

Hope Notes

Program updates, stories of impact, and highlights for friends, supporters, and partners of World Hope International



TOGETHER,
WE BRING
hope
TO HARD
PLACES



“For you have been my hope O Sovereign
Lord, my confidence, since my youth.”

Psalm 71:5



Our Mission

World Hope International is a Christian relief and development organization bringing hope in hard places by partnering with vulnerable and exploited communities to alleviate poverty, suffering, and injustice.

Our Vision

We envision a world where people in hard places are empowered with opportunity, dignity, and hope so they can participate in the transformation of themselves, their families, and their communities.

Where We Work



Cambodia



Haiti



Liberia



The Philippines



Sierra Leone

In This Issue

Each issue of Hope Notes helps you learn more about the ways partners, supporters and friends of World Hope have a life-giving impact to communities and families we serve.

5 Leading with Love, Hope & Strength

8 Hope Up Close in Southeast Asia

11 New Blood Bank Saving Lives in Haiti

12 Students Take the Lead for Clean Water

13 Water is Life, a Charity Water Partnership

17 Jesus Film Reaching Thousands

19 Investing in Change Through Planning Your Giving

21 Field Staff & Partner Spotlight



CLEAN WATER



GLOBAL HEALTH



PROTECTION



មគ្គុទ្ទា

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Leading with Love, Hope & Strength

By Jennifer Jones

As WHI celebrates 30 years of bringing hope in hard places, the leadership has taken time to reflect on where the organization has been, and where it needs to go to ensure its critical work can continue for another 30.

President and CEO Jenn Petersen set the tone several months ago by focusing on WHI's critical core mission, communicating a clear vision, and standing on Isaiah 41:10 as the bedrock for all that WHI does.

WHI has been leaning heavily on this verse as it sets a course toward strengthening teams, processes, finances, program work and its faith, all while remembering that it was never meant to carry the burdens alone.

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” (NIV).

Isaiah 41:10

That can be seen in a commitment the staff has made to uphold three Critical Values as an organization: Christlikeness, Partnership and Transformation.

World Hope is laser focused on our three core program areas:

1) Clean Water and Energy; 2) Global Health; and 3) protection and prevention of exploitation and abuse.

To accomplish critical ongoing projects to bring clean water and energy, global health and protection around the world, WHI staff is committed to the following Mission & Vision Statements.

After careful evaluation, World Hope determined that the most effective way to help children thrive is by strengthening the families and communities that surround them. This holistic approach recognizes that lasting change happens when children are supported not only individually, but through healthier, safer, and more resilient communities.

Sponsors were invited to continue their impact by becoming Hope Partners—a community of monthly supporters committed to helping entire communities flourish.



Alongside efforts to strengthen programs and financial sustainability, World Hope also took important steps to **enhance organizational stewardship and leadership**. These included welcoming DeAnna Treadway as Chief Financial Officer, Kristi Gleason as Chief Programs & Operations Officer, Jocelyn White as Director of Advancement & Engagement, Lisa Lacey as Director of Advancement & Operations, and Brianna Gehring as Senior Strategic Advisor.

At the heart of World Hope's work is a dedicated team of staff and country directors whose commitment makes this mission possible every day.

Petersen said, "This staff carries heavy responsibilities. They navigate uncertainties, but they never fail to faithfully show up time and time again to serve with compassion, with courage and integrity. Hope has taken root in places marked by scarcity, injustice, and suffering. They show those in hard places to be resilient and to see the possibilities."

World Hope's work is only possible because of dedicated partners who provide the resources needed to bring hope in hard places.

For those who want to make a meaningful difference in the life of a child, an abused or exploited woman or teenager, or an entire community in need, becoming a Hope Partner is one of the most powerful ways to help.

"They never fail to faithfully show up time and time again to serve with compassion, with courage and integrity."

