The oppressed and the poor look for water! Isaiah 41.8-20



When I visited Zambia as part of my sabbatical in 2012, I was able to see the difference that the pump and water storage tank shown in this photograph had made to the Rural Health Centre at Kafue. At last they had a reliable supply of clean running water, rather than having to take it from the supply to a neighbouring property. It meant that the toilet in the maternity unit was now clean and flushable and that they had a good supply of running water in the labour ward.

All of this was enabled by a relatively small grant, just a few thousand pounds, from the small charity that I run for the work at Kafue, where I was privileged to serve in neighbouring school in the early 1980s.

I also heard, from my good friend Ezekiel Phiri, who was at that time heading up the work of the clinic, of his vision for a motorcycle ambulance that would enable people in some of the surrounding villages not easily accessible by road, to get to the clinic.

Just a couple of years after my visit, I heard that the clinic had been given European Funding to develop a whole new maternity unit and very recently I heard that Ezekiel's vision had been fulfilled too. You can see more about that

here: https://www.facebook.com/UNICEFEUOffice/videos/3211889451581
21

I have seen, at first hand, the real difference that aid makes on the ground to people's lives. Imagine my dismay then when I hear of British aid being cut to 0.5% of GDP from the agreed 0.7%

"The poor and needy are seeking water, but there is none; Their tongues are parched with thirst. I, the LORD, will answer them Myself; I, the God of Israel, will not neglect them. I will open rivers on the barren heights and springs in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a reed-pool of water and the dry land springs of water. I will put the cedar in the wilderness, The acacia, the myrtle and the olive tree; I will place the juniper in the desert Together with the box tree and the cypress, So that they may see and know, And consider and understand together, That the hand of the LORD has done this, That the Holy One of Israel has created it."

(Isaiah 41. 17-20 Amplified Bible)

If bringing water to the needy is part of the Lord's work, then shouldn't we be doing our bit to keep the aid budget up to the UN goal?

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