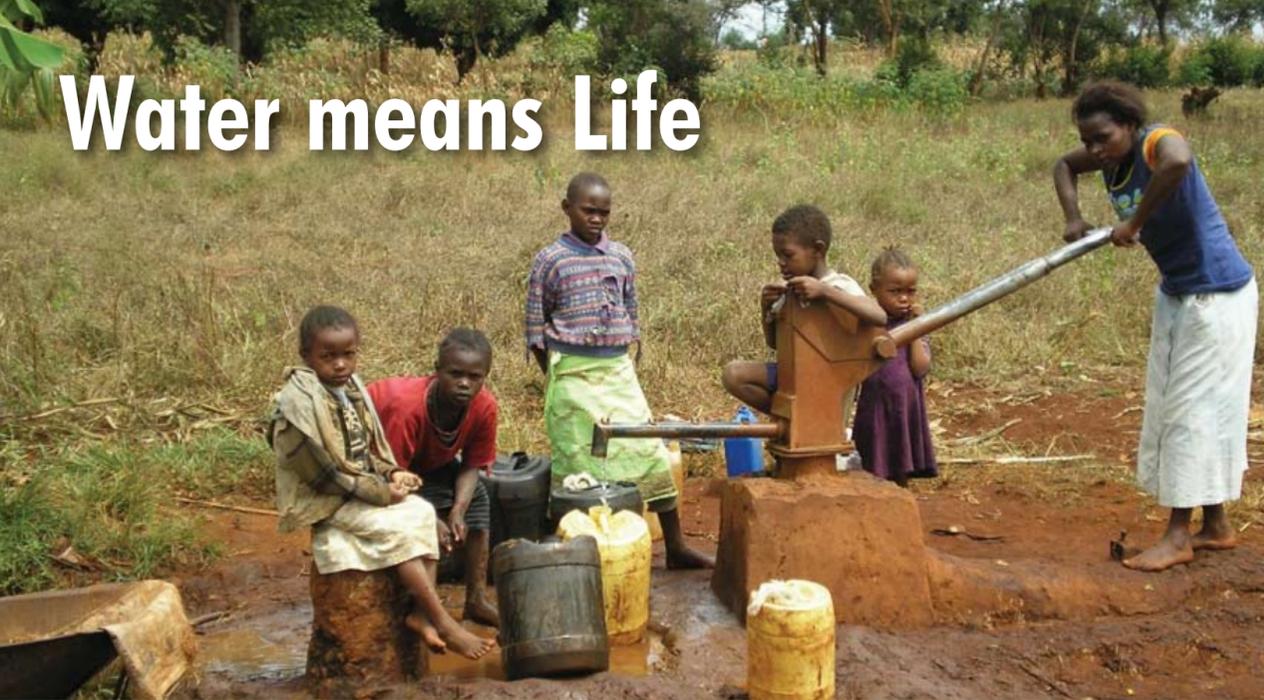


Water means Life



“Is anyone thirsty? Come! All who will, come and drink, drink freely of the Water of Life!” (Rev. 22:17)

The earth and its waters are gifts from God. Water is the common property of all – the source of life, essential for sustaining human, animal and plant life on earth, a key component in maintaining stable global climate patterns, indispensable for agriculture and industrial production, and a substance of deep spiritual and cultural significance in many societies. But water is not distributed equitably around the globe.

We take water for granted – most of us need only reach out and turn on the tap to get more than we need at any time of day. **But women and children in many parts of Africa and Asia walk an average of**

6 km daily to collect water for their family’s needs. Aside from additional health risks, that means women spend time away from caring for their children or generating income. For children, it means energy and time diverted from attending school.

The average sub-Saharan African uses the same amount of water in a day as we do when we flush a toilet or brush our teeth for two minutes with the tap running. **A child born in a Western industrialized country consumes 30 to 50 times as much water resources as one in the developing world.**

hunger and his illness. His children are too weak from malnutrition to attend school and have dropped out. Katee’s family survived on some relief food, but then had to sell their chickens and goats for food. They have no other security for the future.

