

# MARION MEDICAL MISSION

VOLUME 27. ISSUE FALL/WINTER 2024

WHEN YOU  
**PRAY,**  
**MOVE**  
YOUR FEET

*In this issue...*

**4,550 WELLS BUILT THIS YEAR!**  
**SCHOOL UPDATE**

1412 Shawnee Drive  
Marion, IL 62959

"I was thirsty and you gave me  
something to drink." - Matthew 25:35

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## The Question is Not, "Where is God?"

By Tom Logan

God's voice echoes throughout the scripture: Adam, Eve, where are you? The question is not, "Where is God"... but "Where are we?" **Loving your neighbor as yourself is a verb, not a noun. It is a commandment, not a suggestion. A follower of Jesus cannot allow injustice to happen because of inaction.**

Sharing the love of Jesus is the best defense against war and terror. But we forget. We forget, too often trusting in the sword more than the cross.

At times I think we study the problems too much. We make them too complicated and end up with what Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King called "paralysis of analysis." If people need water, you dig a well. You don't study it too death, you pick up a shovel.

While building wells there were forgotten tools and down-hole parts, lost keys, flat tires, broken pipe racks, and truck breakdowns. There were long days, short nights, dirt, grime, sweat, cement dust, dirty clothes, cheap rest houses, cockroaches, and various other critters. Sometimes no breakfast and no lunch. There were sore backs, bad roads, potholes, stumps, night driving, blinding headlights, and long hard hikes to well sites we were told were "just there." However, 2024 was Marion Medical Mission's best year ever! Together, THIS YEAR, Marion Medical Mission's 33 volunteers verified and dedicated 3227 wells to God's glory, in 3227 rural villages in Malawi, Zambia, Tanzania, and Mozambique. Another 1323 wells have been built!!!! (That 4550 wells THIS YEAR). Over 400,000 of the rural poor (270,000 children) with a sustainable source of safe drinking water **THIS YEAR!!!! HELLO!!!!**

We work hand-in-hand in a horizontal relationship with God's people; hardworking people, dedicated people. The Coordinators, the Field Officers, the Installation Supervisors, the builders, the village communities. Giving, sharing, singing, dancing, celebrating, speeches, smiles, laughter, friendships, happy people, thankful people, fellowship, purpose, meaning, direction, making a difference, making life count; at one with who we were created to be. Love, joy, giving, receiving (chickens, bananas, groundnuts, rice) sunsets, sunrises, a hot shower, a clean bed, a cold Coke, and a cup of clean water.

God is working through us in very special ways...using us so others, those in the secular world and those in the churches can see that God is alive, and active in this world. And He will use even us. This is an example of what is right in the world. It is an example of what can happen when God's people come together. Through this program we are a part of each other. Our Well Program is holy ground; the Beloved Community that spans the globe. **Together "We have been to the mountain top, and we've seen the Promised Land."**

## • • • AVAILABLE NOW • • • •



Our story by MMM co-founder Tom Logan tells of how "Loving Your Neighbor" can create true change. MMM is a remarkable illustration of what can be achieved, "When You Pray, Move Your Feet." Read the book. Help tell the story. All proceeds go to Marion Medical Mission. \$25 per book or free upon request with any donation of \$500. Available now, in time for Christmas. The Kindle e-version is available for \$9.99.

We apply in March. Get accepted in April. Plan for training in June or July. It is spread out. No rush. Until it is. The week before you leave. All the last minute packing and shopping and repacking. And then you're there (ok after at least 24 hours of travel). Arriving in Lilongwe. To the warm welcome of our African partners. Hugs and water bottles. Action packers and backpacks loaded up for the drive to the hotel.

The jet lag is real. The training is a needed repetition. And we hear the numbers again. 4,450 wells to be built, installed and dedicated this year. When I first came the goal was 2,500 wells in 2014. We rushed to install them all. Now we know we don't have to get them all done. We still aim to install as many as we can each day and overall. But it is a relief to know that the goal will be reached, this year and those to come. Because the need is great and real and we can do this.

