

Well of Hope For Pastoral Nomadic Community in Kenya

Mission Statement: We are motivated by the love of God and neighbor to provide Safe Clean Drinking water for the pastoral nomadic people of Northern Kenya

Goal: To drill Water Wells and Roof Water Catchments as a part of our faith in action

Locations: Semi arid regions of Samburu/Maasai regions in the North of Kenya

Project Name: Well of Hope Nomadic Shalom Ministry

Registered: As Faith Based Non Profit Organization

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Partnership: Unto The Least Of His (Bobby Gale)

Introduction

The Well of Hope is an indigenous nomadic pastoral ministry which attempts to use the local available resources for community empowerment. It is a charitable volunteer ministry officially registered as a Faith based non-profit organization under the name **Well of Hope Nomadic Shalom Ministry**. The Program is holistic in nature. Our main mission is on evangelism and social responsibility. This is by proclaiming the Good News through Word and Deed. On practical level we are focusing our attention to socio-cultural and economic challenges as a means of poverty alleviation from the grass root level. On community level the program specifically focuses on sustainable development activities such as health and sanitation, water, education and organic farming, livestock, environment concerns, women empowerment through micro-enterprise and advocacy. Each of these activities will be linked to the Well of Hope which is the Nomadic Shalom Water Ministry.

Priority: As a matter of priority we are currently focusing our attention first to water program. We are actively involved in the drilling of water wells in the desert regions of North of Kenya.

Our current Community challenge: There has been a prolonged and a terrible drought that has devastated these desert regions of Kenya. As a result of prolonged drought seasons, there was also livestock disease outbreaks and severe starvation for both the people and their animals. The pastoral nomadic people have suffered major economically debilitating drought in 2003/2004, and 2006/2007. These are available historical records. Each of these drought episodes is reported to have decimated over 75% of the existing livestock herds and consequently leading to the present suffering of the pastoral indigenous people. Eventually with the prolonged drought, most of the cows, sheep, goats and domesticated camels died.

Drilling / Rigging and Geological Consulting: We are committed to create access to and monitor safe drinking water for communities in the Northern region of Kenya. Through the professional consultancy from the local water engineer, we have contracted with drilling companies familiar with the local geology to drill water wells and install with multi-spigot distribution equipment to serve both people and animals. We are linked to Christian drilling organizations that have modern and well equipped drilling rigs for water Wells.

Shortage of Drinking Water: This is On Going Challenge: Each day hundreds of thousands of people in Kenya and in most parts of East Africa region drink unsanitary water they have spent hours walking to gather. These waters are contaminated with parasites such as Guinea Worm as well as dangerous Cholera bacteria. According to the ministry of health report, 36% of all hospital cases reported in Kenya pertains to parasitic intrusions. Many more incidents go unreported due to a staggering lack of health care infrastructure, especially in the more devastated semi arid area of North of Kenya. For their very survival people are forced to drink from these contaminated waters and subsequently become infected; often times resulting in diminished immune systems that fall prey to other opportunistic diseases. This exposure results in pain, sickness, and often death.

Due to unclean water, many people are suffering from worms in their stomach, guinea worms on their limbs, and a hernia resulting from carrying heavy jugs of unclean water many miles every day. Many people have been operated to repair their hernia. Most of them have been advised doctors not to drink unclean water. There was no clean water in the village. The only real measure to stop this preventable suffering is to provide them fresh clean water.

Our ministry services will be of invaluable help for struggling communities as they seek to help lift themselves from a cycle of disease and poverty. Clean water is the fundamental basis upon which communities can subsist. Drilling a well to provide a clean source of drinking water will prevent water born diseases, as well as eliminate the need for annual migrations of villages and their livestock in search of available water during the dry season. With the addition of ample clean water, schools, medical clinics, and society at large will be provided with a more stable developmental platform on which to grow. Our faith in the sanctity of human life and the realization of our overwhelming good fortune demand our immediate response to this ongoing daily tragedy.

