

## *From the Pastor's Pen*

### **Let's build a well!**

It's been raining a lot these last few days and the barrel by the side of the house is getting filled up. Water has been on my mind lately. I thought about what it would be like if we had to walk from Jericho to Essex (or the other way around) with a five gallon container in each hand to be filled with water. Such a life is even hard to imagine. Much of our life would be consumed by the going to and from the source of water. Water would be understood for what it is: life-giving.

Living in Vermont we take for granted the many lakes, rivers, brooks, the rivulets that flow down from the mountains, as well as the resulting green landscape. What if the water dried up? What if we needed to hoard water? It would be more precious than gold. Possession would mean the difference of life and death.

That is why Good Shepherd's mission project focuses on water this year - on building a well in a waterless village. Imagine what difference a well will make in the life of the villagers. Instead of walking for miles to get some water- often unsanitary - they can step out of their house for a quick sprint to the well.

The following statistics tell a painful story:

*Over 1.1 billion people in the world have no access to safe drinking water and 2.5 billion people lack proper sanitation.*

*Approximately 80% of disease and over one-third of deaths in the developing world are caused by contaminated water.*

*Over 4 million children and 1 million adults die each year from waterborne diseases.*

Let's make a difference in the world and give life through the gift of life-giving water. Let us build a well!

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Dagmar