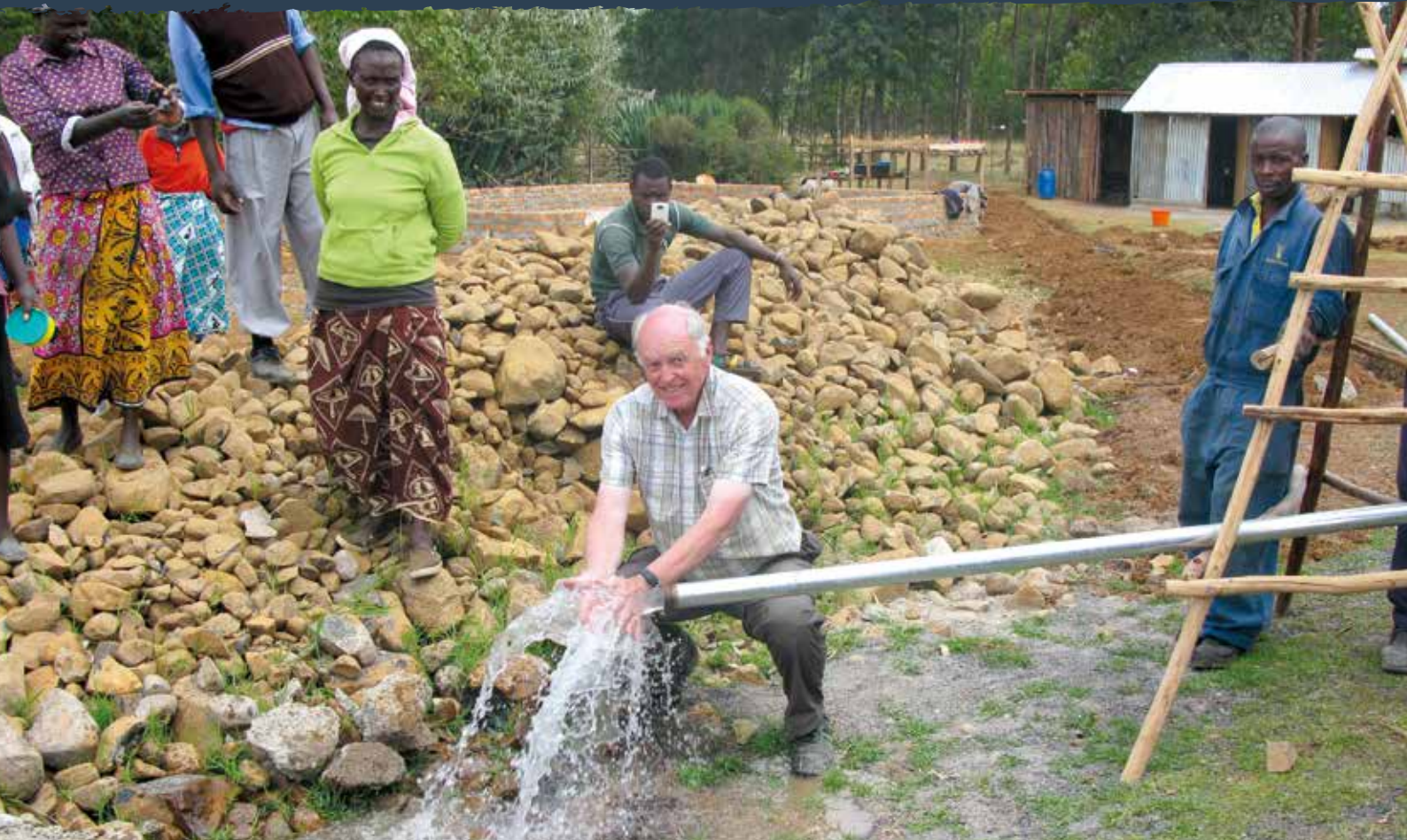


# Abigail NEWS

## Supplement



## The Water Project

Miraculously the components for the Water Tanks for the REEDS Project at Seiyo near Eldoret, having been stored, were kept entirely safe from August 2013 until the Tank Team arrived to build the Tanks in March 2014.

To provide water – we needed a water source and electricity! We could have built the Water Tank without the simultaneous availability of Water and Electricity, but there could have then been cracking of the seals due to Kenyan heat resulting in major leakage when the tank was subsequently filled.

BUT it was not to be like that. In God's amazing timing the water and the electricity were there just two days before all members of the Water Tank Team were back in the UK! For this we can only praise God for His hand on the Project – yet it also took a vast amount of pressure, was not without much stress and wrestling in prayer to have the various suppliers in Kenya to work to any acceptable deadline!



Constructing the tank



Assembling the pump



Nick connecting the electrics

## Bore Hole

The Bore Hole was a huge project with the professional Geo-hydrologist indicating water supplies at no more than eighty feet below ground turned out to be far more complex and costly than ever imagined. A contract was placed after the tendering process and work finally commenced in late January which was apparently a good time to bore. Work was under way but at 80 feet there were no signs of water and we were asked by text from Kenya – do we proceed AND if we do, we need more funds (£9,000) before the contractor will continue! Funds take a minimum of two days to be processed but were sent out as we confirmed – “continue drilling”. Then came repeated news – “no adequate aquifers” at 100, 150, 180 and 200 feet! Did God want us to have ANY water? There were time lapses as more funds went out, a total of a further £7,000, and then finding that the original contractor could not work beyond 120 feet! So the contract had to be placed with another company – miraculously it happened within two days! The final set of these challenges came one Sunday, two weeks before we travelled to Kenya, and it was “do we go to 220 feet?” In the UK it was shortly before 8AM and in Kenya approaching 11AM – we said yes!