While water may seem abundant to us, only a tiny share of the Earth’s water (less than 1%) is both fresh and renewed by the hydrological cycle (the water cycle) that moves water between oceans, air and land through the processes of evaporation, plant transpiration, precipitation and run-off.

As Canadians, we make up 0.5% of the world’s population, but have about 20% of the world’s freshwater reserves. We find ourselves in the position of stewards of this precious resource. What does this mean for you and I?

Two Water Stories

The average Canadian woke up this morning and got ready for the day ahead by jumping into the shower. A turn of the faucet was immediately followed by jets of refreshing hot water. A flush (or two) of the toilet. Brushed teeth while watching a stream of water run down the drain. Went into the kitchen, filled the kettle with water from the tap and put it on the stove to make some tea. Mixed up some orange juice concentrate. Washed fruit for breakfast. Put the dishes into the dishwasher. Threw in a load of laundry.

In Kenya, Katee’s wife and children are still struggling with the drought that has been ravaging their country for 3 years. Crop failure due to the lack of water means that there is a food shortage. It also means that there was no work for people like Katee, who made a living as a farm labourer. Katee became sick from typhoid, a disease carried by dirty and untreated water, and died from

El Salvador

WATER ACCESS AND COMMUNITY-BASED STEWARDSHIP

El Salvador is a small, densely populated Central American country of 6.7 million people, with a tragic past. The country was ravaged by civil war from 1978 to 1992. Hurricane Mitch struck in 1998 and two major earthquakes destroyed homes and infrastructure in 2001. Tropical Storm Stan hit El Salvador in 2005. It destroyed more than 80% of crops and caused serious problems of soil erosion.

El Salvador is the most water deprived country in the Americas. Only 21% of the rural population has access to piped water. There are intense political discussions about water stewardship and services. As in other developing countries, the World Bank is promoting the privatization of water systems as a condition for loans.

There is a great concern that treating water as a commodity which can be bought and sold for profit does not ensure that the poorest people will have access to water necessary for basic needs. It is the rural poor who will be neglected by companies that seek to profit from water that belongs to the entire population of El Salvador.

The Sharing Way and Emmanuel Baptist Church are partners in a water project that will benefit the town of Nueva Granada and 9 surrounding communities. When completed, this project will provide clean, safe water piped for over 500 families. The water source is a natural spring that is being protected through tree planting. Water is pumped to two tanks, treated with chlorine, and then flows by gravity to the communities. Local health authorities have seen a remarkable decrease in intestinal infections in the five communities that are already part of the system.

This water project promotes a community-based approach to water stewardship – volunteer teams from these communities have helped to construct the tanks and laid pipe over difficult terrain. Local water committees from each community have been trained to maintain the system. These committees also organize community forums to plan programs that address other community needs such as sustainable agriculture and housing. In 2007, CBM’s Short-Term Department will send volunteer teams to help build homes for families in need.

“For more than fifty years we have been asking the government to supply our communities with safe water. We have also prayed continually to God with this request. Today our prayers are answered.”