Jenn Petersen, CEO

Through monthly giving, Hope Partners support life-changing work across West Africa, Southeast Asia, and Latin America, helping vulnerable communities access the resources, opportunities, and care they need to thrive.

Being a Hope Partner is a way you can help write the story of the next 30 years, ensuring change is both lasting and transformative, allowing World Hope to lead with love, hope and strength. ■

Join us today:
worldhope.org/hope-partner



“What struck me most was their **presence. They sit, they listen, they stay--- restoring dignity, hope, and trust.”**



“I wish you could meet them. They are steady, compassionate, and **quietly courageous--- walking with survivors through incredibly complex trauma.”**

-Jenn Petersen, CEO of World Hope International, reflects on her recent travels alongside the teams in Cambodia and the Philippines.



Hope Up Close in Southeast Asia

By Jenn Petersen

There is nothing quite like being there-- seeing, hearing, and sitting with people on the frontlines of our work face to face.

In January, Lisa Lacey, Director of Advancement & Operations, and I had the privilege of traveling to the Philippines and Cambodia. I came home both deeply moved and incredibly grateful for the work our World Hope teams are doing to bring hope very literally into hard places.

We began in Cebu, Philippines, where we were joined by Diane Tager, World Hope Board Member, and we gathered with other NGO partners through “Brewing Hope,” an initiative that brings together organizations committed to protecting children. **There was something powerful about being in a room with people who care so deeply about this work.** From there, we traveled to Tacloban, where our team led training on the Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSAEC), and then on to Manila for another “Brewing Hope” experience with our partners.

Most of our time in the Philippines was spent connecting with our social workers. **I wish you could meet them. They are steady, compassionate, and quietly courageous---walking with survivors through incredibly complex trauma.** These dear brothers and sisters walk the whole recover road from prevention to therapy to family reintegration. The work is not easy, but it is sacred.

What struck me most was their presence. They sit, they listen, they stay---restoring dignity, hope, and trust.

“The work is not easy, but it is sacred.”

From there, Lisa and I **traveled to Cambodia**, where we were joined by Chloe Frelinghuysen, a World Hope volunteer. In Phnom Penh, **we saw how our team is equipping government leaders, teachers, and schools through trauma-informed care and protection training.** It is thoughtful, practical work that strengthens entire communities.

We then traveled to Mondulkiri and spent an evening at Jahoo, a community-based conservation and ecotourism initiative that World Hope launched, providing jobs and leadership opportunities for the Bunong people. It was beautiful to see how this work is opening doors, not just economically, but relationally as well. We visited schools and churches where our teams are leading programs on online safety, gender-based violence prevention, and positive parenting. You can feel the investment in the next generation.

Back in Phnom Penh, our team led a training with the Cambodian government on Safe and Healthy Homes. Two of our social workers came from the Philippines to help lead it, which felt like such a tangible picture of the kind of collaboration and shared mission we are seeing grow across countries. ■





New Blood Bank Saving Lives in Haiti

By David-Kensley Saintil S.

Thanks to World Hope International's unwavering commitment to healthcare, the community of La Gonâve on Haiti's largest island now has a blood bank — an essential resource that has already saved one life, and no doubt will save countless others.

Despite ongoing security challenges in Haiti, which at times delayed the implementation of this 2 ½ year project, our dedicated team worked tirelessly to bring the Blood Bank Project to completion, a key component of a \$13 million, 5-phase strategic capital improvement project. On January 22, La Gonâve Wesleyen Hospital, the only medical center within reach of more than 100,000 residents, had the honor of welcoming the Minister of Health, along with members of his cabinet, for the official inauguration.

Soon after its opening, the blood bank was responsible for saving the life of a police officer in Port-au-Prince who was critically injured and needed emergency surgery. The officer had a rare blood type, and none was available nearby. But a unit of A- blood had recently been donated at La Gonâve, and it was rushed to the other hospital in time to save his life.

This was an incredible reminder to all who helped to open the blood bank of how important this project has been, and will continue to be, in saving lives. We thank God we were there in time.

