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The Living Water

BY TINA CARRIGER

I had gone to Flint, Michigan, the previous week with 40 cases of water; within a matter of 20 minutes, that water was gone. As I was reflecting on this trip the Holy Spirit said, “Go back.” When word spread of my second trip, within days donations began pouring in from everywhere. Donations of water came primarily from seminarians and a few local churches.

A GoFundMe campaign was established if people outside of Michigan wanted to help this grassroots project. Because of this campaign along with donations made to the seminary, we raised a total of \$1,014. This money helped us buy much of the water and paid for our gas to and from Flint. This was nothing but the work of the Holy Spirit.



Tina Carriger handing water to Flint couple

Dorsett was buying water for this trip when another stranger gave him money to buy more water. We received and accepted many “random” acts of kindness just by stepping out on faith. And even though racial tensions are high in the U.S. right now, these strangers who gave to us were Caucasian! When God’s people of all ethnic backgrounds work together for him, a lot can be

But the challenge was how to get the water to Flint. As the number of cases of water rose, it became necessary for me to ask God for help. I was not prepared for the 1,100 cases of water we had. So I prayed. The next morning, I received an email from Mike Villwock of the Niles Westside church, volunteering to haul the water for us in his own trailers. God answered, and His answer confirmed that going to Flint was a divine assignment.

Yet the goodness of God didn’t stop there. When a group of us, mainly African-American, seminarians went shopping for this water, we stood out with multiple shopping carts piled high with cases of water. One guy asked me what we were doing, and then gave me money to buy more water. Arnell McCoy was loading water into a truck when a woman asked if she could buy more water for the trip. Jamel

accomplished for the Kingdom.

In Flint, we served over 200 people, and before we left, an elderly African-American man said to me, “Tell whoever is in charge that we said ‘thank you.’” I said to him, “God is in charge and he has heard your praise.” People want to know if God cares about their present needs and the answer is YES. The Holy Spirit sent us to Flint, Michigan, to let the people know that God has seen and heard the afflictions of his people and he has a response. But we, Seventh-day Adventists, must be willing to move when he moves.

Isaiah 65:24 (NLT): *I will answer them before they even call to me. While they are still talking about their needs, I will go ahead and answer their prayers!*

Tina Carriger is a pastor sponsored to the Theological Seminary at Andrews University by the South Central Conference.