about Christ and if we so desired, we could build a church in his village. Wow! I will say it again...Wow!

What had begun two years earlier had now come to this, a glimpse of the hand of God at work in a rural village called Mrumba.

“To all who are thirsty I will give them springs of the water of life without charge.”
(Revelation 20:6)

Continue to pray that water will be found for the people in the villages of **Simbay** and **Gidika**. Their situation is serious and their need is great.

Blessings,

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