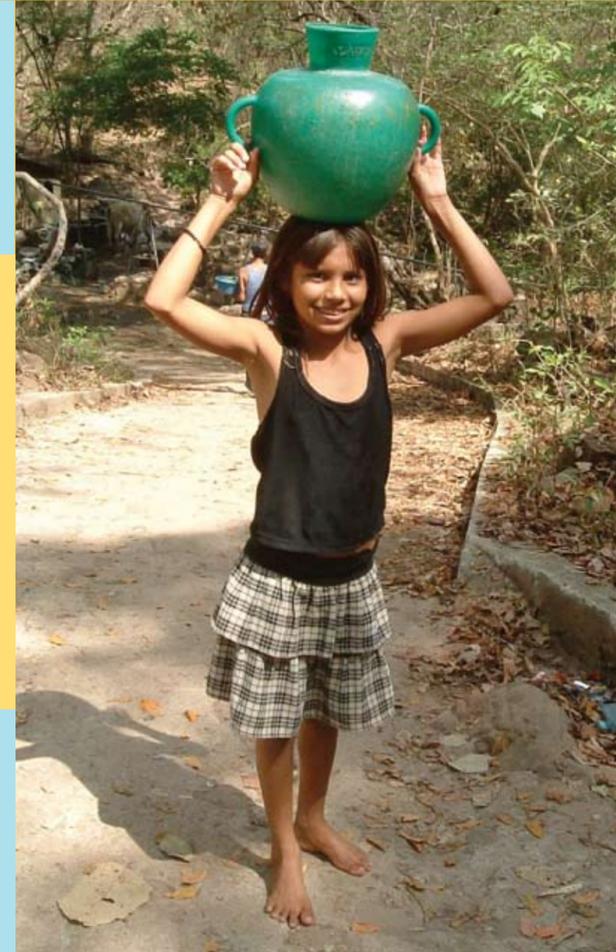
A farmer from Nueva Granada

BECOME A PARTNER IN THE NUEVA GRANADA WATER PROJECT. THE SHARING WAY IS PARTNERING WITH EUROPEAN NGOS AND THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT TO COMPLETE THIS PROJECT, WHICH WILL HELP 500 FAMILIES OBTAIN FRESH WATER.

YOUR SUPPORT OF JUST \$150 ALLOWS ONE FAMILY TO HAVE AN OUTDOOR TAP THAT WILL SUPPLY CLEAN, SAFE WATER FOR DRINKING AND AGRICULTURAL NEEDS.

Your contribution not only provides thousands of people with a dependable potable water supply, but will also strengthen a community-based approach to caring for and managing water resources, conservation education, and environmental stewardship.

“The poor and needy search for water, but there is none; their tongues are parched with thirst. But I the LORD will answer them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them.” (Isaiah 41:17)



Water gives Life

“Reduce by half, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation.” (United Nations Millennium Development Goal #7)

Water gives life, but it can also take life too. Human and animal lives, homes and habitats, and human livelihoods are lost in floods and tsunamis. **Millions of people, mostly children, die every year from water-related diseases like cholera or malaria, and many more suffer from illness stemming from unclean water.** Even more die from hunger-related causes due to food scarcity caused by drought.

Water is a fundamental requirement for human life and essential for life with dignity. How much potable water is enough for healthy living? The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization proposes that 20 to 50 litres per person per day is the minimum amount necessary for basic human needs and lives of dignity. So indispensable is water to life that the global community has been urging governments to recognize access to a sufficient amount of clean water as a basic human right.

Kenya and Rwanda

WATER STORAGE AND FOOD SECURITY

Kenya has a population of 32 million (about the same as Canada). It is estimated that 43% (approximately 13.8 million people) do not have sustainable access to clean water. In Rwanda, one third of the rural population must walk to collect water from streams or other natural sources.

In partnership with The Sharing Way, the Africa Brotherhood Church is undertaking a number of water projects. The initial stage will greatly improve the lives of over 3,000 people in five communities. The water will be used for domestic purposes, livestock and micro-irrigation of crops. Each project includes the construction of a large water storage tank. The water itself will come from rainwater harvesting techniques. These include the construction of weirs (small dams that capture water during the two seasonal periods of rain) and roof top catchment systems using gutters and pipes on large buildings like schools and churches.

The water projects in Rwanda are also designed to help people who must walk several kilometres a day to collect water. In two places water will be harvested from the roofs of public buildings and stored in tanks for use during the dry seasons. The third project will pump water from two streams into two 25,000 litre tanks. The water will flow by gravity to the community of over 2,500 people and 750 students in the schools of our church partner, the Association des Églises Baptistes au Rwanda.

These water projects will improve the quality of life for families. They will reduce the daily burden of water collection that falls on women and children. The incidence of water related disease will decline. Local farmers will be able to increase crop production and nutrition levels will improve. They will also be able to receive water maintenance and conservation skills training to reduce soil erosion and depletion.



Through The Sharing Way’s work with church partners in Kenya and Rwanda, you can give people like Muthoki a hand-up in developing water self-sufficiency, community leadership and food security. TSW is committed to providing water tanks and systems for eight communities in Kenya and Rwanda. With your support we can expand these water programs to include other communities in the future.

