

From the Editor



Mind blown!

Although, it shouldn't be. Wine into Water is by far, the easiest yet most significant mission ever!

I came up with this idea over 10 years ago after participating in a church book club where we studied *The Hole in our Gospel*, written by Richard Stearns. There were many heartbreaking situations written about in this book, but the most heartbreaking to me was concerning villages of people in Africa who have no access to water, let alone clean water. So, while the men of the villages work the fields each day, the women have to walk great distances with large vessels (which they carry on their heads) to go find water. These women cannot spend time raising their children, so the elderly women are left with that task.

Once girls reach 4th grade, they must also help fetch water, which means they have to quit school. But the real kicker for me is that the water they find to gather and bring back to their villages are coming from such areas as mud holes and therefore, NOT clean water for drinking. This contaminated water is making the villagers sick and some die. Many get guinea worm. And there's more heartbreak to this story, which I will not cover in this article.

This terrible situation haunted me, and I just couldn't let it go. But how can I help those people? I shared with the book club how I felt. Soon afterward, one of the book club members brought me a copy of *Presbyterian Today*, which had an article about Marion Medical Mission, where I read that their mission was to reach the more remote, small villages in parts of Africa, and they have the villagers help with the digging of shallow wells as well as making the bricks to line the wells. Because

the villagers dig and make the bricks, the only expense for each well is the pumping equipment and the cement to seal the well. At the time, the total cost was only \$350! (Now, it is \$450).

Was this a coincidence? I don't think so. I believe that God gave me the opportunity to help in a way that I felt I could. I could donate. But as I thought about it even more one evening as I sat with a glass of wine and a book, my thoughts went to water....wine....water..... Jesus turned water into wine.... Ohhhhhh how about if I helped turn wine into water??! I decided to hold little church wine parties to raise money for my new mission, "Wine into Water". These little parties could raise enough money for about half of a well at each event.

Then about four years ago, Lisa McFadden insisted that we could take this mission to a new level and started reaching out beyond the walls of this church and into our community of friends. Because of that, each event now raises enough money for at least two wells! Our last event raised enough for three wells!

Our current Wine into Water events are large, fun get-togethers with snacks and beverages, including wine, of course. In the last year, we have raised enough money for 5 wells, benefiting approximately 410 people. What could be better? This mission is truly a blessing on so many levels and I am so thankful for Lisa McFadden who pushed me forward by insisting that we could make Wine into Water even better.

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink....'" excerpt from *Matthew 25:34-40*

IN ONE YEAR

These are the actual wells that were provided by Butner Presbyterian Church through the Wine into Water mission over the Last 12 months.

"I tell you the truth, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to Christ will certainly not lose his reward."

~Mark 9:41



Located in the village of Songwani, Malawi and will serve 70 people.



Located in the village of Vubwi-Kaloba Village, PHIRI David, Zambia and will serve 55 people.



Located in the village of Chimthele, Malawi and will serve 60 people.



Located in the village of CananiChirwa, Malawi and will serve 100 people.



Located in the village of Mlafu, Tanzania and will serve 125 people.