

## **A Common Christian Statement on Water**

By attendees of the Gathering of Christian NGOs Working on WASH  
Held at World Vision, Washington, D.C., October 14, 2010  
And other WASH Professionals with Christian NGOs

*When the poor and needy seek water, I will open rivers on the bare heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.*  
- Isaiah 41: 17-18

*“I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.”*

- Matthew 25:35

We representatives of various Christian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) committed to serving Christ in the world express our common commitment and dedication to improving the **water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)** conditions for the health and well-being of the billions of our fellow human beings – created in the image of God -- who are thirsty, sick and in need.

Water is essential to all life and is a basic human right. Our common responsibility to address a world-wide vision of clean water for all comes from the heart of our Christian faith -- the gospel call to hear the voice of Christ in the cry of the poor.

We pledge to collaborate with other WASH organizations -- both faith-based and secular -- toward target 10 of the Millennium Development Goals: .. to “(h)alve by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.”

Called to be instruments of Christ’s peace and servants working for a more just world, we commit ourselves to using the knowledge, technical skills and resources given to us to work towards a world where no one lacks safe water, basic sanitation or hygiene services.

Our commitment is based on three essential truths:

### **We are all children of God with responsibilities to our Creator and to each other.**

As people of faith, we find common cause with those who work for both the physical and spiritual welfare of all. We recognize our mutual responsibilities as sisters and brothers to each other and our Creator. Water plays a dual role underlying the physical and spiritual connections binding us together. It serves to remind us of our common destiny here on Earth and in Heaven.

### **We are stewards of God’s creation.**

The air, the land, the waters of the rivers and the seas – indeed, our very bodies – are aspects of this vast creation. Here at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, in a world crying out for humanity, we now recognize just how fragile and interdependent all of us are. Deep care, respect and stewardship for all of God’s good creation must characterize our work on WASH. We are called to use our talents wisely, equitably and with special concern for the use and preservation of these gifts of creation for our children’s children.

### **We have particular opportunities as WASH professionals.**

As WASH professionals, we have been given knowledge, skills, access to organizational resources and significant opportunities to bring hope and action to communities lacking sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene. And as representatives of Christian NGOs, we have clear responsibilities to use these opportunities to demonstrate Christ's call to service in our areas of expertise. We also are called to plead the cause of those struggling to overcome poverty, to help empower them to improve their lives, and to advocate for appropriate WASH legislation. We are committed to learning and growing together, aiming always to carry out God's will for the benefit of all those in need.

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The above signees support this statement as individuals, and organizations are listed for identification purposes only.