

The Story of Millie's Well



*Mwapwa Village
Zambia, Africa*



Jesus Talks With a Samaritan Woman

1 Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John— 2 although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. 3 So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.

4 Now he had to go through Samaria. 5 So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" 8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.[a])

10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." 11 "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

13 Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." 15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

16 He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." 17 "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. 18 The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

19 "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. 20 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." 21 "Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

25 The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." 26 Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he."



A Christmas Miracle

My dear friends,

Do you believe in miracles? I have heard people ask why there are no miracles in this present age. Well, I am honored to announce We're All God's Children now has the opportunity to be part of one. Read on...

When our team was in Zambia this past June a gentleman came with his family to visit us. He had heard about our work and begged us to dig a well in the village where his wife grew up. There is no clean water in the village. The only water source is an open hole with a tire around it. The women draw up the polluted water for drinking, bathing, and washing clothes. There is no other option. I was very touched by their plight but we had already committed our meager budget to other projects. Even as I cried inside, I put aside thoughts of the well and the man's pleading voice and gave it over to God.

Recently I received a phone call from one of our donors. Before our trip to Zambia, she had asked me many questions about how we used the contributions we receive. She was interested in a full accounting of how much went to projects versus administrative costs and salaries. I explained that we have no paid staff and money raised for a specific project is always used for that particular project.

This wonderful woman then proceeded to tell me she wanted to finance the drilling of a well if I could assure her it would be built in a village in need and if I could document where the money went. I explained the cost would be at least \$4,000 and her reply was she could deal with that as long as her money was used solely for digging the well! And the man's pleading voice came back to me.

Today I am pleased to announce that preparations are currently being made to grant the wishes of that faith filled man who came to plead for this small village. What a Christmas miracle! This one gift will forever change the health and lives of the people in this rural village in Zambia. Can you imagine their jubilation when they hear what God has provided?

I will continue to document the progress of the well over the next few weeks and I'll inform you of other needs in the village as well. How blessed we are that God chose to do a Christmas miracle through us! I bow before Him and say thank you Father for using We're All God's Children to carry out your work.

Carol

MWAPWA VILLAGE

Let me tell you a little bit about the family who has a heart to help this little village. Their names are Susan and Roger Shakami. They have three children - two boys and one girl. Susan has worked as a house maid for many years, where she earns less than \$100 per month. For many years Roger was unemployed - leaving the family struggling financially. Even while they were struggling for their own survival, they began to go out to the village where Susan's grandmother lives because they knew that the children there did not have any education. They started going on weekends by public bus, and then traveling by ox cart into the village.



Children with the teacher

They would gather the children together and teach them the alphabet, numbers, etc. Finally they "hired" a teacher who could be there every day. They shared with her from their own meager income so that she would give the children hope through an education. The teacher still has no books or pens or paper. They sit on rocks or bits of concrete blocks under the tree. They are now building a mud brick school room so they can be out of the weather.



Daughter Leah with the ox cart

There is no clean water in the village. The only water source is an open hole with a tire around it. They women draw up the polluted water for drinking, bathing, washing clothes. There is no other option.



Susan's Father selling tires

We have known the Shakami family for 5 years and always admired the fact that they give so sacrificially when they had so little themselves. Roger is now employed pumping gas, which is a small help for them. Every weekend they still go out to the village to bring the children treats to eat - popcorn, little salty treats, etc. All of this is from their own pockets. They teach the children educational songs; they teach them as much as they possibly can with no resources.



The current borehole

They stay overnight in Susan's grandmother's hut - sleeping on the dirt floor. Their commitment to these children is phenomenal. They give up every weekend and use their funds to bless others. Susan's mother and father sell used tires along the highway and sleep under the tarp that is a make shift shelter where they sell their goods. Susan and Roger and their three children live in an urban slum with open running sewers in the capital city of Lusaka, two hours from this village.

The school of course needs support - they would love to have a certified teacher, money to pay her salary (\$100/month), desks, books, pens, paper, chalk board, etc. Please keep this small, insignificant village in your prayers. Let's see what God will do to meet their needs!



Four generations of caring women

Tanya Brennemen, Grassroots Heroes Int.



The children's "desks"



The mud brick school

Eager to learn



Susan's Grandmother



Susan's Parent's Shelter



Snack Time



THE WELL

They first heard about it at Christmas. It was an answer to prayers. The village was getting a well!

No more dropping a bucket into a hole filled with muddy water. No more mothers crying on the inside as they watched their children drink dirty water. Clean water was coming!

But first they had to wait through the rainy season. The rains fell and the roads were so muddy they were impassable. The big rig used to drill the well would never make it through to the village. Have patience they were told – have patience and wait upon the Lord, for He is faithful.



And finally the rains stopped and the sun began to dry up the muddy roads. After three long months their dream was to become a reality. The rig was coming. The well would be dug. Excitement was in the air as the riggers hooked up all the equipment and began the arduous process of locating clean water. Again and again the drill drove down through the dirt; and again and again muddy water spewed forth. Night fell and the work stopped. Inky blackness settled over the small village in Zambia.

But just as the morning brought a new sunrise, so too our Lord brought new life – life in the form of pure, clean water! The digging was finally over. From deep, deep in the earth came sweet, clean, drinkable water. And from deep in their hearts their praises rang forth, “Praise God! You are finally here and you are giving us good water. Praise God! Now all that remained was to add the pump housing and provide instruction in the use and maintenance of the new well.





THE WELL DEDICATION

From our Project Manager in Zambia, Cosmas Zimba:

Digging the well went well but it took longer than we expected. In the end we managed to bring water to the people of Mwapwa Village. We had a number of people come on that day to witness the ceremony; the chief and his subjects were there too. When I was handing the well over, I told them, "You are blessed and Jesus loves you all." They promised me that they will take care of the well. The chief was/is very thankful to you for bringing the well to his area and he said truly God loves us. The well will help all the village members and the school. The chief requested more safe water in his area. He said "If you have more resources would you could consider helping to drill another well?"

