

# Partnership Report - Winter 2008

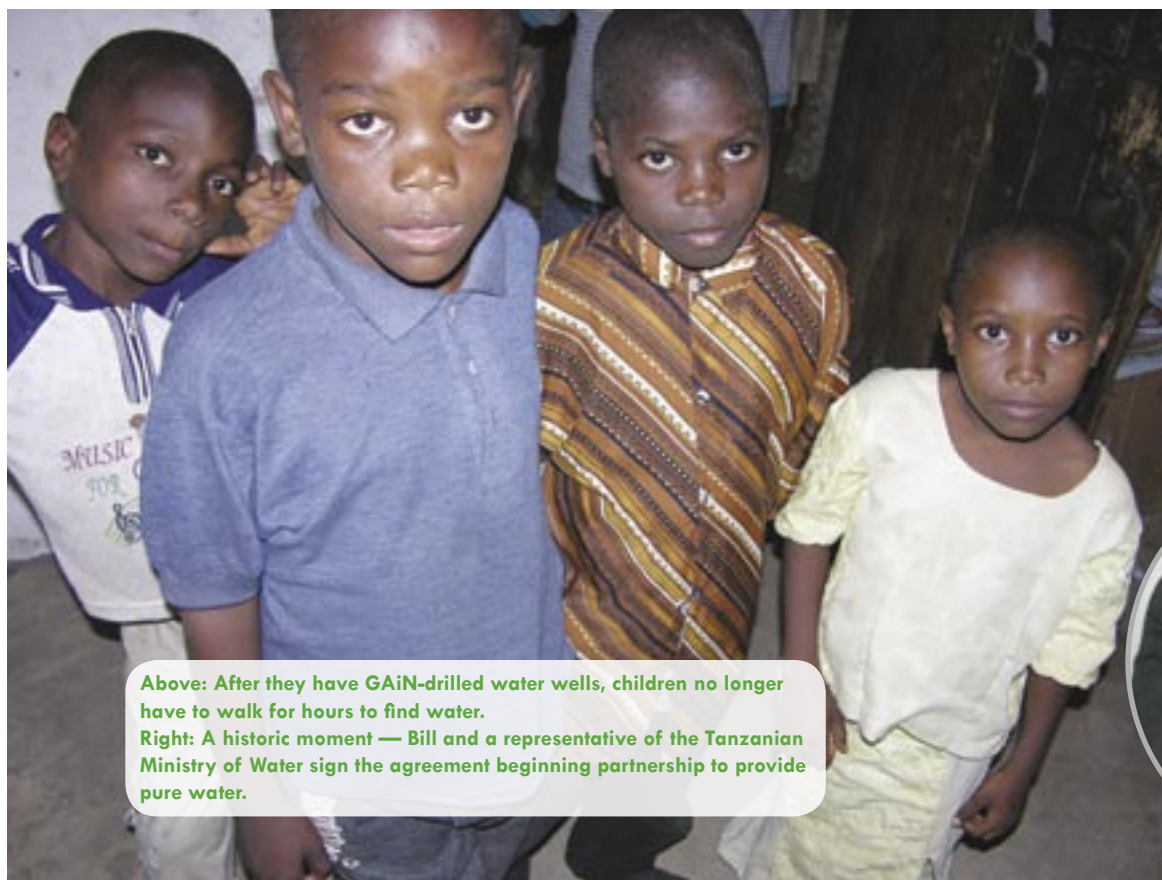
## Water for Life Overflows to Tanzania

GAIN's experience drilling water wells in Benin and Sudan is opening doors to provide safe, clean water in another African country – Tanzania. The alarming UN fact, "a child dies every 8 seconds as a result of water borne disease" still includes countries like this. The under age five mortality rate for Tanzania has been improved with recent international efforts to improve water sources, but there is

much work that remains. A government report in 2006 explains that the challenge in water provision is on how to improve equitable access especially in rural areas. The country is vast and the majority of the population lives in these rural areas, where water is often drawn from open sources such as ponds. The overall vision of the Tanzanian government is to make drinking water available within 400 meters

of all households by 2017, but various factors have made timelines for this goal problematic in the past. The quality of open water sources is poor, and 38% of the population is not accessing water from improved water sources. People are at very high risk of contracting diseases from drinking water or even having contact with it.

