

Water Wins 441 E. Roosevelt Zeeland MI 49464

Water Wins December 2023

Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth Peace, Goodwill toward all men

Luke 2:14



Merry Christmas from Water Wins

As we pause to celebrate Christmas and God's faithfulness in 2023, we are reminded of how God has generously provided for Water Wins over the years. On this Newsletter cover is a picture of Jeremiah Yongo. It was **20 years** ago this fall that Jeremiah moved with his family to the EKA in what would become the beginnings of Water Wins. From 2003 to 2023, we continue to celebrate how **God has richly blessed** our project and grown our Team. Water Wins employs over 50 Nigerians who are living out their faith in roles as Well Drillers, Pastors, and Teachers, etc.. In this issue, we will introduce you to a few team members who are making a difference through their work in the EKA.

Colossians 3:23-24

23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.



2023 has had its challenges. Well drilling was forced to shut down early because of logistic issues with spare parts from the USA and due to security issues in Northern Nigeria. Political decisions in Nigeria created huge currency devaluation and inflation. Yet God continues to provide! Even in these times, our Nigerian team has **Led with incredible WISDOM** in the midst of difficult circumstances.

As we approach **2024**, we want to say **THANK YOU** to you, our supporters and friends, for your generosity and prayers. Thank you for blessing the communities in the EKA by being the hands and feet of Jesus. We are grateful, honored and blessed to have your support.

Fondly, The Water Wins Team

Project Plans 2024





Drill 25 Wells in 2024

Grow and Staff Bible Clubs



All 500 wells maintained



All students back in school after safety concerns.

Matthew Ubandawaki is the Education Team Leader at Water Wins. But his story doesn't start

there.

Matthew grew up in the EKA. He was the youngest of nine children to Muslim parents. When he was in Primary 3, his older brother converted to Christianity and began working with a Christian missionary, Larry VanZee. Matthew spent time with his brother, Reverend Barnabas, and began to express interest in this new faith. His friends began to ridicule him and his father, along with the headmaster of the school who was his own uncle, conspired to kick him out of his primary school.

By God's grace, he was able to continue his education at a different school that accepted Matthew and his new faith. He finished secondary school and graduated university.

Matthew was hired at Water Wins as a teacher a few years ago. The first year or two, he did not truly want to be there. He hoped to find a government job; a job where he could make a lot of money. Through the support of the Water Wins Team Coordinator, Amos, things began to change. Amos asked him "Why do you want to work for Water Wins?" and this caused Matthew to question his motivations. Matthew began to feel God's calling. He realized that life was about following God and not about finding the job that paid the most money.

We thank God for Matthew's acceptance of his faith and we are incredibly thankful for his work leading the Water Wins Education Team. We continue to pray for Matthew's father to find and know Jesus as his Lord and Savior.

Emmanuel is our Services Team Leader whose responsibilities include drilling and pump maintenance. The team faced many challenges in 2023.

First, the Team was challenged by the overall economic situation in Nigeria deteriorated significantly this year. In May of 2023, the people of Nigeria elected a new President. The new government immediately decided to effectivelv fuel subsidies, remove doubling the cost of fuel. They also decided to remove restrictions on the trade of Nigerian currency, the Naira. Unfortunately, this led to a significant depreciation of the Nigerian currency: from N460/\$ to N1,200/\$.

As a result, **Nigeria is experiencing a significant increase in poverty**, leading to increasing criminal activity. 'Bandits' are roaming the rural areas, heavily armed and on motorcycles, taking people hostage. Our EKA was not spared from these activities, causing people to flee to the cities

The **Good News** is that none of our staff became a direct victim of the bandits; of course, fear did a lot of damage; the bad news is that only 5 wells were drilled in 2023: 2 in EKA, and 3 in Kwara State.

Secondly, we struggled to receive the spare parts shipment sent from Zeeland, Michigan to the EKA. The container was delayed many times, effectively taking almost a year to reach its destination. As a result our rigs were down for months.

We are so thankful through Emmanuel's Leadership not only will we maintain the over 500 wells in the EKA but he will lead the Team in drilling 25 wells.

Praise God we have already started drilling wells for 2024!





Evangelist John, interim Evangelism Supervisor

Patience Amos, growing Kids Bible Clubs

In 2023 Water Wins was very blessed in our church outreach efforts. The number of church plants in our area had been stable for many years at 12; however, despite all insecurity issues and economic hardship, our team has been able to **plant 5 new churches** for a total of **17**! We have been collaborating with Multiplication Network Ministries and all our Evangelists have been trained in church planting strategies – and we are reaping the benefits of this training.

John is meeting with all **15 Evangelists** once a month to share updates from their stations and for Bible Study. The Team sees a need to become more intentional about our discipleship structure and will be focusing on that area in 2024. New believers are mentored for a while, however, learning shouldn't stop in our Christian faith: every believer should be discipled by someone.

With Patience's leadership, we've started Bible Clubs in each village where we have a church. We can report that over **500 children are being taught Bible stories each week.** In most of these villages, there is no school – children are not able to read or write. A significant percentage of Bible Club attendees are not from Christian families. We are so blessed to have all these different ways we can reach the People of the EKA!



3rd Annual Century Ride for Water Wins

A HUGE thank you to all of our bikers and supporters who participated in the Water Wins Century Ride this past September. If you biked the 100 miles - we are so thankful for you and for the work God will do through your efforts. We thank God for the beautiful weather and for the safety of the bikers.

The 2023 Ride had over 60 bikers participate and together they raised over \$55,000 for the Water Wins project. We are thankful for Partners Worldwide for assisting with this project. Reach out to Carolyn if you would like to join us on a future Ride!!



To support Water Wins please visit our website at <u>www.waterwins.com</u> to make a donation with a credit card. Otherwise, mail checks to:

> Water Wins 441 E. Roosevelt Ste 100 Zeeland MI 49464

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