“Our dedicated team worked tirelessly to bring the Blood Bank Project to completion.”

The visit by the Minister of Health and other cabinet members encouraged the island's medical personnel, who were commended for their work. **We are proud to help create opportunities like this for the people of La Gonâve and to continue strengthening access to quality healthcare.**

World Hope is deeply grateful for the continued support of our donors and partners who made achieving this milestone possible. Your investment is having a tangible, life-saving impact as we build resilience, strengthen health systems, and deliver hope in hard places.

Together, we are saving lives and building hope—one community at a time, one life at a time. ■



Students Take the Lead for Clean Water

By Matt LeRoy

When staff and students at Southern Wesleyan University (SWU) and Indiana Wesleyan University (IWU) organized two charity events on campus recently, it wasn't to raise money for better food in the cafeteria or for classroom or dorm improvement projects. It was to raise money to bring clean water and better sanitation to people they had never met.

“[The students] wanted to raise awareness concerning the global water crisis and mobilize their campus to do something about it.”

On April 18, runners gathered at SWU in Central, South Carolina, for a 5K run to change lives. The goal was to raise \$20,000 to help 400+ people in communities where World Hope International has resources to dig new water wells or install pumps that help more people have affordable and easier access to clean drinking water.

Runners paid \$25 to enter the race, and others gave a donation to support those who laced up for the 3.1-mile race.

Thanks to these efforts, funds were raised to help the most vulnerable communities in Cambodia, Haiti, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

HOOPS FOR HOPE

Before that, in February, the IWU men's and women's basketball teams were also raising funds and awareness for our clean water programs. When the men's team, the IWU Wildcats, and the Taylor University Trojans met on the court this season, the game was bigger than basketball. While they battled it out for their schools, the longtime rivals, whose universities are located only 11 miles apart, used one of their biggest games of the season to come together and create Hoops for Hope.

The idea started with the IWU women's team. Coach Ethan Whaley and company wanted to raise awareness concerning the global water crisis and mobilize their campus to do something about it. They invited the Taylor women's team to join them. **Rising above rivalry, the two teams became one in the shared cause.**

Leading up to the game, players carried large water jugs around campus to represent women and girls forced to carry heavy water cans for miles for their survival.

Each team decorated water cans and asked classmates to vote via donations to determine the best design. They sold Hoops for Hope T-shirts and set up a peer-to-peer campaign through World Hope's website.

On the night of the big game, I had the opportunity to share the vision and mission of World Hope with a packed gym and speak to the teams in the locker room. I reminded them that every play matters.

Every rebound, every assist, and every effort contributes to the outcome of the game. What may seem small in the moment can create a ripple effect that extends far beyond the court.

The same is true for this effort to bring clean water to those who need it. **Every single dollar raised, every story told, every person who learns more about the water crisis influences the outcome of real lives.** They may seem small in the moment, but each effort creates a ripple effect of impact.

We are grateful to the players and coaches of Indiana Wesleyan University and Taylor University, and for the SWU staff and students who campaigned and gave up their Saturday to run a 5K. Your commitment, creativity, and compassion will change many lives. ■



Water is Life, a Charity Water Partnership

By Elijah Maina

For nearly five years, World Hope International, with the generous support of Charity Water, has been implementing a transformative Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) initiative in Sierra Leone

As the project approached maturity, a Post-Implementation Monitoring Survey (PIMS) was conducted to assess goals and objectives, and to record the experiences of some of the 600 households that benefited. What we learned was humbling.



Across districts, chiefdoms, towns, and villages, the PIMS team encountered moments of profound gratitude and emotional testimony. **Women and men spoke with voices trembling — not from a point of weakness — but from relief.** These encounters affirmed the relevance and life-saving impact of the WASH project.

Among the many stories, two stood out for their emotional gravity: Dubaya and Kambaya, neighboring villages settled along the mountainous northern border of Sierra Leone. For generations, the people of these two villages lived with a reality few outsiders ever saw. Water was a daily struggle, and dangerous to collect.

