



Pastor's Page

Water for Life

I don't know about you, but I love washing up! Really! I can't wait to finish a meal in order to get stuck into the dirty dishes! (Alright, I'm exaggerating slightly!) However, a few weeks ago I was ready for such an assault on my dishes when the hot water tap decided to release only cold water. Well I can't really blame the tap, the gas boiler was the real culprit - it had decided to take early retirement and stop working. Encouraged by this action my electric power shower followed suit and went haywire. Most of the time it was freezing cold, then boiling hot, before finally remaining freezing cold. – hence no hot water in the house! What's happening? – it's a conspiracy, they're ganging up against me! (well as far as conspiracy theories go it may not rival the JFK Assassination "plot" but don't write it off yet!) You'll be relieved to know that I have a new shower and the boiler situation is now in hand. But in all seriousness there were times when I felt sorry for myself because I had no instant access to hot water, forgetting that there are over **one billion** people worldwide who do not have access to clean water!!

If we're honest I think we would have to admit that for most of the time we just take for granted the fact that we have access to clean water, and forget those who don't. But I have been greatly challenged in recent days by the work of WaterAid who are trying to provide clean water for developing countries. According to their statistics, on average, in the developed world, we each use 200 litres of water a day! Against this background one of their writers says; "Imagine though if water wasn't so plentiful – if the only supply for yourself and your family was a slow moving trickle in a dry riverbed or a dirty puddle at the bottom of a deep hole. Imagine if you had to walk several hours to collect water that was also being used by animals as well as hundreds of other people for their daily activities such as washing and bathing. Shockingly this is a reality for more than one billion people worldwide, who struggle every day to access clean water. There are 2.6 billion people in the world who live without a safe place to go to the toilet. That's why WaterAid works with local partners and community members towards a vision of a world where everyone has access to safe water and sanitation. One woman (Zainabu Rama) in a village in Tanzania had her life transformed by a WaterAid project. She says ' I used to do my washing in a traditional well and collect water from another well which took three hours. It took a long time especially if there was a queue and there was very little water so you would have to scoop deep, it was very tiring, I had to do more than one trip to get two buckets. Since we have had the water pump installed in the village I have gained eight extra hours to do my business. Now surplus money from selling the vegetables goes to buying the meat, clothes and other things we could not afford before, our nutrition is better'

It costs just £15 for WaterAid to help provide one person in the developing world with access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene education.

As we remember God's goodness and provision for our lives this Harvest time let's say thank you to Him by supporting the work of WaterAid and changing at least one person's Life in Jesus name.

7th October 2007