THE COST OF CONSTRUCTING ONE WATER STORAGE TANK IS \$1390. FOR JUST \$115 A MONTH (FOR ONE YEAR), YOU CAN HELP BUILD A LIVE-GIVING WATER TANK FOR A COMMUNITY IN KENYA OR RWANDA.

One of the people who will benefit from this project is Muthoki Mungooti, a widow with 6 children. She has had no hope for harvest in the past four seasons because of unreliable rainfall and no alternate access to water. In order to stave off starvation, she and her children consumed the grain she had stored for planting and sold off all their livestock at whatever prices she could get. Now, Muthoki and her sons work in neighbouring farms or other casual jobs in order to survive. They are living on food borrowed from neighbours and are susceptible to disease due to poor living conditions. The family desperately needs to gain access to water to improve their situation.

Water feeds life

"You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it. You drench its furrows and level its ridges; you soften it with showers and bless its crops. You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance. The grasslands of the desert overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness. The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain; they shout for joy and sing." (Psalm 65:9-13)

Water scarcity problems are also food scarcity problems: planted and sown seeds fail to germinate, and those that do, produce stunted crops that die before maturity. Rather than storing seed for planting, people may be driven by hunger to eat the seed, leaving them with nothing for the next planting season. Lack of water also leads to increased livestock deaths, and the lack of tree or plant cover promotes soil erosion in land already marginal for farming.

Food scarcity has effects well beyond the scope of malnutrition and hunger. Families sell off their domestic assets (e.g. livestock, land) and use up their savings, which depletes their future security and entraps them in poverty and landlessness. Children drop out of school due to hunger. Migration to the cities in search of work

Water scarcity is also a food scarcity problem. When you help the people of Potosi access water, you are ensuring families of better nutrition and increased family income. These efficient irrigation techniques and ecologically sustainable farming practises help build food security and fight hunger.

THE SHARING WAY IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING \$21,130 FOR THE POTOSI PROJECT. IT WILL GIVE A HAND-UP TO 48 FAMILIES IN THE COMMUNITY. FOR JUST \$440, YOU CAN GIVE ONE FAMILY THE CHANCE TO STAY TOGETHER AND PROVIDE THEM WITH HOPE FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE.

© Water for People



"Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" (Amos 5:24)

exposes people to crime, poverty, HIV/AIDS and poor housing with their own accompanying health risks.

About 70% of water use worldwide is in agriculture. Population growth pressures mean that 20% more food will be needed in the next 40 years. This need for food will have to be met through more efficient use of irrigation and increased storage and management of rainfall rather than over-exploitation of groundwater sources.

Bolivia

WATER, FOOD AND HUNGER

Life is difficult in the highlands of Bolivia. The highest poverty rates in Bolivia (the poorest country in South America) are found in the rural areas of the Altiplano. According to the UN's Human Development Report 2005, the infant death rate in this region is 5 times higher than among the affluent population of the cities. These rural communities have been left behind, with no significant programs to improve living conditions or farming methods.

The levels of poverty in the Bolivian highlands are staggeringly high. In many communities, over 60% of the adult population leaves the area temporarily or permanently to find work. Communities are broken apart as parents seek employment in the cities or neighbouring countries. Children are left indefinitely in the care of grandparents or friends. In many areas the traditional family structure and community support networks are crumbling.

The Sharing Way has made an initial commitment to assist with water programs in two communities in the Altiplano. One of the communities is in the region of Potosi. This community receives little rainfall during most of the year. Women and children must carry water for long distances for domestic use. A sustainable water supply will change life for the entire community.

The Sharing Way is working with the community and the local government to build a water system that will pump water from a source that lies several kilometres away. An elevated tank and a simple distribution system will provide the community with domestic water and irrigation water for low pressure sprinklers. Bolivian Baptist Development workers will train local farmers to increase crop production. This water project will keep families united and be a witness to God's love.

BE AN ACTOR. GET STARTED TODAY!