For decades, the isolated village of **Dubaya had no reliable water source.** During the dry season, families trekked two hours into the mountains to collect water at the base of a waterfall shared with gorillas and monkeys. Diarrhea, dysentery and cholera were common. Women and girls were never allowed to go alone; some even went into labor along the dangerous journey.

But everything changed on March 14, 2024, when we drilled a borehole in the ground for water extraction. Today, clean water flows within the village. Children no longer risk their safety for a bucket of water. Mothers no longer fear the dry season. The tears that once marked exhaustion and sickness now reflect gratitude and dignity restored.

In neighboring Kambaya, water scarcity led to horrific tragedy. After repeated failed attempts to dig wells, desperation led the community to accept an elder's belief that the only answer was human sacrifice of a young girl.

The village tragically followed his advice, and suffered human loss along with continued drought.

“Water was a daily struggle, and dangerous to collect.”

When World Hope and Charity Water arrived in Kambaya, hope returned, but only cautiously. This time, however, the promise was grounded in engineering and science. **Kambaya now has reliable access to safe drinking water.** The borehole stands as more than infrastructure — it represents freedom from fear. Children grow up knowing water is available while families are able to focus on farming and school.

The stories from Dubaya and Kambaya prove that **clean water does more than quench thirst;** it reduces disease, protects women and girls from dangerous journeys, replaces superstition with knowledge and restores trust in what is possible. New wells not only brought water, they allowed the people to reclaim their future. Put simply, yet profoundly, water is life. ■

“Children no longer risk their safety for a bucket of water. Mothers no longer fear the dry season. The tears that once marked exhaustion and sickness now reflect gratitude and dignity restored.”



Jesus Film Reaching Thousands

By Pastor Andrew Kargbo

a spiritual hunger has been ignited in Sierra Leone since **World Hope teamed up with the Jesus Film Project** to spread the Gospel in 2025 to at least 30 communities, many hearing it for the first time.

The project exposed 19,153 people to the Gospel, while 3,348 responded to the call to salvation. Our outreach coordinators report that “churches are reopening, hearts are softening, and interest in discipleship is growing.”

WHI heard from people like Joshua in Majaka who was raised as a Muslim. Because of his hatred for Christianity, he was made a leader among the Muslims, known as an Imam. But in 2017 Joshua had a dream in which he was tied up and dragged into a pit. The moment he called on the name of Jesus, the ropes loosed, and he woke up.

“That dream changed my life,” said Joshua. “I accepted Christ and faced rejection, exile and persecution.”

Today, Joshua leads a fellowship in Majaka with about 30 members. The Jesus Film has inspired more to join, and several have been baptized in the past two months.

Meanwhile in Allen Town, the community responded powerfully to the message. A large number accepted Jesus as their savior.

One of those was Mariama who said after watching it, she felt such a peace that she now wants to know more about Jesus and to follow Him.

And in the Bumban Community, Aminata, who was raised Muslim, said, “Watching the Jesus Film opened my heart to a love I never knew before.”

After watching the second movie, called Walking with Jesus, Aminata said she learned that forgiveness is not weakness.

“Please pray that my heart remains open to His word, and that He helps me forgive my brother whom I’ve not spoken to in years.”

“Watching the Jesus Film opened my heart to a love I never knew before.”

-Aminata

Indeed, forgiveness is a central theme often cited by Sierra Leoneans as having the biggest impact.

As Mariatu who lives in Mabantha Community told us, “The part that touched me most was when Jesus forgave those who hurt Him. After watching the film, I decided to forgive my sister who I haven’t spoken to for months.”

Now that so many have given their hearts to the Lord, there is a great need for follow-up support by trained leaders and pastors to share discipleship materials, and to plant new churches.

