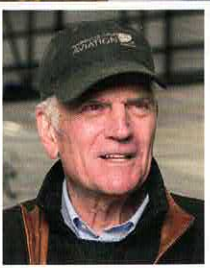


'WATER IS NEAR'

POURING OUT JESUS' LOVE FOR FILIPINO STUDENTS



H-002991



Dear Friends,

There's nothing like a cup of cold water on a hot day to quench your thirst. But for many people, drinking cold, clean water isn't possible. They simply don't have access to it. For example, in the Philippines, over 85 percent of people living in rural communities use untreated water for cooking, cleaning, and bathing. This leaves them vulnerable to waterborne diseases.

Water is, of course, necessary for life. That's why Samaritan's Purse Canada is working in communities throughout the world to provide hurting people with safe water in Jesus' Name. But we do more than that. The Bible says, *"Like cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country"* (Proverbs 25:25, ESV). Wherever we provide clean water, we also bring the best news of all—the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ!

We praise God that on the island of Mindanao in the southern Philippines, a new church was recently planted in an isolated town through a community water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) outreach that started with household BioSand Water Filters being handed out. In the same area, a schoolteacher told us, "To have clean water, this is our dream."

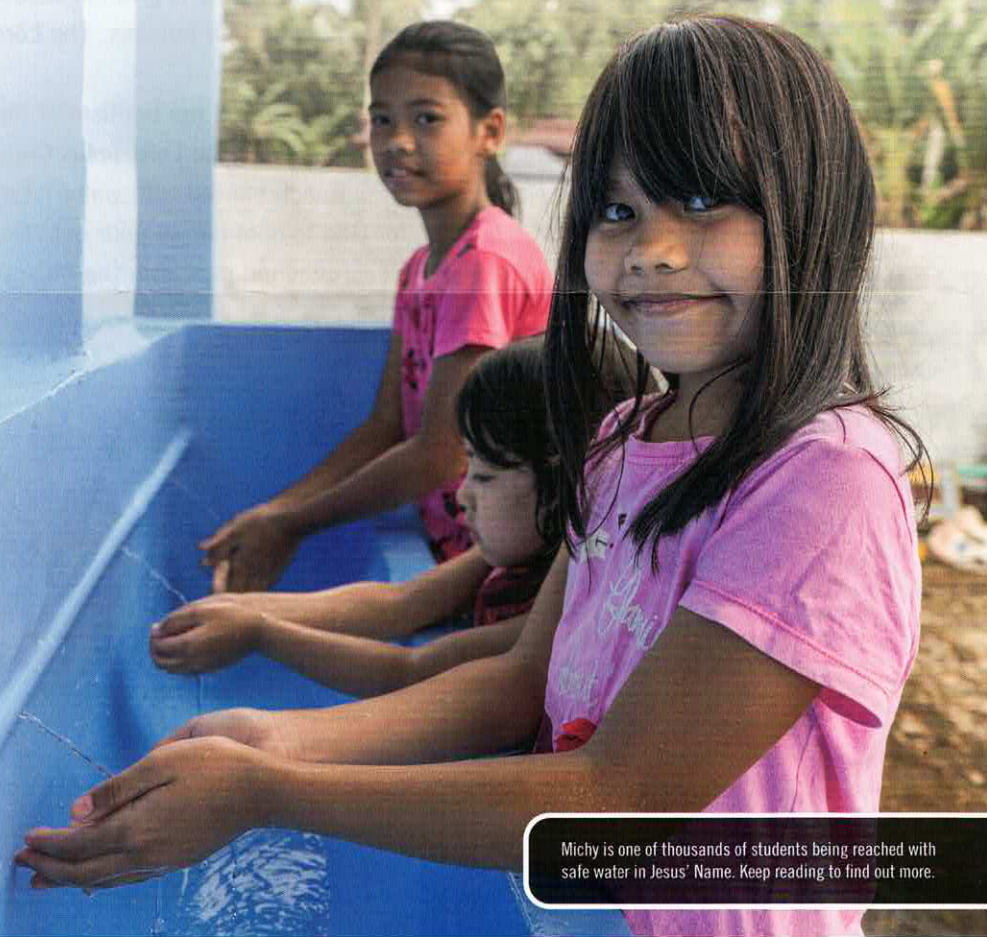
Can you imagine? Clean water is what many people there dream about. With your prayers and support, that wish can become a reality. I encourage you to continue reading about our work to provide safe water for families and schools in Mindanao, giving them access not only to clean, refreshing water but to the *"living water"* (John 4:10) that can quench their thirsty souls.