Global issues such as water, hunger and the HIV/AIDS pandemic are highly complex and interrelated. It may seem overwhelming to contemplate how we can even begin to respond to needs of this magnitude around the world. Here are simple ways you can begin to make a difference on the vital issue of water:

1. SHARE WATER AS A GIFT

Take a vow of generosity. As stewards of this precious resource, have compassion for others who live without. Empower others to access the gift of water by donating to projects of The Sharing Way that seek to find sustainable solutions for families and communities.

Give people a hand-up (not a hand-out), out of justice, not just as an act of charity.

2. RECOGNIZE WATER IS LIFE

Visit www.cbmin.org and sign The Sharing Way's online water declaration form. Encourage others to do the same. For those with no internet access, ask them to sign the enclosed water declaration form and return it to The Sharing Way for mailing to the Prime Minister's Office.

Commit yourself to upholding the principles of the declaration:

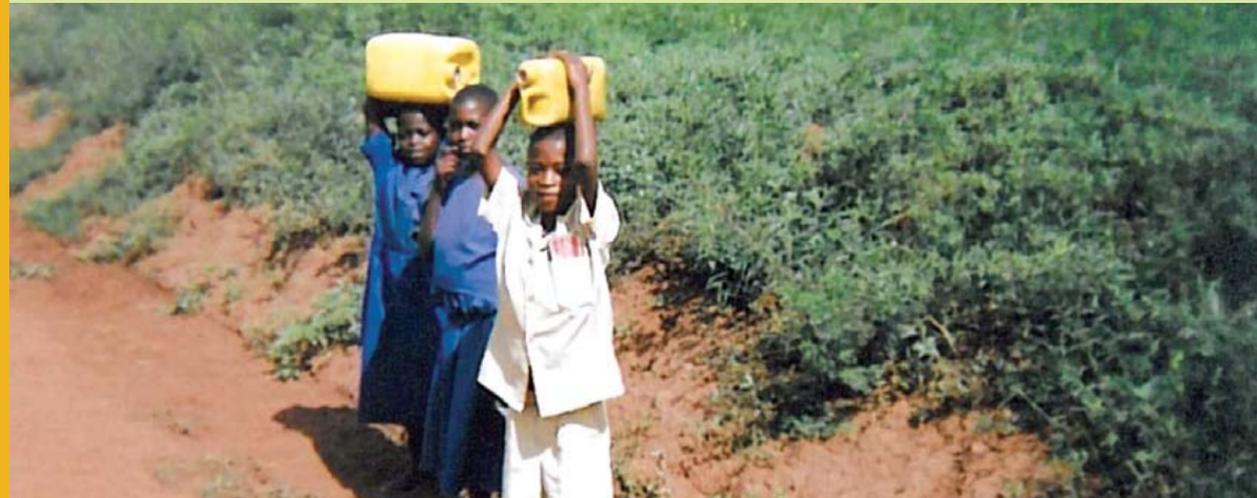
- Water is a sacred gift that connects all life and is indispensable for life.
- Access to clean water is a basic human right, essential for lives of dignity.
- The value of the Earth's freshwater to the common good takes priority over any possible commercial value.
- Fresh water is a shared legacy, a public trust and a collective responsibility. (adapted from Development and Peace)

3. SPEAK OUT THAT WATER IS A RIGHT

Make lifestyle changes that positively impact our world. According to Environment Canada, the average household of 4 people uses over 1,300 litres a day, or about 340 litres per person. By making only small changes in these areas, we can greatly reduce our water use.

Become aware of water issues for others. Start a discussion group or forum for members of your church or community around these and other global issues. Discuss ways you can raise funds and awareness on this issue.

For more reflections and ideas on how to get started, visit our website at www.cbmin.org. Click on The Sharing Way; Annual Appeal Supplementary Resources.



