



## **DIKO Marie's Story** Niem, Central African Republic

*The following information and discussion questions are designed to accompany the ELCA World Hunger Video, DIKO Marie's Story. Find the video at [www.ELCA.org/hunger/video](http://www.ELCA.org/hunger/video).*

### **INTRODUCTION TO SHARE:**

Nearly a billion people – one of every seven people in the world today – lack access to clean, safe drinking water. These individuals must walk, on average, 3.7 miles each day to fetch water, and often the water they do find is not safe to drink. Combined, unclean water and sanitation are the world's second largest killer of children.

Donations to ELCA World Hunger support water projects in many countries throughout the world – work made possible through your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, the 100 Wells Challenge and ELCA Good Gifts. The cost of the spring box water project featured in the video is approximately \$2,500. Donations toward these types of projects can be life-changing. Each working well or spring box can provide clean water to as many as 500 families at a time. Donations may also go to support other water projects such as the drilling of borehole wells; the installation of water pumps, filters or irrigation piping; construction of latrines; or sanitation and hygiene education.

This video tells the story of a 14-year-old girl in the village of Niem, in the Central African Republic where PASE, a program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic, worked with the community to build a spring box to help provide access to clean drinking water. (Leader note: Further information on spring boxes and subsistence farming can be found on the accompanying handout information sheet.)

As in Niem, PASE works with communities to help facilitate access to potable (safe to drink) water by building water sources such as wells or spring boxes and by providing training and education about clean water, health and sanitation. The work of PASE and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic is supported through grants from ELCA World Hunger. Additionally, ELCA World Hunger provides support to sponsor missionaries like Joe Troester, a water resources specialist featured in the video, who can act as a resource and provide guidance while working together with our companion churches and organizations in the fight against hunger and poverty.

**WATCH VIDEO:** Length is 6 minutes 19 seconds

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. DIKO Marie talks about the effect the spring box has had on her. What are the effects of not having access to clean drinking water? How does it affect people's health, and their ability to work and earn an income? How are lives improved by access to drinking water?
2. Every day DIKO Marie goes to the water source and fills a 5-gallon bucket with water for the day. The average American uses 152 gallons a day. How would your life be different if you did not have immediate access to clean water? What activities would you need to give up in order to make time to access this resource essential to life? What are some ways you can reduce your water consumption?



## READ JOHN 4:5-14

5So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

7 A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. 8(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) 9The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) 10Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' 11The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? 12Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' 13Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.'

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Jesus demonstrates the many physical needs we have as humans. He is tired from the journey and sits beside the well, he is hungry and has sent his disciples to go buy food, and finally he is thirsty and asks for a drink of water. As we see Jesus' request, how can this help us to understand the way we should respond as Christians to the needs of others in the world?
2. In this passage Jesus talks both about physical and spiritual thirst. How can the work of the church, and ELCA World Hunger to meet the demands of physical thirst in our world help to spread the message of the "living water" that Jesus provides?
3. A spring is a place where groundwater naturally gushes from the earth. Jesus promises such a spring of faith and love is possible within us, indicating that service to others is the overflow of a life filled with love and devotion. What are the ways that you and your congregation use, or can use in the future, this overflowing spring of life to help respond to the needs of those who are hungry and thirsty in the world?