



Monthly Newsletter of Ed & Linda Baker



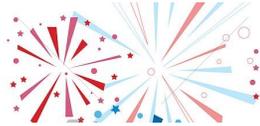
The Mission
Society

Assisting Missionaries Worldwide
July 2013

We mentioned in June that the community of San Diego, Nicaragua may still have levels of arsenic in the community water well above the standards set by WHO (World Health Organization). After additional testing done on Ed's site visit last month, it has been confirmed that the arsenic levels are, indeed, high. The re-test showed the arsenic level to be .049 mg/l. The WHO acceptable rate is .01 mg/l. The community will now look again at the Kanchan Arsenic Filter system.



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July Fireworks!

In June, we reported that while in Nicaragua, Ed also visited the community of Mira Luz. Mira Luz is loosely translated "see the light". However, Nicaraguans didn't see the lights of the July fireworks—read the short, "Independence Day" on the next page to find out. The community of Mira Luz consists of 67 homes, the majority of which are constructed of sheet metal and located on very small lots (about 30 ft. by 60 ft.).

A group of young Christian men and women (referred to as the Leadership Team) performed an assessment of the community and the primary recommendation of the Team was improvement of the water resources of the community.

There are several hand dug wells in the community, all but one of which are privately owned. One privately owned well has an electric pump, and the owner sells water for 10 córdobas (about \$0.40) per 55 gallon barrel. Few members of the community can afford this price. Some of the private well owners allow community members to draw water without charge. The public well has a rope

pump and seems to be the main water source for the community. It is recommended that the community form an official "Comite de Agua Potable y Sanamiento – CAPS". A CAPS is recognized by the government of Nicaragua as a non-profit organization and affords the community with several benefits. Once the CAPS has been formed, a water project could be initiated, if donors for funds can be identified. However, it is important that the community itself have some degree of financial and labor



Public well with rope pump

involvement in any project that is proposed. Ed came away from the visit with 3 options for Mira Luz: 1) Improve the existing public well; 2) Drill a new well and equip it with a hand pump; 3) Drill a new well and equip it with an electric submersible pump. All 3 options have advantages and disadvantages. Community involvement is the key to any successful water project. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that the Leadership Team currently working with the community encourage the formation of the CAPS. We'll keep you informed about the outcome of this project.



Praying Together

You can be an integral part of our ministry just by joining us in prayer. We have the following praises & concerns:

Continued good health.

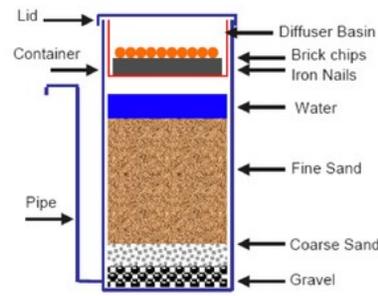
For all who will be traveling to visit family & friends this summer.

Guidance as we continue to do God's will.

Those that are "thirsty" around the world.

Please forward this Newsletter to others in your group who may be interested in our ministry. If you would prefer to not receive these newsletters in the future, just replay with a "No thank you" in the subject line.

The Things We Learned!



What do nails, sand, & cracked bricks have in common? This is what makes up the Kanchan Arsenic Filter. As the water passes over the rusted nails, the arsenic is adsorbed onto the rusted iron nail surface. The sand catches the larger pathogen particles, while the smaller particles are removed by organisms living on the sand surface. The filter needs to be cleaned monthly, or after 6 months of use—depending on the quality of the water being filtered.



Independence

Day

Not to be confused with the movie by the same name, Independence Day or July 4th is the day the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Continental Congress. This is a US holiday—which is sometimes confusing to mission teams who find themselves out of the country on July 4th, where they do not find fireworks or barbeque!

Contributions

Donations for our support may be made as a pledge or one-time gift online at www.themissionsociety.org/people/baker or by mailing a check

The Mission Society-P.O. Box 922637-Norcross, GA 30010-2637
Please make check payable to The Mission Society and designate Baker Support 264



Fireworks in July— how exciting!