The Sharing Way®

Your partnership of hope with the poor

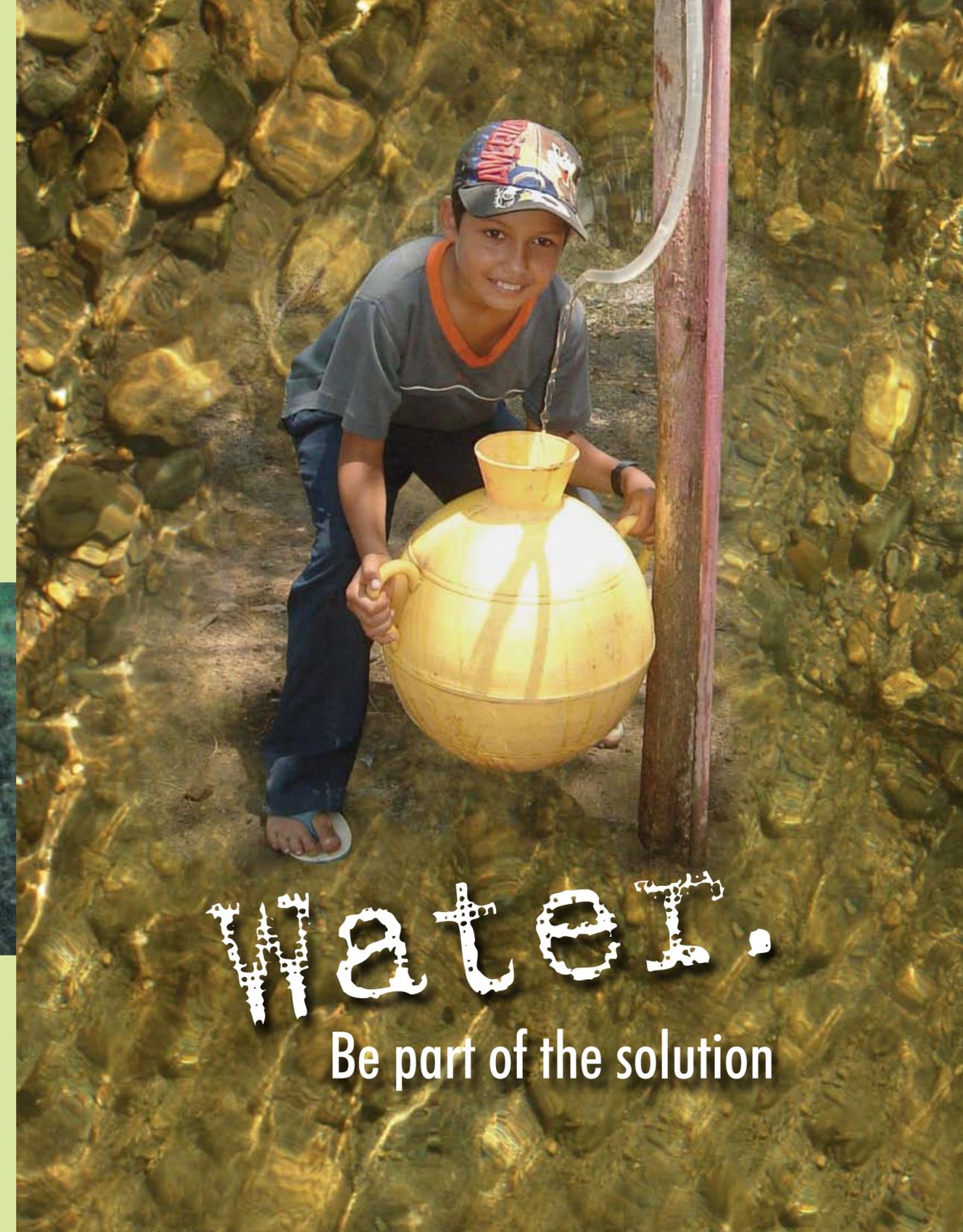
www.thesharingway.org

ACT NOW! SHARE THE GIFT OF WATER TODAY!

The Sharing Way is the relief and development department of Canadian Baptist Ministries. Make cheques payable to "The Sharing Way" and write "Water Appeal" in the memo section. Return to The Sharing Way along with the enclosed response form.

Mail to:

The Sharing Way
7185 Millcreek Drive
Mississauga, ON L5R 5R4



Water.
Be part of the solution