Solution: Indigenous Community Program upholds the moral imperative to assist the local people to rebuild their basic economic life by supplying fresh clean drinking water. We have identified local indigenous leaders and they have been trained with basic skills to operate and maintain the borehole. This is one of our mission strategies to empower local community through involvement and responsibility.

Management: A regional management resourceful board of management for this water wells program has been identified. There is also an existing community executive committee with the membership of a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and other members. We anticipate partnering with individual friends, churches and other corporate organizations for prayers, technical, consultancy and financial support.

Because of this reality of everyday life for the people in area, our indigenous volunteer ministry is determined to change this situation. Specifically this is by fully participating and advocating for the well being of the pastoral people. This is by drilling Wells and providing clean fresh water in my homeland.

Goal of action: Please pray that our goal of drilling a well for my home village of 100, 000 people shall come into fruition. This is our goal of action for the next 5 years. I would like to see that one day their hardship of walking 5 to 6 miles distance on daily basis to carry water home with a 20 liter jerry can, [or 40 pints] on their backs or sometimes by heads. It is our prayers that both parents and their children and their livestock will be able to drink clean and safe water from underground waters. This can only made possible by drilling of water Wells which can be determined deploying reliable and licensed geologists.

Through our registered Well of Hope in Kenya, the Nomadic Shalom Ministry, we consult with the Ministry of Water and the Water Management Authority of Kenya. By contracting with them they carry out the hydrological survey to determine the depth and volume of the underground water. They will also provide drilling permit after the survey has been carried out.

Cost of Drilling: The cost of drilling one water Wells is US \$ 15, 000. This is for mobilization, demobilization, transportation (from Nairobi capital city of Kenya to North of Kenya is a total of 400 miles). This is a very long distance of dirt road particularly with a fleet of a heavy drilling truck and 3 big support team trucks for carrying pipes casing, installation of water pump and a diesel generator, pump house, and a storage tank of 10, 000 liters. The other options are the installation of wind mills or in the case of shallow water wells [30 to 50 feet deep], we install hand pumps which are manually operated.

For the last two years, 2007 and 2008, through the help of Unto **The Least Of His, whose President is, Bobby Gale**, we were able to drill 6 water Wells at the average depth of 90 to 170 meters deep. We have also assisted local high school institutions with roof water catchments. This is by installing plastic water tanks of 10, 000 liters [80, 000 pints] so that during raining season they can be able to harvest water from the plain sheet roofs, which are also proven to be clean drinking water.

The Wells of Hope is a major bold indigenous strategy to attempt to address the shortage of water in Northern Kenya. Through the provision of clean water for the community, it will be easy to plan for

church planting, medical services, and also initiate community development activities for poverty alleviation.

Partnership: How can you partner with us? Personally, I come from this region of the Northern Kenya. I know the current social, economic and cultural challenges in these areas. Through my anthropological and leadership skills which I have learnt at Asbury Seminary I have the ability and the experience to address the current challenges in the region.

We look forward to be connected and to partner with your ministry. Thank you so much for compassion ministry of providing a cup of water. Thank you for your bold faith decision to be part of our ministry of Well for Hope, which is simple Gift of Water for life.

Summer Trips: Last year 2008, we organized a two week summer trip to the Northern Kenya. We had twenty team members from Asbury Seminary, Asbury College and Dayton Ohio Air force. The team provided their skills on medical services [dental and eye clinics, distribution of mosquito nets etc], engineering [on water tank constructions, plumbing, etc], teaching and church planting]. On a separate note, I am sending you the news update and pictures from this mission trip. The team had a two day game wildlife Safari and an opportunity of participating at the local Hope Beads women trade fair. This was a great experience for the team and the local pastoral nomadic people.

We have plans for another mission trip summer 2009. The mission team will be involved in church planting, help with water wells cistern constructions and irrigation farm systems.

Prayer Request: Please pray that our plans to drill 5 more wells in the summer 2009 will come into reality. Through the professional geological survey, we have identified the sites for these 5 water Wells. Please pray for the provision of enough funding to be able to accomplish our plans of action of providing safe drinking water. Thank you so much for your willingness to partner with our Well of Hope, The Nomadic Shalom Ministry.

Thank you,
Michael Lolwerikoi