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Water. Be part of the solution

September 2006

Dear Pastor or Missions Coordinator,

“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

In our world today 1 in 6 people don't have access to safe drinking water. Across the developing world, a child dies every 15 seconds from water related diseases. Women and children in many countries walk an average of 6 km daily to collect water for their family's needs. These are the people God has said He will not abandon.

The Sharing Way (TSW), CBM's relief and development department, is following Christ's example and responding. This year's TSW Appeal focuses on water through its partners in Kenya, Rwanda, Bolivia, and El Salvador.

Providing access to water and sanitation is one of the most cost-effective ways of improving the health status of people in developing countries. We are asking you and your church to take compassionate action to support community-based water projects that will help thousands of families gain access to clean water. Water scarcity problems not only affect the health of individuals but the lack of water for irrigation results in hunger and malnutrition. TSW works with local churches and communities to provide sustainable access to clean water that improves health, living conditions and farming methods. This is done through the building of sustainable water systems and providing training for environmental stewardship and resource management of this precious substance.

Your contribution to water programs will enable children and adults to live with health and dignity. The enclosed educational and fundraising resources will assist you as you promote The Sharing Way Appeal. Sermons, Sunday school classes, small groups and church activities will help you engage your church community in the life changing issue of water. Please visit www.thesharingway.org for even more supplementary material, such as a special children's lesson and fundraising ideas for the whole church.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us by e-mailing thesharingway@cbmin.org.

We need your church's support. By raising much-needed funds for The Sharing Way Appeal, your church becomes a lifeline in water development projects that helps families work toward self-sufficiency. Help people help themselves. Make a commitment to the poor by standing in solidarity with those that need it most – a powerful witness of the hope we all share in Christ.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gordon King". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Gordon King
Director of The Sharing Way

Here's what you'll find inside The Sharing Way Appeal kit:

- Two promo **posters**
- One sample **bulletin cover**
- Two copies of the **Appeal Backgrounder** for distribution among your church's leadership
- Biblical reflections on poverty: **Water – God's Gift for the Community**
- **FAQs on Water Issue**
- **Water Facts**