In this backdrop of desperate need of reliable, clean water, GAIN currently has a signed Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Tanzania to begin a water well drilling project, and we are in the process of shipping 2 drilling rigs and laying the foundation to begin to bring life-transforming water to these needy people by May 2008. GAIN will be working with the Tanzanian Ministry of Water



Above: After they have GAIN-drilled water wells, children no longer have to walk for hours to find water.  
Right: A historic moment — Bill and a representative of the Tanzanian Ministry of Water sign the agreement beginning partnership to provide pure water.



Tanzania continues on Page 2

## Tanzania - Continued



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and Livestock Development, who will conduct water quality testing and seismic studies to ensure the best locations for each well to be drilled; in most cases, 60-70 meters below the surface. The government of Tanzania is providing a 5 ton truck and a 4x4 pickup to tow the drilling rig and our well drilling crew from village to village. GAIN has agreed to fund the drilling of the water wells and provides the management and crew for the project. Drilling wells will start in the Lindi region, a coastal area with one of the most dire needs for clean water due to contamination by salt water.

As is the case in all countries where GAIN has water well drilling projects, once clean water is provided, the people are able to regain their health. Better health results in more productive time in the fields. The increased water supply also provides water for drip irrigation, resulting in increased field production yields. The surplus crop can be sold to local markets providing much needed income to the village, eventually leading to financial independence. The cycle of sickness, suffering and death that contaminated drinking water has caused for generations will be broken! Women and children will no longer be required to spend hours each day searching for and carrying water over extremely long distances. UN studies have found that the closer girls live to a water source, the more often they attend school. In Tanzania, when girls live within 15 minutes from a water source, their school attendance is 12 per

cent higher. As part of our desire to help people holistically, GAIN will also bring ALERT medical personnel on trips to the villages to offer basic medical treatment to people.

*Will you partner with us to provide pure, clean water, transform lives and demonstrate God's love to the needy people of Tanzania? Please [click here to respond!](#)*



## Benin, West Africa – Encounters of Gratitude, Changed Lives

One of the most rewarding but challenging tasks GAiN staff do in Benin is to travel there several times a year in order to visit villages where water wells have been drilled, to confirm that the pumps are operating well and assess the impact of the well on villagers' lives. There are many villages to visit, and often these 7-10 day trips keep the teams up from dawn until dusk and later, travelling on rough, dusty roads. Coming from an affluent country puts a filter in one's vision which is ultra-sensitive to the pervasive and extreme poverty of rural areas. The low standard of living is impossible to ignore. Houses are either thatched or red mud-brick, tools and implements are minimal, and most of the children scamper barefooted on the well-swept dirt ground in between village huts.

Generally speaking, Benin is a collection of different people groups that have had varying degrees of tribal conflict. The national language is French, but there are 72 different tribal languages that are spoken! Outsiders are often regarded with suspicion, the natural result of the fact that few look out for the villagers' welfare at all, and many that arrive making promises for improvement never return.

Almost without exception, though, is the gratitude that visiting GAiN teams encounter when they visit villages after wells have been drilled. The living conditions are still poor, but men and women are more relaxed, and children play happily. When the teams arrive, they run to meet them, in that mix of eager and yet shy curiosity that children have when they hope for something good. Many of them have never seen a camera before, and seeing pictures of themselves on a digital camera screen brings widened eyes, smiles, chatter, and laughter. Before long, everyone wants to be a movie star, jockeying for position in front of the lens! Teams talk to village elders, pastors, or typical residents to find out what life was like before and after the water wells were drilled. Often, a young adult from



the village will need to interpret from the tribal language of the elders into French, which is then translated into English by Patrice, our faithful in-country Project Manger. These are 2 of the villages that the team visited in early February:

**Village of Sanon** – north Benin, Borgou province, faith: Muslim – “In the past, it was difficult to get water. We had to wake up early and walk very far in order to find water, but it was dirty water and we were always became sick from drinking it. Now that water is close to us, we have enough time at night to sleep well. Thank-you, thank-you, thank-you! We just cannot thank you enough for bringing us this water!”