After the seed of the Gospel is sown, it must be watered and nurtured so it can grow. This includes in areas such as the Robelor Community, which reopened a closed church following the community viewing of the film.

The project exposed 19,153 people to the Gospel, while 3,348 responded to the call to salvation.

The challenge is that there is no church leadership and the handful of new converts are in **desperate need of shepherding.**

World Hope is grateful to the many partners who made these life transformations possible in some of the most remote and spiritually hungry communities in Sierra Leone.

Please continue to pray with us and support us as we seek to sustain these efforts. ■

Will you pray with us?

Jesus, tune our hearts to Yours.

May we know You more and more. Seal your Word in the hearts of these dear brothers and sisters who have recently encountered You through The Jesus Film. Raise up leaders by the power of Your Holy Spirit to lead Your Church in Sierra Leone.

May the gospel continue to reach the ends of the earth bringing hope to the hopeless, and may You use me to advance Your Kingdom on this earth.

Amen.





A Legacy of Hope Through Planned Giving

By Lisa Lacey

Hope grows when generosity is paired with intention.

Every day, World Hope International witnesses the impact of people who choose to invest in vulnerable children, families, and communities around the world. For those looking to deepen that impact, thoughtful charitable planning can provide opportunities to give more strategically, steward resources wisely, and create lasting change for generations to come.

That is why we are excited to introduce the newest partner of World Hope's Advancement Team: 25 Giving. This philanthropic planning organization helps individuals and families create personalized giving strategies that can increase both their charitable impact and their financial efficiency.

"Generosity multiplies when it's intentional and informed," said Justin Lopez, President and Philanthropic Consultant at 25 Giving. "We help families understand the full range of giving opportunities available to them and identify the strategies that best align with their values, goals, and resources."

Whether you are passionate about supporting World Hope's work today or interested in creating a lasting legacy for future generations, planning your giving can help ensure that more of your generosity reaches the mission you care about.

Contact Justin Lopez at 25 Giving:
justin.lopez@25giving.com



What is Planned Giving?

Despite the name, planned giving is not just for retirees or individuals with large estates. At its core, planned giving simply means giving with intention.

There are two primary ways to approach charitable planning: giving now and giving later.



Path 1: Giving Now

Many of the most effective and tax-efficient charitable gifts can be made during your lifetime using assets you may already own or through financial decisions you are already planning to make.

Appreciated Stock

Donating stock directly may help you avoid capital gains taxes while providing a charitable deduction.

IRA Charitable Rollovers (QCDs)

Individuals age 70½ and older can make tax-free gifts directly from an IRA, which may also count toward required minimum distributions.

Donor-Advised Funds

Contribute assets today, receive an immediate tax benefit, and recommend grants to charities over time.

Major Financial Transactions

Events such as the sale of a business, real estate, or other significant assets can create unique opportunities for charitable giving when planned in advance.

Path 2: Legacy Giving

Legacy giving allows you to support the causes you care about long after your lifetime.

A Gift Through Your Will

A simple provision can direct a portion of your estate to World Hope International.

Beneficiary Designations

Retirement accounts, life insurance policies, and certain financial accounts can often include charitable beneficiaries with minimal paperwork.

Charitable Trusts

For those with more complex financial situations, charitable trusts can provide benefits to both family members and charitable organizations.

A Lasting Impact

The goal of charitable planning is simple: helping more of your generosity reach the people and causes you care about.

Whether you want to make a greater impact today, leave a legacy for tomorrow, review an existing plan, or simply learn more about your options, there is no wrong place to begin.

Email us today to reserve your complimentary consultation: [**whi@25giving.com**](mailto:whi@25giving.com)

All conversations are private and confidential. As an independent third party, 25 Giving's role is to help you explore the options available and discover the giving strategy that best serves your goals, your family, and the causes you care about most. ■



Field Staff Spotlight

By Mariel Aira Mateo



Meet
Meg

Some children endure pain no child should ever experience. **Standing beside them are social workers** who witness that pain every day. The work can be demanding and heartbreaking, but each act of compassion, protection, and care helps create a pathway toward healing and hope.