We hit water a few feet below 200! One huge miracle and another amazing timing! The water suddenly came out with predictions of thousands of litres – God in His bounty “provided more than we could ever have asked or thought” – and He tested our faith. At the time when the last few feet were to be drilled, the local folks left the site and went off to Church which is no more than five hundred yards. The water had burst out from the depths at what must have been the very moment as the locals got to Church! AMAZING on every level – but there was more to come that day. Each day of the drilling the local people gathered to pray and they

did that morning. When they returned to see the water, one of the main workers said “We see you always pray and we see your prayers answered – your God must be very special and powerful!” What an opening for witness it gave the local Christians!

## Pump

The pump needed for the supply had not been ordered for some reason. Again two quotations and once the contract was placed, the contractor finally came to install the pump and the pipe work into the bore hole with no time to spare for getting water into the tank. Great but where was the electricity – are you still with me? To test the pump electricity was needed.

## Electricity

The electricity was ordered on 14th March 2013 in “plenty of time” or so the local team felt. There were delays caused by the Government Elections and Kenya Power putting in a bid to increase ALL electricity connection and usage charges by 50%! Needless to say the new government said “No” - to which Kenya Power said “No more service connections – even if already requested”.

By October a new quotation was provided but the hope this brought was rudely shattered in February while we were already in Kenya with a Group and we were told that the charge had risen almost ten-fold! This situation was prayed about and many contacts made to both reduce the costs and get the electricity on site within three weeks. Through a contact at Elmfield Church, who had previously worked for Kenya Power, we made further contact and with that gentleman’s help and another from the company’s head office we were promised a cost of just over twice the original quotation. This quotation was accepted but still no action.



The completed tank

Appreciative community

We visited their offices again in Eldoret and were promised attendance – and the supply had only been 500 yards away! Then we had freak weather and supplies were cut in the whole area – yet finally the supply came through on the Saturday evening just as the Tank Team were on their way to the airport so frustratingly too late to see it all happen. Incidentally Kenya Power had put in a temporary feed just to allow the pump to be tested. The water did come clean at first as the picture shows but the main flow was coloured!

Why the delays and different quotations – well some of it was due to the fact that two sections of Kenya Power had different plans as to how the supply should be routed on the site – cable or via poles! They even started with poles and put them in only to take them out, then route the supply by cable! This approach meant we had to acquire cable across the land from the adjacent pole – it had to come from Nairobi but we were amazed that it came the next day.

## Tank

The tank was built with a great team all of whom gelled together and with the local workers completed the tank and local onsite distribution in an amazing ten days in spite of both burning heat and freak rainstorms. Tested but trusting in God to the last, He proved Himself at every step and we were humbled by such divine blessings.

Once electricity was connected I was able to fill the tank over a two day period while watching for leaks of which there were only 20 from over 2,500 bolts in the tank! I had left before the last re-connection of the pipe work on the output side was repaired but water flowed on 20th March for which we give God all the praise.

The volume of water from the bore hole can be up to 12,000 litres per hour and the tank has a capacity of 100,000 litres - more than

enough to support several thousand users on top of the vital needs for the Abigail Health Care Centre and local SEED School.

## Prayer for the future

The water that filled the tank is coloured and has a higher than acceptable iron content. Sometime in May the tank will be fully drained and the water used for vital irrigation then re-filled - with what we trust that God will give us – PURE AND CLEAN WATER.

## Appreciation from the community

Elizabeth Tororei who is the Grandma to Ruth Chemutoi, an orphan at Seed School, told me she is very grateful for the water. At present she has to go 3-4km to get water and would make two or three trips per day but is helped by the family at the weekends. Each trip can take two hours whereas to the Abigail Ministries supply at the SEED School site, it would take twenty minutes!

Norah Kutol is a Mum from the Community and is also a teacher at a nearby School. She wrote “I want to appreciate Abigail Ministries for the good work you have done to the community as you know water is life. We have been travelling long distances looking for water of which the water we have been using has a lot of dirt and this has been causing typhoid, cholera and other water borne diseases. Also for women we have been carrying water on our backs of which it has been tiresome work and at the end of the day our backs are aching. With this supply even children in the neighbouring school and wider community will get good clean water. Women will not have to travel long distances and have more time for work and at home with the family”

Roger



## A few words from the guys...

This picture makes me smile when I look at it; two days in and the base of the tank was complete; the innocence of fresh bodies and the lack of knowledge of what lay ahead; ten more long days in the unrelenting heat, two thousand more bolts tightened and torqued, and one hundred and twenty more panels, lifted, sealed and secured in place. Challenging, but blessed, rewarding work.

### Gareth

One of the most satisfying elements of my time on the water tank project was working alongside the local guys who would in effect be the ongoing building and maintenance team for the foreseeable future. It quickly dawned on us all that the 'hired help' were a group of skilled and hard working men who were as invested in the project as we were. It was a privilege to work alongside these guys and coming home am left with confidence that our efforts

will be maintained by a group of capable men who will be serving their community for the foreseeable future.

### Steve

### ...and from the tank man himself!!

For me I think the first day was one of the most memorable moments, two years of planning, prayer and preparation had finally arrived. Tired from our 13 hour road trip from Nairobi to Eldoret and full of excitement and anticipation we finally made a start on the tank. It was amazing to see a group of guys of all different ages, who had never built a tank before, come together and work so hard in very difficult conditions to build an extremely complex tank. It was great seeing the team working alongside the local men developing relationships and passing on their skills.

### Nick