**Village of Kplakplahoue** – south Benin, Atlantique province, faith: Voodoo – “We didn't have water in this village before, and the water we did find wasn't clean, and made us sick when we drank it. We are happy to have this water here now, and to know that it won't make us sick! We have been told that it was Christians who have given us this well because they love us and that's why they drilled this well for us—they want us to live! Even before you came here to visit today, we

have been thankful to you since the day that this well started working”!

Few rewards are better than experiencing heartfelt gratitude. We want to pass this gratitude on to you, because these people and thousands of others would not have had their lives changed without your decisions to become partners with us! Your gifts of compassion, our organization and the physical work of our in-country partners are all helping to transform the lives of up to 65 000 people in Benin who now have access to pure, clean water from 65 GAiN-drilled wells. We're also beginning a well rejuvenation program for villages where existing deep wells have been drilled by other parties but have become blocked by silt or sand with time. This new strategy will restore clean water at approximately the third of the cost to drill a new well and take less time, as well. Thank-you on behalf of those you may never meet, whose health, future, and hope are being restored by clean water!

Please click [here](#) to join us in restoring life and hope to the people of Benin through the gift of pure water, demonstrating God's love to them in word and deed!

**Sudan – Peace in Painful Circumstances**



“Struggle” is a word which characterizes daily life in Sudan. International news agencies report political stalemates over administrative control and resulting violence between December and January, in an oil-rich region between north and south Sudan. It’s a situation which could be the flashpoint for war to fan into flames again, a short 3 years after the peace agreement was signed between the administrations of north and south Sudan. Current news also reports the massing of air force and militia and resumed bombardment of villages in Western Darfur are fueling concerns about imminent widescale violence against people there. Conflict in neighbouring Kenya is having a ripple effect into Southern Sudan, transmitting fear and tension after a recent attack by suspected Ugandan militants and slowing travel along the main roads. Humanitarian aid transported by trucks is among the delayed cargo destined for already suffering people waiting for food. Food shortages are likely for both displaced and local people in the coming months owing to a combination of factors including floods in 2007, high numbers of returning people and generally diminished food supplies because of conflict and displaced people.

Yet, amidst all this turmoil and uncertainty, there are people who are happy and grateful,



Above: Despite a life of difficulties, faces are friendly wherever we go

Right: Our in-country partner’s drill rig works to bring water and transformation to another community

Far Right (both): GAIN partners meet the people who are being changed by the demonstration of God’s love.

because of compassionate people like you. Over the past 2 months, 2 containers of dried soy/rice casserole had been delivered to our in-country partners in Southern Sudan. Recently they distributed the contents of one of these containers to people in Mundri County, including malnourished children under five years old, breast-feeding mothers, the disabled, the elderly, and people displaced from their homes due to flooding. Rations were also given to local churches for distribution through them. Over 3200 people



To date, 13 water wells have been drilled and are giving life-transforming, pure water to up to 13 000 needy people!

We are so grateful for the fact that we can bless the needy this way, and that they are experiencing God’s love in word and action!



Will you please consider joining us in the ongoing demonstration of God’s love and hope to men, women and children living in uncertainty in Sudan? [Click here to respond!](#)



received rations to last nearly 2 months. They were excited to receive this food, and kept thanking our in-country partners and GAIN for the food distributions and are praying for more! In addition to offering food to men, women and children in Southern Sudan, GAIN’s in-country partners are also feeding over 10 000 people in Darfur, giving them rations of cooking oil, sorghum, lentils, and beans that will last for 3 months, supplementing food from other sources. As the conflicts have permitted, our in-country partners have also faithfully continued to drill GAIN-sponsored water wells.

