

## WHY SAVE WATER?

Less than 1% of all the water on earth can be used by people. The rest is salt water (the kind you find in the ocean) or is permanently frozen and we can't drink it, wash with it, or use it to water plants. As the population grows, more and more people are using up this limited resource. So it is important that we use our water wisely and not waste it.

What can you do to save water?

1. Just by turning off the tap while you brush your teeth, you can save up to 8 gallons of water! The same is true when you wash dishes.
2. Taking a shower uses much less water than filling up a bathtub. A shower only uses 10-25 gallons while a bath can use up to 70 gallons. To save even more water, keep your shower under five minutes long. Try timing yourself with a clock the next time you hop in.
3. If your toilet has a leak, you could be wasting about 200 gallons of water every day. That would be like flushing your toilet more than 50 times for no reason! Try this experiment: ask your parents to help you test for leaks by placing a drop of food coloring in the toilet tank. If the color shows up in the bowl without flushing, you have a leak!



# BGR TO GO *kids*

*connecting kids in need with kids who care*

## WATER WATER EVERYWHERE

Water is everywhere in our lives. Without much thought, we bathe in it, drink it, cook with it, and wash our hands with it over and over on a daily basis. List all the ways you can think of that you use water. What if water was difficult for you to get? How would your life be different?



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## WATER CRISIS

Today's water crisis is not because there is not enough water; it is just that people don't have access to it. More people in the world own cell phones than have access to a toilet.

### INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT WATER:

- \* 884 million people lack access to safe water.
- \* A bathtub holds about 40 gallons of water. Some people who live in slums only get 8 gallons of water for all their daily needs.
- \* 3.5 million people die every year from water-related disease.
- \* Taking a five-minute shower uses more water than a person in a slum uses in a whole day!
- \* Every 20 seconds a child dies from a water-related disease.
- \* Millions of women and children spend several hours a day collecting water from distant, often polluted sources.

Imagine that you turn the tap in your kitchen and out comes reddish brown water. As you look into your glass you see tiny flecks of rust and sand swirling around in it. This can't be normal, can it? Imagine that you walk for miles to get to water that is suitable for drinking. That water is the same water where most people in your community wash their laundry and take a bath. Children play in it and swim in it every day. You fill up an industrial-sized yellow jug, pop it on your head and start back home. Imagine your sons and daughters have a stomach ache. They have had this for quite some time, but so do all the other children in your village. You remember this stomach ache from your own childhood. It is an inevitable part of being a kid. Imagine living in a world where diarrhea is a main killer among children. Imagine being helpless to stop this. You may or may not know the effects of drinking dirty water, but even if you do, it doesn't really matter. This is the only water you have to drink. Recently I saw this reality change for thousands of people. One province received 13 new wells. That means that many lives will be changed forever! These people will have clean drinking water at an accessible distance, available to them for the first time in their lives.

The generations to follow will never have to know the dangers of drinking dirty water. Child mortality rates will decrease in those communities, guaranteed. I want to say thank you on behalf of those people whose lives you have changed. Although I cannot send you the chickens, rice, oranges, bananas and cashews that were given to us in thanks, I do want you to know that the people living around the wells are so grateful for the gift of clean water that you so generously provided, demonstrating God's message of love to so many. (written by a BGR partner's child living in this country)

## WATER PUMPS AND FILTERS

There are some places in the world where the water is not safe to drink. Those who drink it often get sick and even die. This is especially true for the children. BGR helps provide clean water to these places by installing hand pumps which are easy for one person to operate and do not require much maintenance. The water pumps help improve hygiene and health in these areas.

BGR partners have helped develop a "flower pot" water filter that is enabling many people to have clean water right in their homes. The "flower pots" are made locally and are not expensive. What's the secret to the "flower pot" water filter? Rice husks are baked into the pot when it is first being formed. These husks make the pot porous and have proven to be a great water filtering system. Each water pot costs about \$25.

