



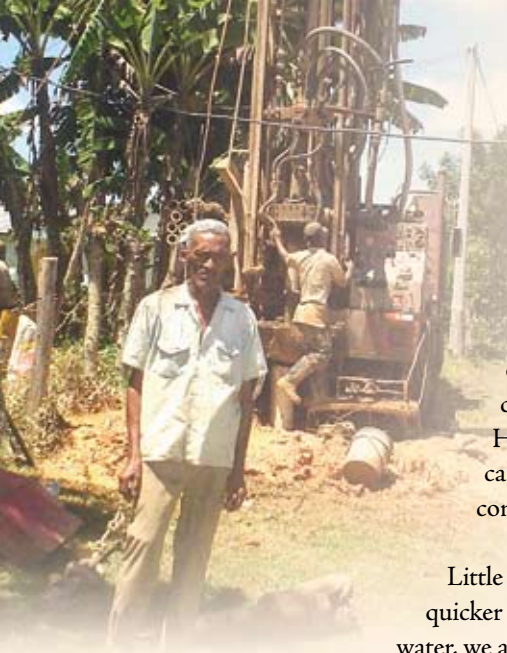
Access to Clean Water

In much of the developing world, the lack of ready access to clean water is one of the most difficult problems families and communities face. Because it is such a basic need, until it is met it challenges every effort a family makes to address other problems. If clean water is available at a distance, someone—usually women or children—must spend much of their day carrying it home, time they can't spend on other long-term needs such as growing food or getting an education. Yet if they don't fetch the clean water, nearby contaminated water may be too tempting for thirsty mouths to resist, causing debilitating, even fatal diseases.

For most of the past century, the Dominican sugar industry imported Haitians to work in their sugar fields and factories. Although they lived in deplorable conditions in clusters of housing known as bateys (BAH tays), many stayed because they could earn more money than in Haiti. Some married Dominicans and raised families there. Many of the bateys where they lived survived the closing of the sugar refineries, but conditions did not greatly improve. Many had neither sanitation nor sources of clean water.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING • **Where Is Your Treasure?**



Recognizing that their bateys could not move forward without clean water, some women organized to build clean water systems. With Self-Development of People's support, they dug wells and piped water to storage tanks in central locations. Finally, clean water is accessible to their families. Now their children needn't spend hours each day carrying water, and they can attend school. Having seen what an organized effort can accomplish, they can focus on their communities' other challenges.

Little makes us recognize our interdependence quicker than thirst. If others pollute our common water, we are all poisoned. Sometimes we depend on others to help us find sources of clean water. Today we are called to give sacrificially to One Great Hour of Sharing, which helps families and communities find that clean water. May we give generously indeed, and in that giving may we begin to find the wellsprings of living water Jesus promises will quench our thirst forever.

Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing change people's lives:

- Because clean water is one of the most urgent necessities after disasters occur, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance includes it as central in both its immediate and long-term disaster responses.
- Both the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People recognize that clean water is crucial to any development project, so it may be the need around which community organization begins.
- A shallow well that may cost \$1,500 can save countless hours of carrying water and save lives otherwise lost to contaminated water.

For more examples of One Great Hour of Sharing's water ministries, go to www.pcusa.org/oghs/water.



www.pcusa.org/hunger



www.pcusa.org/sdop



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