One of those dedicated heroes is Meg Cabanacan, who has served as a Social Worker with World Hope in Region 8 of the Philippines for the past five years. Meg works alongside children who have survived abuse and exploitation while also equipping fellow social workers and care providers with training in trauma-informed care and psychosocial interventions.

As a student, she trained at the Regional Haven for Women, a shelter for survivors of abuse. She was drawn to the work and with World Hope's shared mission to protect children, empower survivors and advocate for justice with compassion.

One case that she will never forget involved a 15-year-old girl who was a survivor of online sexual abuse and exploitation. This young girl, whom we will call Anna to protect her privacy, faced abuse early on in her life, which led to an early pregnancy, and then loss of the child.

Overwhelmed by grief, Anna wanted to leave school and had no hope for her own future. But through consistent counseling and coordinated support for the entire family, Anna turned a corner and is now back in school, performing well academically and moving forward with a renewed purpose. **This was a moment when Meg said she saw God move** through the whole team who provided more than education, but gave Anna a new hope.

For Meg, working at World Hope has been transformative. **"Walking closely with survivors has taught me to listen more deeply, respond with greater humility and trust the power of presence of God, over quick solutions,"** she said. Some days she travels up to seven hours for one 45-minute session with a client.

Meg says she is reminded that **healing is a process** that happens through consistency, teamwork, and love in action. Watching survivors like Anna grow stronger and regain hope has not only reinforced her commitment to the work, but has also strengthened her own faith.

Thank you, Meg, for all you do to be an agent of hope & healing! ■



Partner Spotlight

By Jennifer Jones

Hearthland Church of Fishers, Indiana, a church with a heart for local and global missions, has been a **valued partner of World Hope for more than 20 years.** This church has not only transformed lives in its own community, but through dozens of missions over the years as well.



As Pastor Darryn Scheske said at the church's recent 25-year anniversary celebration, "We have seen **faith made visible through love in action**-hunger met, thirst quenched, the vulnerable clothed, and the stranger welcomed and sheltered. We've seen the sick cared for, the imprisoned remembered, and dignity honored even in death as we walk with grieving families. **This is the gospel lived out-not in theory, but in real lives-across our city, our nation and our world.**"

In 2008, Pastor Darryn traveled to West Africa where **he saw firsthand how 40% of the population lacked access to clean water.** In Sierra Leone, one out of every five children were dying every year from waterborne diseases. It was there that he decided he had to do something to help, especially after watching a large water drilling rig grind to a halt. The rig was too old to be repaired. A replacement would cost \$150,000.

At the time, Heartland was in the midst of its own church fundraising campaign to raise \$300,000 to cover its **growing pains** and was gathering on Sundays on **an old showroom floor in a closed computer store.**

Fundraising was slow due to the economy, and the church had raised exactly \$150,000. Pastor Darryn decided he wanted to give that money to West Africans who lacked clean water.

He took it to the congregation, and **they agreed to give away the entire Building Fund.** "For us, it was just a delay for a building project. But for the people of Sierra Leone, the new drill rig was a matter of life and death," he said.

Heartland's generous, giving spirit doesn't end there. A church member was so impressed that he matched the donation, and the church purchased two drilling rigs. Heartland then partnered with the local Rotary Club to raise money for more wells in West Africa in what became known as the Water is Life program. In the past 17 years, through this partnership of the church, the Rotary Clubs of Fishers and Free Town, Sierra Leone, and World Hope, **more than 200 new wells have been built.**

Thank you, Heartland Church for showing us that God's kingdom is abundant! ■

It is only by working
together and partnering
with you that we can
help bring hope.

Because of your
compassion, we can help
protect the vulnerable,
diminish poverty, and
alleviate suffering.

4 EASY WAYS TO GIVE



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AN ORGANIZATION YOU CAN

