



## August 2010



*Hauling water for making concrete in Kenya, 2009.*

Dear Friends,

Are you as excited as I am? Not because you are reading my very first prayer letter, although that is almost as exciting as watching the last 15 minutes of the World Cup Football final, huh? No, the real reason for my excitement is because CrossWay Water for Life (CWFL), the mission organization that I am now involved with, has made a huge step in sending our very first water well drilling rig to Kenya!

I have been involved with CrossWay International for over 2 years, and have helped spearhead this new Water for Life division. Many of you know that I am an Engineer, but increasingly, I feel most fulfilled when I travel to underprivileged countries to help provide safe drinking water. I went to Sudan with Dean Chollar, the CEO of Crossway, in January 2008 to assist on our first



*The trailer is finally all loaded.*

well project, and most recently, I went to Kenya with him in April. These trips overseas have only served to make me want to get more clean water to more people. CrossWay International was already involved in water well drilling overseas, but our new division set the bar even higher. We decided to pursue the fabrication of our own drilling rig and ship it overseas so that we could drill more wells in less time, for less money. We had the rig made here in TX, and then the real work began (on our end) to prepare it for its trip overseas.



*Loading container onto transport trailer.*

After weeks of hard prep work, we finally began loading the drilling rig trailer with scads of boxes, pallets, and large bags of tools, clothes, shoes, Bibles, kitchen stuff...over 250 separate items! It took us all day Monday, July 19, and half of Tuesday to get 'er done, and it sure was hot, humid, and sweaty work. Then our massive rented crane skillfully set this 8.5-ton container on the back of a truck, and off it went. By Tuesday afternoon, it was sitting dockside at the Port of Houston, waiting to be loaded onto a cargo ship. The drilling rig is due to arrive at the port in Mombasa, Kenya on August 9 (assuming it doesn't get hijacked at sea by the nearby Somali pirates).

Before the container ever left the US, we started receiving requests for water wells from missionaries, church and community leaders, and even Members of Parliament in Kenya. It would seem that our fledgling ministry is becoming well known, even before we drill our first well with our new drilling rig. How amazing to see the Lord's hand at work even now, preparing the way.

You may be wondering – "How have you been able to accomplish all of this in the 3 short months since you returned from Kenya?" Well, the answer to that is very simple... we didn't – God did. I know that this is all part of God's amazing plan, and He chose *us* to accomplish this particular task...imagine that! The *us* that I refer to is not only Crossway staff, but a large (and growing)



group of believers that simply cannot stand to see others suffer. *Us* is the many members of Alamo Heights Methodist Church (the Outreach Committee in particular), and an incredible Sunday School class there, the Open Door Class. *Us* is the many friends of CrossWay International who stay involved with our



*Mother and children drawing water from our first Well in Adoor Village, Sudan, 2008.*

ongoing ministry. *Us* is the Real4Christ Ministry and their many supporters and Board who provided the 40 ft. container and invited us to help them fill it – which we gladly accepted. *Us* is all of those who, by assisting directly, working behind the scenes, donating their money, tools, and supplies, or by praying, came together as the Body of Christ to see God’s plan through to this important milestone.

I will be returning to Kenya once the equipment arrives and clears customs – hopefully by early September. I plan to stay for at least a month, as we’ll be drilling our first well for Real4Christ Ministry (they have new property where they plan to build another church/academy). From

there, we plan to move to the Eastern Province of Kenya, where there has been a significant drought, and fresh water is very scarce. I will keep you all up to date as we begin the next phase of this ministry – and when I travel you can receive (almost) daily blogs on our progress. I will tell you how to access them in upcoming letters.

I have learned two important things about our God through this whole process: one, God’s timing is perfect (believe me, that was a hard one – as NONE of this seems to be happening on MY schedule!); and two, God has some seriously deep pockets! There is just no end to His grace and generosity when He puts it on His people’s hearts to pursue a worthy dream. I feel blessed to be part of this amazing work. Knowing that He has called me and is using me as an integral part of this amazing team that He has assembled-- this “*us*”... well, it just leaves me undone. I can’t wait to tell you, as Paul Harvey would say, “the rest of the story.” And please know that this is not my story alone, but a chapter in God’s story--and you are all a part of it. You see, none of this can happen without funding, or technological expertise, or the right equipment, or tools, or workers. And it surely cannot happen without prayer – all of ours together. It is your prayers that I cherish the most.

Please pray for the successful arrival of the shipping container into Mombasa, Kenya, and that it may clear customs as quickly and cost-effectively as possible. Please pray also for the people that will be getting the wells, that they would be open to hearing the Gospel proclaimed. The most important part of this ministry is that all wells are provided in the name of Jesus, the Living Water. And while the gift of life that this water will provide is so vital, the highest and best use of it will always be in the baptizing of new believers!

We could not begin to even take on this work without the prayers and support of people like you.. If you are not currently involved but would like to partner with me in this vital work, please send the enclosed slip of paper and your check to CrossWay International, and write “Bob Nicol” on the memo line. I’ve enclosed a donation envelope for your convenience.

Thanks again for taking the time to read this letter and for your fervent prayers. Like I said, this a very big team effort! And it is my joy to be right in the center of this wonderful, unfolding ministry.

Live blessed,

Bob Nicol, P.E.  
Engineer/Missionary



Yes, Bob, I'd like to take part in CrossWay Water for Life.

Please accept :

\_\_\_\_\_ a commitment from me to pray for you.

\_\_\_\_\_ a special gift of \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ a monthly support of \_\_\_\_\_.

Please make your check out to CrossWay International and write "Bob" on the memo line. Please include this slip and use the self-addressed envelope.

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
_____
_____
EMAIL: _____

CrossWay International is a nonprofit, tax-exempt mission organization.

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