In the 6 weeks of US volunteers being in country, 3,227 wells were completed. We left knowing the rest would be finished. Water is life. Glory to God.

~Jessi Stitt, MMM Volunteer

# One Body, But Many Parts

By Richard Ashe, MMM Volunteer

## I Corinthians 12: 12-14, 27

12 There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its' many parts make up one body. It is the same with Christ. 13 We were all baptized by one Holy Spirit. And so we are formed into one body. It didn't matter whether we were Jews or Gentiles, slaves or free people. We were all given the same Spirit to drink. 14 So the body is not made up of just one part. It has many parts.

27 You are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of it.

**"Stop" I heard, as something crunches under the front end.** I was putting in wells, in a hurry to the next one, forgot about the stump in front of the truck, that I "saw" when I parked. Hole in the radiator! African crew of one field officer, one installation supervisor, and four well builders, all suddenly paralyzed from well installation. An hour and a half out in the field from our home base.

We called Reverend Mwasakifwa, MMM coordinator in Tanzania, thinking we need a new radiator (days of extended downtime)! What have I done?

Villagers (from where we had just installed a well) brought us lunch. Lunch was enjoyed by the whole crew!

After lunch and the excitement of the village receiving their first ever safe, clean protected water, bubbling up out of the ground had calmed down, and the people had returned back to their homes with buckets of water, an older man came quietly down to us. He went down to the well, looked all around. I went down and pumped him some clean, safe water into his cupped hands, drank it, and said "he had never imagined that this day would come, where he and his people would have safe water to drink."

Later in the afternoon, the Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania in Songeya arrived, along with the assistant Bishop, a driver in a land cruiser, as well as a mechanic all together!

They towed us up to a nearby village, where the mechanic removed the radiator, amazingly with only a few simple tools, and we all had an enjoyable ride back to our homebase in Songeya, leaving the well builders to stay with the truck and tools as later they slept in the truck all night.

Early the next morning, the bishop sent the Land Cruiser with myself, the field officer, the mechanic, and the driver back to the site. But first we picked up a Toyota radiator that Reverend Mwasakifwa had ordered miles away. The radiator was brought by bus to our base that night and then another field officer, Mr. John Wella, picked it up at the bus station early that morning. The radiator didn't fit! That didn't stop the mechanic and a local welder from a little shop in the village from modifying the new radiator's bracket so it could be attached to the engine! Wow!

The driver and mechanic returned to town. We commenced well installations that morning with our crew, experiencing the utter complete joy that people have to receive clean safe water. Sorrow and regret had turned to blessings and thankfulness to be a part of the body of Christ. I hope yours will to. Join with us as we support this life-saving mission.



## So Many Reasons Why I Go

Children are one of the many reasons I go to Africa to be part of bringing clean safe drinking water to the villages. After installing a well a Gogo (elderly woman) followed us back to the truck. She grasped our hands to thank us for saving the lives of their children. Imagine that \$475 can save an entire village from cholera and water borne diseases.

*Betty Samelson, MMM Board Member*



## BUILDING ON HOPE Hugh Stempfley, MMM Board Member

On one of our earlier mission trips to Malawi, the Headman of the village in which we were installing told us about the journey his village had made in obtaining their well. It started 3 or 4 years earlier when he first heard about Marion Medical Mission. A village in which one of his relatives lived told him they had recently received a well from MMM. He told the Headman that they had to dig their own well, gather the stones and sand to help complete the well and then Marion had built the well and installed the pump.

The Headman told me that he had told the villagers, "We can do that." So the villagers dug the well, gathered the stone and sand and waited for Marion to come and install the well. But Marion did not come. He went back to his relative. The Headman didn't know he had to apply for a well. His relative put him in touch with the field officer. The next year, they completed their application and waited for their well.

