

Week One Lent: February 22, 2015

Gen 1:2 The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

As a chemical engineer, a large part of my day revolves around water. Water is probably the largest component of products that we sell. After we use a mix tank to make a product, we have to clean it. What do we use? Most of the time, it's water. There are also products that we make that go through an exothermic reaction, which means it generates heat. To keep that process safe, the mix tank needs to be cooled. What do we use? Cold water, of course. We have to use cold water, hot water, water that has undergone reverse osmosis, water that has been deionized, and water that has been UV treated.

Suffice it to say, I think about water a lot. The manufacturing facility I work at is supplied with water by an 8-inch main water pipe, and we use about 200 gallons of water every minute. That's a lot of water, but sometimes it's not enough to do everything we need to do at the same time. For example, we might have two mix tanks that need to use water to make a product, three that need water for cooling, and one that needs to be cleaned. Ideally, we would need about 350 gallons each minute to perform all of those operations. In this case, the lack of water supply would result in delays that might put us behind schedule. One of my projects right now is figuring out how to optimize our water

system to reduce delays and hopefully reduce water usage.

While water availability is a bit of a problem at work, it's what I would call a first-world problem. We have a huge source of clean, low-cost water available. I think about water while I'm at work, but when I'm at home, I just turn on the faucet to get all the water I need without another thought. This is a luxury that many people unfortunately do not have.

Katie Waers

- ❖ On average Americans uses 100 gallons of water every day. The average water use per person in Haiti is 4 gallons a day.
- ❖ Haiti currently has the highest infant mortality in the Western Hemisphere. The lack of clean water has a great impact on this statistic

Prayer: Thank you Lord for the generous gift of water in our lives. Help us to respond generously to the students of Jeannette, Haiti who have so much less than we do. Take our gift to rebuild a cistern water tank to add to the blessings of St. Marc's School. Amen.



Week Two Lent: March 1, 2015

Ezekiel 36:25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols.

We woke up early one morning in mid-February to discover the toilet would not flush. I checked and the toilet tank was empty, which means that no water had filled the tank the last time it was used. I went to the kitchen to check the faucet there. No water either! Looking out the window I saw three trucks, one of which was a jack hammer pounding holes in the asphalt in front of our house.

I knew what that meant! We had had a water main break over a year ago two houses down the street. The water had bubbled up out of the pavement all night and filled the lower parts of the street and backed up a neighbor's driveway into his garage.

I went through the house to find where we had some stored water...the gallon of distilled water for my iron, the watering can for our house plants, the filtered coffee water and a little in our hot pot for tea. Not much for our morning needs.

I went out to shovel the snow in our driveway to discover standing water near the street. I talked to one of the workmen and was told the repair call came in at 4 a.m. The water was out on just our street. I waited two hours before I called Barb Manger to see if I could come over to fill a few buckets of water. Melting snow would have taken a long time! I drove home carefully, not to splash out any of my precious buckets full of

water. Our water was on again in four more hours as predicted. Crisis over!

What an inconvenience! A morning without water! But we are retired and did not have to get to work, feed a family, care for someone ill and we had a friend to rely on if we needed more water. Throughout the morning's 'ordeal' I thought of our friends in Haiti who have no running tap water, only the rain water they collected from their roofs, or water they collected from a muddy river a ways from the house. That would cut way back on our life style and how much we could accomplish in a day, much less one's health and safety. We are blessed, though no more deserving than anyone else in the world.

Ira Pauline Leidel

- ❖ Clean water improves quality of life. Dirty water can cause sicknesses that force people to miss work and school, costing them money and education. Clean water can help them stay in school, go to work, and lead better lives.
- ❖ Diarrhea is the second leading cause of death among children under five in the world. Around the world it kills more children than malaria, AIDS, and measles combined.

Prayer: Creator Provider of us all, I thank you for the reminder how gifted we are with plentiful and clean water. Thank you for the reminder of the difficulty that life is in Haiti for families in Jeannette, that together

with being grateful for our abundance, we can work for greater water security for the students and families of Jeannette. Amen.



Week Three Lent: March 8, 2015

Isaiah 55:10–11 As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Water for the garden comes from many sources. Each source creates its own unique magic and lends itself to the miracle of growth.

Snow Water

The snow melts into the soil in spring and pushes the compost and manure deep down into the earth. It forces the garden to wake up and enliven the dormant roots of currants, rhubarb, and Wild Flocks. It makes the air smell 'like spring' and lures the gardener outside to see the piles disappear. Thank you, Lord, for the cover of snow that melts and enlivens the earth. P.S. Could you please not put so much snow on my drive way.

Shower Water

Surprised by the rain, the seeds germinate, the seedlings stand up straight, and the perennials grow. Out of sight, the worms slide through the moistened earth creating tunnels for the water to gush through. The thunder and lightning charge the air and pull the plants up by their leaf tops, stretching them to meet the sun.

Thank you, Lord, for awakening my garden and myself with the gift of spring rain.

Rain Barrel Water

Barrel water wasn't saved for a rainy day but a dry day. Its applied carefully and is allowed to trickle down the stem of each plant. There is no waste. The dry earth that is not nourishing a vegetable is left to fend for itself. Only the earth that is sustaining the vegetable plants has its thirst quenched.

Lake Michigan Water

When the spring rains are gone, the rain barrel empty, the supply of fresh water from Lake Michigan is essential. We rely on its abundance to cool things down, rehydrate the plants, and fatten the harvest. The zucchini grows a foot a day, the tomatoes gain weight, and the beans lengthen. The herbs emit an invisible scent that shouts pasta.