## Paraguay – Compassion in Action Grows Community



For people living in rural Paraguay, life is hard. Sometimes, so little money can be made from farming that they desperately uproot their families and move to the capitol city, Asunción, in hopes of finding work. Often, what they find is unfamiliar faces, more hardship, little work, and tension-filled streets. It's tough to keep living right if you struggle to have enough to eat, especially when you know your

children are hungry. Culture steeped in Roman Catholic traditions and a history of lack of justice for powerful mafia-style lawbreakers leads to suspicion of anyone with claims to do good. Reforms are being made by the government, but change comes slowly to common life.

There is clearly much opportunity to help! GAIN Canada has been providing food to Compassionate Church Action, a network of 32 churches in 38 locations, regularly feeding just over 5000 children and reaching out to their families. When our GAIN team visited Asunción in February, they were shown entire camp "zones" of squatters from the country. There are 300 of these zones on the outlying areas of the city. They are claimed as separate territories, each having their own moral codes, protecting the inhabitants by barring entry to the land owners.

Pastor Osmaldo Palacio and his church serve one of these squatter zones, home to 5000 people. It's an amazing story of growing trust and seeing transformation. In the beginning, a simple open fire outdoor kitchen was set up outside the zone and women from the church began to cook weekly meals for over a hundred hungry children who happily came out to eat. Then other people from the church wanted to reach out to the children in other ways. Men began to offer soccer classes (even without proper soccer balls!) and the teenagers began to put on puppet shows. Parents began to venture outside their huts to the kitchen and get to know the people who were loving and feeding their children. Now, most of the church is involved in some way, and the

seeds of that compassionate action have grown into vibrant community, for both the church and people living in the zone. People have responded to God's love being demonstrated to them in love and deed. When asked why she cooks meals for the zone children, one of the kitchen workers responds, "I know how hard it is to feed my own children, but it is a tremendous blessing for me now to be able to show God's love this way". Pastor Osmaldo attests that without offering to meet people's needs by feeding them, they people would not have accepted them. "We didn't know how to reach them, but the soup kitchens now help me as a pastor to be able to reach the needs of my community and these kids"... "If they were not spending time here, these kids would be on the streets. Here, we give them self esteem, we teach them values and work ethics. Here we prepare them for a better life than a life of crime." Without having the dried soup mix, dehydrated apples and other food that GAIN has sent, Pastor Osmaldo's church would not have the means to offer food to so many people. Thank-you for your compassionate partnership, which has made this growth and transformation possible. The story is similar with the other 31 churches involved. More good news is that there is a waiting list of 80 more churches that are willing to sign up to be part of Compassionate Church Action and start feeding programs of their own! They only need the partnership of people who can provide them with food.

**If you would like to join us to continue and expand this demonstration of God's love in word and deed in feeding hungry children and their families in Paraguay, please [click here!](#)**



*Here, we give them self esteem, we teach them values and work ethics. Here we prepare them for a better life than a life of crime.*

**Above: Delivering your gift of dried soup mix and hope to Paraguay**

**Right: Hungry children being feed and loved on the outskirts of Asunción**

## ALERT: Professional Knowledge + Compassionate Attention



A.L.E.R.T. stands for *Acts of Love Emergency Response Team*. These teams bring medical intervention to GAIN's practical work, offering holistic help and demonstrating God's love to hurting and needy people around the world, as part of either existing projects or international emergencies. We are grateful to have a growing variety of highly trained emergency response professionals volunteering to travel with GAIN to help people affected by conflict and/or calamity by meeting their physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual needs.

Trauma counseling is a huge need worldwide, as survivors of natural disasters or conflict try to grapple with grief & emotional turmoil. Often these people, who endured and lost so much, feel guilty for the very fact that they have survived and were helpless to save loved ones. Rage can brew inside, turning into bitterness bent on revenge against those who have committed injustice. Without being able to access help and hope through counseling, peace is hard to find. This is especially critical for children traumatized by war, such as in Southern Sudan. Their rage and desensitization to violence can breed further violent acts; even murder.

