



# Waters Edge Ministries

*H2O for Those Who Thirst*

## God Was Here First

If you close your eyes and focus on the laughter of children playing soccer in a clearing, you might not realize that you were standing in a huge garbage dump in Tema, Ghana. But one breath of the acrid smoky air would jar you back into reality.

Life is often difficult in Africa. Even in Ghana, one of Africa's more progressive countries, some people live in conditions that are unimaginable to the average American citizen. We were shocked when we learned of a whole community of people who live in and around the garbage dump.

Homes are constructed of scraps of tin, pieces of large boxes, wire mesh – anything that can be foraged from the dump and put to use for some type of shelter. Men, women, boys, and girls spend much of the days rummaging through the truckloads of garbage hauled in from all over Accra and Tema.

### Pure Water for 2,200

Each water purification system installed by WEM has the potential to serve up to 10,000 people per day.

**Bame** System installed in 2010.  
Population 1,000.

**Adigbo  
Tornu** System installed in 2009.  
Upgraded in 2010.  
Population 600.

**Potwabin** System installed in 2009.  
Upgraded in 2010.  
Population 600.

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“And if anyone gives even a cup of cold **water** to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward.”

Matthew 10:42

## God Was Here First

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We talked with 26-year-old Janet, a young mother who came from Takoradi in the North to find work. She lives in the dump, sharing a home with her mother, her brother, and her 7-year-old son, Andrew. She smiles when she tells us that Andrew goes to school, thanks to a Waters Edge Ministries sponsorship.

Janet works recycling tires. She pays 80 pesewas (about 50 cents) to the dump management company for every day she goes through the tons of garbage looking for tires that she can re-sell to a rubber company. It's physically demanding, grimy work. A month's worth of work may net her about 40 Ghana cedis (around \$30 US).

The family lives in a shelter that her brother built on the edge of the dump. They pay 2 cedis a day to rent the land-space from the dump management company. Her work doesn't even cover the rent for their home. Janet, her brother, and her mother all depend upon each other to survive.

She has dreams of living somewhere else, and she smiles as she talks of getting married one day and having a "real house."



*"She smiles as she talks of getting married one day..."*

Hundreds of residents live in the Tema dump. Waters Edge Ministries would like to provide scholarships to the children to help break the cycle of poverty.

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## Mission Team 2010



WEM, partnering with Grace Church of Columbia, SC, hosted the largest team to date in 2010. Twelve answered the call and made the journey to Ghana, West Africa. Two previously installed water systems were upgraded with PVC pipes from the water sources to the purification sites and gas powered water pumps. A new purification system was installed with these upgrades in the village of Bame in the Volta Region (pictured at left).

Street evangelism, soccer with the kids at the dump, awesome worship experiences, encouraging kids at schools and opening the door for the Living Water of Christ through Water Purification are a few of the highlights of this mission.

As one participant stated, *"I could feel the Spirit of Love surrounding me at every turn."*

# God Was Here First

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Another resident of the dump community is Samson. He's lived here since 1998. He has three children, ages 9, 7, and 4; the oldest child lives with a grandmother in a nearby town. The two younger ones live with him, and are cared for by their other grandmother who shares their makeshift home at the dump.

Samson met his wife in the Volta Region, where they were both born. They could not find work in the Volta area, so they moved to the city to find jobs – and ended up at the dump. After the youngest child was born 4 years ago, his wife left him. Samson found a job in a nearby quarry, where he breaks up huge stones for 7 Ghana cedis per day – nearly \$5 US. Pretty good money, we say. He agrees, but then admits that he drinks a good bit on the weekends. “But NO DRUGS. Drugs are bad, bad bad,” he asserts.



He says he wants to move from the dump one day. But he says there's nowhere else to go. He doesn't know any other kind of work, other than farming.

Janet and Samson are just two of the hundreds of residents in the Tema dump. They struggle to survive, to make ends meet, to feed their children, to cope. They have hopes and dreams, and believe in a better tomorrow.

As we tell them goodbye, and tell them to take care, they both wave and smile. And Samson reminds us, “God was here first.”

“God was here first.” His words have echoed in my mind ever since that day. Even in the midst of the stench, the back-breaking work, the dirt, the poverty, the hunger...God was there. He holds those children in the palm of His hand, and protects them. These people are our neighbors – and we are charged to love our neighbors. 🌍 By Anita Tarlton

**For Christmas this year...  
Help change a *Generation!***

**Please consider honoring someone with a  
*gift donation* made in their name.**

**Educate a child, provide clean water for a  
village and be the difference for future  
generations!**

## What your gift can accomplish

Water purifier for one village	\$2,500
A child's school fees for one year	\$ 50

Donations can be made online at

<http://weministry.com>

or mailed to:

Waters Edge Ministries  
195 Holly St  
Winnsboro, SC 29180

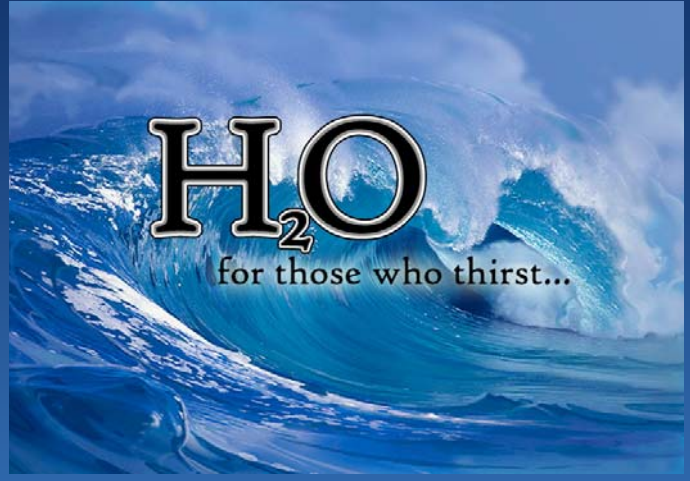
Waters Edge Ministries was founded in 2005 when David Waters and Anita Tarlton learned:

- 1.1 billion people lack access to clean safe drinking water.
- A child dies every 15 seconds from water-borne diseases.
- 3.575 million people die each year from water related illnesses.

WEM grew when Davi Trotti & April Calnin joined to serve the least of these, who thirst for clean water and the Living Water of Jesus Christ.

Want to go to Africa? Consider joining us! Contact us at [weministry@gmail.com](mailto:weministry@gmail.com) for details on our annual mission trips!

Join us on Facebook at <http://www.causes.com/causes/202013-h2o-for-those-who-thirst/about?m=260628f4>



Your partnership enables us to be the hands and feet of your prayers and contributions. We appreciate you sharing our burden to improve current and future generations who lack access to basic human needs. Thank you for sacrifice towards our brothers and sisters in need. God Bless you!

WEM has no paid staff. 100% of donations go to designated programs.

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195 Holly Street  
Winnsboro, SC 29180