They weren't selected that year nor the next. But he didn't give up hope. They had built their well on hope and they knew eventually their hope and prayers would pay off. That year they were selected to receive their well. They had been prepared for years and then the builders came and the U.S. volunteers came and they rejoiced in the gift they had been given, a well that would be a sustainable source of clean water which would last a lifetime.

Marion Medical Mission built 4,550 wells this year. Like the Headman in the village, we built some of these wells on hope. Not all of the wells have been funded this year. Now is your chance to sponsor a well and tell the Headman that his hope and prayers have given more villagers the well they hoped and prayed for.

Each day when we go out to install wells, we usually go with a field officer, an installation supervisor and a well builder. Francine, Jessi, and I took a group photo of the people we were working with each day.

The African employees are a huge part of Marion Medical Mission. Each of the four programs has a coordinator: Mr. Vyalema Khosa in northern Malawi, Mr. Jordan Banda in central Malawi and Mozambique, Rev. Mwasakifwa in Tanzania, and Mr. Chrispin Mhango in Zambia. Each of those four areas has 5-8 field officers who oversee a section. Francine, Jessi and I were privileged to work with field officers Mr. Wilfred Kamanga and Mr. Godfrey Chanika this year. The coordinators and field officers are all full-time employees of MMM.

Each field officer works with several installation supervisions who are employed during the well season. Those who build the wells are paid for each well they build. And we have maintenance volunteers who maintain the wells in their area. If a well breaks and they fix it, the village gives them a gift (like a chicken) for their time and effort. Maintenance people are often well builders, too. There are also people who manufacture the pipe and the pumps.

**When you support Marion Medical Mission, you're not just providing clean water for people in rural villages. You're providing a livelihood for hundreds of African people.**

MMM could not do the work we do without our African workers. In fact, for two years during the pandemic when we couldn't send US volunteers to Africa, the program continued because of the African staff.

*Suzanne Gorhau, MMM Board Member*



# SCHOOL NEWS

BY JOCELYN LOGAN

What a welcoming visit to Chizimya Full Primary School. Not only did Tom and I receive a goat, but a lovely meal with chicken and beef. Several girls recited their heart felt sentiments in their poetry. Poem by Fanny Manda:



## Marion Medical Mission Partnership with Chizimya

A bond of progress, strong and true.

Unites us in our guest anew.

Together we strive, side by side.

For a brighter future to reside.

With every step, with every fall,

We rise, supported, and stand tall.

Through shared visions, mutual trust

Our partnership forever just.

Your expertise, our guiding light

Illuminates the path to what's right.

With collaborative hearts and hands

We shape a better land.

In this journey of growth and might

We celebrate each triumph to light.

Thank you, partner, dear and true.

For walking with us and seeing it through.

The National average of students accepted into Secondary School is estimated at 30% and those accepted to National Secondary School (Government boarding school) is less than 1%. Chizimya students had an 87% acceptance rate and 6.6% to National Secondary School. **The children have hope because of your scholarship assistance.**

YES! I want to share God's love by providing clean water



How did you hear about MMM?

- friend or family
- church/presentation
- social media
- google search
- newsletter
- TCT television
- email
- other \_\_\_\_\_

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1412 Shawnee Dr. Marion, IL 62959

OR donate online: [www.mmmwater.org](http://www.mmmwater.org)

\$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ \$475 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Please apply 5% of my donation for administration
- Well (partial or \$475 for full well)
- Full well plus \$25 admin. (\$500.00)
- Help sponsor African Field Officer/Coordinator salary
- Where needed most

- Administration
- Sustainability and Well Maintenance Training
- School Scholarships
- Book Purchase "When We Pray, We Move Our Feet"
- Free Book offer with donation of \$500 or more

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## Marion Medical Mission

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Receiving more than 1 newsletter? Please share!

Thank you donors! Families are lined up, excited for their turn to collect clean, safe water from their new well. Access to clean water transforms lives, and you are a part of this impact. Every gift has made a difference, bringing more life saving water to communities in need!



**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year**

**“Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’” Matthew 1:23**