Often it takes much emotional and spiritual stamina for ALERT staff to conduct trauma counseling training, and specialists in this field are few in number. Dr. George Rhoades, ALERT's Director of Trauma, travels extensively in order to counsel people suffering in trauma, and to train others in trauma counseling. He has just returned from Sri Lanka, where people live

in turmoil and fear because of constant armed conflict which has been prolonged for years. He'll be part of upcoming meetings in March between GAIN and representatives of the Departments of Psychology from two reputable American universities. GAIN is thrilled to have these universities interested in the work of ALERT teams! The main topic of discussion will be structuring a credit course for 4th year and graduate students to be able to accompany ALERT teams on international trips to offer trauma counseling training. This will greatly multiply and expand ALERT's ability to offer help to hurting

people worldwide. Currently the next trip to Southern Sudan to conduct further trauma counseling is scheduled for April, and another trip for basic medical intervention is scheduled to Benin in May. Are you a medical professional who has been considering joining us on an ALERT trip? Please don't hesitate to call us for more information. We are currently seeking a physician to accompany the next ALERT team to Benin, in order to offer villagers there the most effective medical aid we have available.

Thank-you, on behalf of the hundreds of people in Sudan, Paraguay, and Benin who have been helped by ALERT teams. Because of partnership like yours, professionals and lay-people in each of these countries have had God's love demonstrated to them through medical aid and compassionate attention. Those who have received trauma counseling training have received knowledge and practical techniques to both deal with grief themselves and to be able to reach out more effectively to hurting men, women and children around them.

**Please click [here](#) to partner with us on an ongoing or special need basis as we provide for the costs of sending ALERT teams to offer medical treatment, medical supplies, training in practical counselling techniques, and hope to hurting people worldwide.**



**Both Images: Dr. George Rhoades conducts trauma training seminars in Sudan, providing healing and hope for inner peace**

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**GAiN** is committed to compassionately providing immediate, practical relief & development aid to hurting & needy people around the world; to restoring hope & dignity.

**partnership** - Our partnership with you is maximized by good relationships with government leaders and key decision makers in-country. The effect is catalytic; it boosts the flow of progress & escalates effectiveness of short term relief & long term development.

**emergency response** - GAiN mobilizes resources to help relieve crises arising out of natural disasters, calamity and conflict.

**ongoing aid** - GAiN strives to ensure that people receive help as it's needed, even long after the initial crisis.

**development** - GAiN purposes to holistically meet people's needs, helping them rebuild their lives and hope for their futures.

Funds are still needed such as in Darfur & Southern Sudan, Benin, and Paraguay. GAiN continues to offer help to meet people's ongoing needs long after their countries are no longer in the news.

Please consider giving to these ongoing projects, the A.L.E.R.T. medical intervention program, our operations needs, or to Water for Life, as we begin to drill water wells in Tanzania.

Give online at [www.globalaid.net](http://www.globalaid.net)



William (Bill) Blaney  
CEO, GAiN Canada

### Message from Bill Blaney

"We have much to be grateful for" is a common saying in North America. Yet, during my trip to Benin in February, something I experienced humbled me to the core. It came to our attention that the wells in several villages had stopped giving water. The wells were examined, the problem found, fixed, and simple changes made in the final hand pump installation to prevent the problem from happening for future wells. Everyone was happy again as water gushed from those pumps. What I couldn't understand was, despite the fact that some of these wells hadn't been operating for months, no one had told our in-country team about it. Why wouldn't they tell them, since they knew that the team asked to be contacted if there were any problems? Patrice, our in-country project manager, explained, "The people were deeply ashamed that their wells had stopped working, and were convinced that they had somehow broken them. When someone gives you a precious, life-changing gift, how do you explain to the giver that you broke it?" What a perspective...how good it was to be able to correct their thinking, remove that shame and restore the gift of water to them, demonstrating God's love again. And how humbling to realize the value of what you've given to people. Thank-you for your partnership with us!


 A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Blaney".