



## **Can You Imagine?**

Can you imagine walking for an hour to receive a simple meal of porridge or having your water source be from a drainage ditch?

Rev. John and Julie Battern recently returned from a 3½-week trip to Africa. John is a SWIM board member and they went with the intention of bringing safe water to the people they met. Since their return they have done several presentations about their trip and have received similar questions wherever they went. Here's some of those questions and their answers.

## **Where did you go in Africa?**

We traveled to Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, and South Africa. We were doing mission work for the first 2½ weeks, then vacationed a week in South Africa with friends who live there.

## **What was your favorite thing you did?**

Feeding hundreds of hungry children was one of the highlights of our trip. This is a ministry of the Abundant Life Center. The Abundant Life Center is a multifaceted ministry in Malawi and partners with SWIM in the distribution of chlorine producing units (CPUs). We had the opportunity to help feed the children who come to the Center, some who walk from as far as an hour away, to receive a simple meal of porridge.



## **How many CPUs did you take with you?**

We took 50 CPUs packed in two suitcases. These were provided through the gifts of those who support SWIM. Additionally, thanks to the generous support of individuals, organizations, and churches, we were able to purchase the batteries, solar panels and other parts needed to power these CPUs. That means we were able to make safe water available to upwards of 50,000 people.



### **Where did people get their water?**

We saw several different kinds of water sources. The cleanest was a government installed pump well. (Though we saw a donkey drinking from the same well as people were gathering their water.) The worst was people gathering water out of a drainage ditch. Regardless of the source, all the water had one thing in common: it was filled with bacteria and other parasites.



### **How did people respond when they received a CPU?**

They were thrilled! They understood that their water was making them sick and the opportunity to do away with that illness excited them. They thanked us time and again and presented us with gifts as a sign of their appreciation. We received lots of fruits and vegetables, as well as five live chickens. It was the very best they had to offer and they freely gave what they had.



### **What else did you do?**

I (John) preached two Sundays and led four days of pastors' training. We had the privilege of distributing over 190 Bibles to pastors thanks to SWIM's Bible Fund. Julie got to be with the children and did Bible lessons with the pastors' wives. She also taught a group of women how to knit hats using a loom. While in South Africa we went on a safari.



## Are Your Gifts Making a Difference? YES!

Earl Ratcliff, president of the SWIM board, recently received very encouraging and unsolicited feedback from a third party using the SWIM chlorine producing units (CPUs) in Nigeria.

The email said in part:

*"Hello Earl,  
Attached are two evaluations we have done of the maternal and child health program that is using the chlorine units. It shows the great impact of the chlorine units as a component of the work. I hope these will encourage you that the ministry of SWIM is helping many people!"*

*Our partner, Beacon of Hope, is the development ministry of the TEKAN Association of 15 church denominations in the middle belt of Nigeria."*

*Mary Crickmore  
West Africa Regional Director  
World Renew*

**Thank you** for touching the lives of people with **clean water and Living Water in Jesus** as the Gospel is shared when distributing the CPUs.

Your prayers and gifts to SWIM made it possible to bring hope and the power of the Good News, along with clean water, to many people.

Think about this: Your gift can go places you may not be able to travel to.

AND – no gift is too small or insignificant! God uses ALL gifts!

SWIM has provided over 2500 CPUs so far in 35 different countries – but the need is still so great! With your help, many more people can be blessed by the gift of safe, clean water **and the incredible gift of Living Water in JESUS!**

Please donate today to support SWIM. Thank you!

- Mail a check to: SWIM, PO Box 227, New Sharon, IA 50207
- Online: <http://swimforhim.org/donations/>



This is how many people struggle to get water – that is unclean – every day. Your donation gives people the gift of clean water.

**Check out more stories of impact on the SWIM website under NEWS (<http://swimforhim.org/>):**

- Check Out This Joy (under Nepal)
- Simple Ingredients: Salt, Water, and a Battery (under Malawi)
- Sharing Safe Water with People in Nepal (under Nepal)
- Discipleship Training in North India (under India)