



The Global Flyer
FIRST BAPTIST ATHENS

Finding Water Beyond the Rock

When I first arrived on the mission field in Honduras, I visited remote villages where I witnessed children suffering from malnutrition caused by intestinal parasites contracted from dirty water. I saw women and girls making long journeys to fetch water. Witnessing these hardships ignited a commitment within me to find ways to provide clean water to people so that they could live with the dignity that God intended for them.

Forty years ago, I drilled my first water well in Honduras. Since that day, I have been involved in the drilling of over 300 clean water wells in Honduras, Nicaragua, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kenya, and several others around the world. Currently, I oversee the international programs of Hope Springs Water, a local nonprofit development agency that originated out of FBC Athens. The mission of HSW is to bring hope to a thirsty world. We have successfully drilled over 125 clean water wells globally. Each water well provides clean water and hope for over 350 people.

Drilling water wells is always a challenge. Each well presents unique conditions, and one never knows what to expect. The substrate beneath the ground can vary greatly, ranging from clay and gravel to soft rock, hard rock, and sand. Water is typically found in sand. An essential part of the drilling process is to analyze the cuttings brought to the surface by the drilling mud. This analysis tells us about the type of drill bit needed for each section and the likelihood of finding water. Despite the uncertainties, we maintain trust that water does exist; we just don't know how deep we must go or how challenging the drilling process might be.

Similarly, discerning God's will for our future can be challenging. We often cannot foresee what lies ahead or anticipate the outcomes of our decisions. However, we hold onto the belief that goodness awaits us. Jeremiah reminds us that the Lord declares, "I know the plans I have for you...plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jer 29:11). We trust God's promise but, at times, we have to admit that the path ahead may seem as impenetrable as hard rock.

During the process of drilling through hard rock, we can easily doubt our ability to find water. There are moments when progress seems minimal, and we wonder if we will ever break through the hard rock to water-bearing sand. Despite the discouragement, we persist, slowly but steadily, until we reach water. The apostle Paul teaches us that endurance fosters strength of character, and character fortifies our confident hope of salvation. This hope does not disappoint us (Rom 5:3-4). In life's toughest moments, it's easy to become disheartened and doubt our ability to succeed. Yet, as we endure, God shapes our character, strengthening our faith. We trust that just as in water well drilling, we will eventually find and enjoy refreshing water - the Living Water that Christ provides.

Jim Palmer



Watch Online @
Lovingtheworld.com
YouTube
Vimeo
Facebook
8:30AM
11AM Worship Center
11AM Bilingual

Members' Birthdays

Sun, May 12 – Jessica Richardson Jones
Mon, May 13 – Cleo Hickman
Tues, May 14 – none
Wed, May 15 – Candy Jones
Thurs, May 16 – none
Fri, May 17 – Grant Echols, Melanie Forbes
Sat, May 18 – Terry Leflar

Prayer Requests (church attendees & families). Please call with updates

Our sympathy to Angela Gross & Britne Curran in the loss of their dad/grandfather, W.D. "Dave" Farnham

- Mike Eich's brother, John Eich...throat cancer surgery 5-22/Sioux Falls
- Becky Pemberton's brother, Fred Ham...rehab/Waxahachie
- Malcomb Quattlebaum...knee replacement 4-29/home
- Josh Moreno...blood pressure issues, cardiologist appointment, Sept.
- Gracie & Carlos Murillo's son, Max...awaiting kidney transplant match
- *Hospice Care: Anita Wiggin's brother, Bill Meadors; Lisa Collins' mom, Glenda Beard; Roger Littleton's sister, Elizabeth Boynton; Tammy Womble's mom, Jessie Dixon*
- *Military: Mandy Hauck's nephew, Mason Beard, Philippines; Hattie Graham's granddaughter, Karah Lawyer, Asian Countries; Judy Ward's granddaughter & husband, Gabriella & Tanner Burtrum, South Korea*
- *Cancer Diagnosed: Drew & Lori Douglas' daughter-in-law, Thiana Douglas; Jesse Richardson's sister, Clarice Fogleman; Bill Hauck's sister, Marie Kirby; Daniela Matchael's sister-in-law, Joana Cortez; Cindi Livingston, mother of Anna Fay Wicker's daughter-in-law; Doris Raney's niece, Stacy Bates; Rusty Morris; Miriam Inestroza's mother, Luce Torres; Trayona Skiles; Mary Boehler's niece, Denise Leach; Kellis White; Jack & Paula Harris' son-in-law, Carlos Banelos; BJ Davies; Bob & Tonya Foster's son, Jim*
- *In Rehab or Recuperating: Terry McNatt; Judy Dorsett's brother-in-law, Billy; Elizabeth Flores' granddaughter, Aleyah Maldonado; Lisa Wilson; Bruce Andrews; Piper Gillert; Claudia Limon; Betty White's brother, Dwaine Coley; Dwight Millar; Lisa Montgomery's mom, Selah Mason; Nikki DuBose's mother, Nancy Kissinger; Wanda Kinney; Wanda Kinney's daughter, Jeudi George; Bill Dye; David Yarbrough; Christy Warnock's brother, Duncan Frizzell; Ginny Hedge; Linda Campbell; Judy Dorsett's brother-in-law, Brady Pollock; Barbara Hearn's nephew, Jeff Shumate; Barbara Hearn's great nephew, Blaise Shumate; Kern & Barbara Railsback's granddaughter, Waverly; Beverly Moore; Shirley Bailey's sister, Charlott Hutson; Win James; Drew Douglas' mom, Pam Douglas; Katherine Hellwig; Marylyn Wright's sister, Jeanne Gage; Jamie Luper's aunt, Brenda Bickley; Tom & Catherine Ward's daughter, Brandy Shirvinski*

Bible Reading Plan, Grace & Peace

Day of the Week	Date	Scripture
Sunday	5-12-2024	John 5:1-24
Monday	5-13-2024	John 5:25-47
Tuesday	5-14-2024	John 6:1-21
Wednesday	5-15-2024	John 6:22-44
Thursday	5-16-2024	John 6:45-71
Friday	5-17-2024	John 7:1-31
Saturday	5-18-2024	John 7:32-53