Sincerely,

Franklin Graham

"FOR I WILL POUR WATER ON HIM WHO IS THIRSTY ... AND MY BLESSING ON YOUR OFFSPRING."

- Isaiah 44:3



Michy is one of thousands of students being reached with safe water in Jesus' Name. Keep reading to find out more.

'Clean Water, This Is Our Dream'

Samaritan's Purse is on a mission with our local Christian partner in the Philippines to meet the safe water needs of elementary students across an entire rural school district on the island of Mindanao. This would make it the first district in the country with a large water filter at every school.

"To have clean water, this is our dream," said Estela, a Grade 6 teacher. **"It's really hard to have drinking water here."**

More than 350 students attend Estela's school. For over 30 years, the veteran teacher has seen the consequences of dirty water on children's health and education. "We did not have water to use at school," she told us. "The students used to go to the river to get water for drinking and washing."

Those trips to the river could take an hour or more, and the water collected brought the daily risk of cholera, typhoid, and other potentially deadly diseases. The students suffered from stomachaches and diarrhea, keeping them from class.

Estela and a teaching partner, Julinda, sometimes bought bottled water so students who were suffering could have safe water. **"How can [the students] go to school if they are sick?"** asked Julinda. "Safe water is really important for them."

God answered Julinda's question through friends like you. A large school BioSand Water Filter now meets the safe water needs of every student and staff member.

The filter uses layers of locally available sand and gravel, along with a naturally occurring layer of microorganisms, to clean the water and make it safe to drink. BioSand Filters can be installed in homes to protect families, while large filters provide daily safe water for more than 500 people. The filters come with hand-washing stations and hygiene training to help students stay healthy and in school.



Marielle used to have to travel from school to a dirty river just to get a drink. Now, a large filter provides clean water at school whenever she needs.

"Now the students can get clean water any time. The water gives more strength to the students when they are thirsty, and they will not go down to the river," Julinda said.

"The students were very happy when the filter was built," Estela added.

Thirteen-year-old Bo (pictured on front page) got a drink from the filter on the day a Samaritan's Purse team visited to check the filter. "I love having it for drinking," Bo said. "The water is near. I am feeling healthy now!"

"I was excited to take a drink," 11-year-old Marielle said when talking about the filter being installed. "I like having clean water because it means not getting sick and not experiencing stomach pain."

Since the installation of filters began in the school district, an independent study has shown that school absenteeism has dropped dramatically. Prayers and gifts like yours will help install two more large school filters this year, alongside 1,600 household filters. Every filter is given in Jesus' Name and opens doors to share God's love with students and their families. The Lord is using it all to reach people with His Good News.

**"I WAS EXCITED
TO TAKE A DRINK."**



Teacher Julinda celebrates safe water from a large BioSand Filter (background) at her school.

We recently celebrated the baptism of three new believers by a local church partner where few people have heard the Good News of the Lord Jesus Christ. A little further north, a new church was planted in an isolated town through an outreach started with water filters and community agriculture.

Please pray for these new believers, for God to continue to pour out His love, and for the Gospel to be heard and shared through water projects among the least-reached people in the Philippines.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

■ PRAY

Pray for boys and girls to experience God's love through water projects at schools in the Philippines and around the world. Pray for hearts to be open to the Gospel in areas of the country where many people have never heard the truth of the Lord Jesus. Ask God to empower and strengthen the local churches.

■ WATER PROJECTS

Give children in the Philippines and across the world access to critical safe water, hygiene, and sanitation in Jesus' Name. When you share in the \$22,000—or about \$45 per student—needed to build a school BioSand Water Filter, hand-washing stations, and safe latrines, you give boys and girls hope for a brighter future.

■ WHERE MOST NEEDED

Every day, thousands of people around the world depend on Samaritan's Purse for food, water, medical care, and other assistance. Your gift to "Where Most Needed" provides the resources—including personnel, materials, supporting services, and equipment—to fulfill this mission of relief and evangelism worldwide.



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The Samaritan's Purse – Canada is audited annually by an independent accounting firm and our financial statements are available upon request. Our Board of Directors has established the policy that all contributions designated for a specified project shall be applied to that project, with up to 10 percent to be used if needed for administering the gifts. Occasionally we receive more contributions for a given project than can be wisely applied to that project. When that happens, we use these funds to meet a similar pressing need. It is our policy to meet the needs God lays before us so that Christ is lifted up and the Gospel is advanced.