Thank you, Lord, for the treasure of the harvest sustained by the great water of our great lake.

Sonja Pavlik

- ❖ Haiti's rainy season, the source of drinking water, is from May to July and this can fill St. Marc's cistern for water use year round use. Help Jeannette rebuild their cisterns.
- ❖ During the rainy season, 'blessing rains' roll in almost daily in the late afternoons and this rainwater can be collected in the cistern. Heavy storms however can cause more destructive erosion to the already deforested landscape. Hurricane season is July to October.

Prayer: Thank you Lord for the generous gift of water in our lives. Help us to respond generously to the students of Jeannette, Haiti who have so much less than we do. Take our gift to rebuild a cistern water tank to add to the blessings of St. Marc's School. Amen.



Week Four Lent: March 15, 2015

Matthew 3:5,6,11 People went out to him (John the Baptist) from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River..."I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose

sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Norman MacLean's "A River Runs Through It" expresses in eloquent prose what so many of us try to explain about why we are flyfishers. "I am haunted by waters". We do not go fishing just to catch fish: there are much more efficient ways to do that. No, we catch fish with artificial flies to have been more fully engaged with the River. I capitalize the word with intention: there is but one River, the streams whereof make glad the City of God. We are blessed who have known its many tributaries. They vary from wide, deep and dangerous to small, gentle and delicate. Universally, however, if they hold trout, there is this: "A trout will not live where it is not beautiful".

In the forty-two years that I have fished Wisconsin waters, I have come to terms with both my skills and my limitations: I no longer seek many rivers. More valuable to me is to learn the depths of the secrets of a few streams, and to fish them with the confidence born of many mistakes but also of some successes on the same waters. In my younger days, I would brave the deep, swift currents. Today, I know not to challenge them, nor do I need to. I am old enough, now, to recognize a day on the stream for what it always has been: a gift received, not a prize conquered. Someday, I will have tied my last fly, made my last cast, landed my last trout, whether I knew it or not. I just pray that I will have the clarity of thought to be able to breathe a final "thank you" to the Giver of all good gifts, and especially

this one. There is a River; blessed are they who, like me, have cast a fly upon its lovely waters.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, for the gift of water, and for the joy that comes from embracing and being embraced by the River.

The Rev. Benbow Cheesman

- ❖ Jeannette is in the mountains which makes drilling a well financially impossible
- ❖ St. Marc's water supply is completely dependent on rainfall collected in cisterns.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, show us the joys of generosity. Help us to understand that others, unknown to us, depend on us for help. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to be "Good Samaritans" to heal the wounds of our times. We make our gift to the students of Jeannette in Your name. Amen.



Week Five Lent: March 22, 2015

Ecclesiastes 1:7 "All streams flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full. To the place the streams come from, there they return again."

Water

Gentle/Embracing

Falling rain on a warm day

Cool sip of water on a hot day

Bracing and surrounding a well-orchestrated dive

Powerful / Painful

Thunderstorms

Crashing Waves; Tsunami

Breaking form during a dive

Brings Delight or Fear

Happiness or Sorrow

Necessary for life yet it can take lives.

Billy Manger

- ❖ 443 million school days are lost each year due to water-related illness.
- ❖ Clean Water: A Health Essential
- ❖ An American taking a five-minute shower uses more water than the average person in a developing country slum uses for an entire day.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, You came to show us that the meaning of life consists in giving. You told us that those who cling too tightly to what they have, without thought of You or others, end up losing everything. Help us be generous with the people of Jeannette as we help them reclaim the water of life. Amen



Week Six Lent: March 29, 2015

Isaiah 44: 1–3 "But now listen, O Jacob, my servant, Israel, whom I have chosen.

This is what the LORD says— he who made you, who formed you in the womb, and who will help you: Do not be afraid, O Jacob, my servant, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen.

For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.

Milwaukee has been called “a great place on a Great Lake”. We are blessed with 14,000 lakes in our state, along with numerous rivers—the Wisconsin, Mississippi, Brule, and Milwaukee, to name a few.

Much of the work that I do relates to those waters. Our paper industry spent decades developing new treatment processes to limit discharges of chemicals to the rivers where most mills were built in the days of our grandparents. Cleaning chemicals and petroleum that were spilled decades ago turn up in groundwater, spreading in plumes that are hard to address and that require years of monitoring. Rainwater picks up unintended cargo--oil and other pollutants--and carries it into nearby rivers and streams. Use of

groundwater by industry and agriculture has been blamed for a lowering of the water table in the Central Sands region of our state, at a time when an extended drought in the northern part of the state has many lakes at their lowest levels in at least 70 years.

These are the issues within our state, where fresh water abounds. In the west, where it is scarce, even polluted industrial wastewater is a valuable resource that is carefully allocated to users.

While pollution exists in America, it seldom poses a serious risk to our health. When it does, as recently happened in West Virginia, the fact that rules were not followed is of little comfort to those sickened by something that they assumed would be safe. Our friends in Haiti, without Lake Michigan and the Milwaukee Water Works, cannot even assume that access to fresh water will be available.

May we all be grateful for the abundance that we are blessed with, and keep in our prayers the families in Haiti that cannot share the same.

Pete Tomasi

- ❖ **The water and sanitation crisis around the world claims more lives through disease than any war claims through guns.**

Prayer: Lord, Creator of All, teach us to be generous as You have been generous with us. Teach us that all we are and have are gifts from You, that gifts, Lord, are

meant to be shared. Please accept our gifts to the students of Jeannette in Your name. Amen.



Thank you for your prayers and donations! Your gift will help us work toward having a clean and ample supply of water

