

WATER MEANS

HOPE



This is a story of what hope looks like.

In a far western corner of the Dominican Republic, there is a small community surrounded by desert. The dry and dusty conditions are so harsh there that people seldom come outside during the day.

The tap water there is swimming with parasitic and bacterial infections; it hardly quenches the peoples' thirst. Any clean water that the people can get must be delivered from another community.

This is Mella.

For Bishop Miguel Angel Cancu, this is not just a vague, desolate location on a map.

Cancu came to Mella when he was a young pastor on his first church assignment. A woman from the church, Oliva, compassionately took him in and offered him a place to stay and a way to connect to the community. She shared the hope of Christ in his time of need.

This is Mella's heart.

After three years, Cancu moved to another community, Sabaneta, about 200 miles north. There he served nearly 20 years as a pastor sharing the eternal hope that can be found in Christ.

In 2010, Cancu became the Bishop of the Evangelical Church of the Dominican Republic, but he never forgot about Oliva's generosity when he was a young pastor. He wanted to honor her legacy.

Eight years later, donors like you made that possible. A water plant was built in Mella and in her memory, it was named Agua Oliva.

You are the future.

When the water plant opened the town mayor proclaimed that it was the most exciting day - even more important than when their first school opened!

You have the opportunity to continue making this type of monumental impact in more and more communities all across the country. You can remind people of real, tangible, and eternal hope like Oliva's.

CLEAN WATER TO LIVING WATER

How do your gifts of clean water connect people to the living water?

When Jesus was talking to the woman at the well, He talked about thirst. He said,

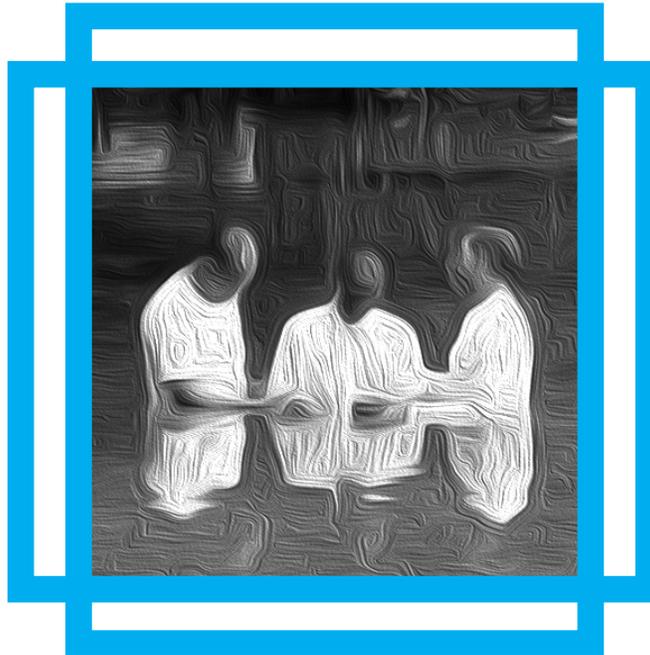
“Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again. But whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up to eternal life.”

Although the woman could satisfy her earthly thirst by coming to draw water from the well, she would have to keep returning to collect more every day.

This physical need for water is a metaphor for the eternal need for Jesus. As much as there is a need for clean water on a daily basis, there is a greater need for an everlasting spring of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

Plant Manager, Pastor Freddy, understands this. He has witnessed and guided this connection by using the water plant in his community as a means to reach others and share the Gospel.

He says, **“...we have seen that our church has grown significantly. We have baptised several new members... and [the plant profits] allow us to serve more in the community.”**



Pastor Freddy has used the profits from the water plant sales to put together small snacks after Sunday services for fellowship and to make small gifts for the community on holidays.

Gestures like these have been opportunities to invite the community

into the church and reveal the soul-changing power of Living Water. Clean water changes lives, but even more so it serves as a vessel to turn hearts to Jesus.

Your gift is what allows this connection to be made in the Dominican Republic.

The water plants you have helped establish allow clean, affordable water to be sold in communities. The in-country managers that operate the water plants then use these profits to grow the church, improve the community, and preach the Gospel. How amazing!

You are a piece in the beautiful picture God is painting in the DR.