

CRIBBS NOTES – OCTOBER 14, 2007

News of the generous gifts from this congregation to the people and children of Africa has gone forth with great joy and tremendous thanks. Our campaign to provide five 6-thousand liter tanks for the project, “*Water for Children Africa*,” exceeded our goal. We successfully received sufficient funds to purchase seven tanks, and a check in the amount of **FOUR THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED DOLLARS** was presented to Vickie Butcher, JD, executive director of WCA, this past Sunday during our 10:00 A.M. worship service.

“Thank you,” everyone who made a contribution to this very worthy opportunity to support a vision of hope and life. Thank you, San Marino Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, for looking beyond our sanctuary and touching the lives of strangers in a distant land. Through your generosity children in villages will have safe drinking water at their schools. *Water for Children Africa* intends to deliver up to 41 tanks in several countries. While our membership at San Marino UCC is small, we possess big hearts and a large spirit of glad hospitality.

It is our prayer God will shine mercy on us and bless the people who will receive the new water tanks. We also pray God will bring much needed rain to those regions ravaged by drought. We pray God’s grace will surround all of us and bind us closer together.

Although we may not know the full extent of our efforts to join the very fine work of *Water for Children Africa*, we were blessed to have learned of that effort and to have contributed our financial support to help reach its goals. There is a warm, wonderful feeling that fills our souls when we realize how important it is to share resources and then give as we are able.

Imagine the possibilities when more money is spent to build communities and strengthen lives rather than pouring public funds into weapons of mass destruction and systems of war. If we were to shift our priorities away from defense spending and put a greater emphasis on world peace, a new ‘coalition of the willing’ could be formed to address and eliminate poverty. We know this is possible. The amount of dollars wasted everyday to escalate violence demonstrates we have enough money to improve living conditions for every person on the planet, without exception. When will we have the will to do it? What will it take?

It is my prayer people will sprint toward the goal line of providing water, food, medicine, clothing, and shelter wherever they are necessary. Instead of bullets, we can deliver life-saving technologies; instead of warriors, we can deploy humanitarians and people of goodwill; instead of building boundaries and borders, we will construct bridges, roads, schools, hospitals, homes, and centers for spiritual growth. One step has been taken by everyone who gave to *Water for Children Africa*. Thank you!