

## Make a Splash with Penny Power: Water Quilt Stories for Children

Water is life – we need it for drinking, to wash with, and to grow food. Yet for many families this basic need is out of reach. Across the globe, **one in six people do not have access to clean water**. We can help address this problem by supporting Mennonite Central Committee water projects. This Water Quilt (designed and pieced by Connie Lapp of Ephrata, Pa.) will be on display at the 2014 Oregon Mennonite Festival for World Relief, and festival guests will be invited to make a gift to support MCC water projects. Gifts collected through Penny Power also will support MCC water projects.

**Week 1:** Explain the purpose of the Water Quilt and invite the children to explore the different patterns in the quilt. They remind us of the many different ways that water is important to us and to people all around the world. Ask the children to find the **teacups**. Everyone needs clean water to drink. In fact, a person can survive for up to two months without food, but will die in a few days without water. In many places, women and children begin their day by fetching water from community faucets, wells, or springs. They carry the water back to their homes in buckets balanced on their heads or in containers strapped to donkeys. This chore can take hours and sometimes prevents children — especially girls — from attending school. MCC works to help villagers create safe, reliable sources of drinking water close to home.

Let's pray: Dear God, thank you for water! We need water to drink and we are thankful to live in a place where all we have to do to get it is turn on the faucet. We want to help people everywhere have enough water to drink, too. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to make a difference. Amen.

**Week 2:** Remind the children that they can see the real Water Quilt at the 2014 festival. Ask them to find the **farm scene**. Observe that it includes a farmer on a tractor in his fields and cows in the background. What are three different ways water brings life to the farm? The panel with images of **garden vegetables** reminds us that we cannot grow food without water. MCC works with communities on irrigation projects so they have enough water for food production.

Let's pray: Dear God, thank you for water! You provide the rain and rivers that water our farms and gardens so we have food to eat. We want to help people everywhere have enough water so they can grow food to eat, too. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to make a difference. Amen.

**Week 3:** Remind the children that they can see the Water Quilt at the 2014 festival. Ask them to find two pictures of **sea turtles** and **fish**. How many different kinds of fish can you find? They live in the ocean, and they remind us that our world is a water world. More than half (70%) of the earth's

surface is covered by water, and in some places, the ocean is deeper than the tallest mountains are high! What other creatures that live in the ocean? For them to stay healthy, it is very important that we take care of the ocean and keep it from being polluted. People live on land, not in the water, but we need water to keep clean and stay healthy, too. But some people live in places where they don't have enough water to bathe and wash their clothes. Mennonite Central Committee works with communities to catch **raindrops** where they fall so this water can be used for washing.

Let's pray: Dear God, thank you for water! You created a world that is covered with water. Everything that lives depends on water, and we want to help keep it clean. We are thankful that we live in a place where we have enough water for washing. We want to help people everywhere have enough water for washing, too. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to make a difference. Amen.

**Week 4:** Remind the children that they can see the Water Quilt at the 2014 festival. Ask them to find pictures that remind them of people having fun with water (**beach umbrellas**, the pattern with **tents and canoes, snowflakes**). Does your favorite vacation spot have water nearby? These pictures remind us that water delights us and refreshes us in many ways. Water is something that everyone loves and that everyone needs, and yet there are places in the world where there is conflict about water. Sometimes governments make rules that prevent some people from having access to water. Arguments break out and sometimes even violence. Mennonite Central Committee workers are involved with efforts at the national and international levels that seek to share water in a just, sustainable manner. When we support MCC, we help to create peace.

Let's pray: Dear God, thank you for water! You provide enough water for everyone to have enough for drinking, for growing food, for washing, and just for enjoying. We want to live in a just and peaceful world where water is shared and everyone has what they need. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to make a difference. Amen.

**Bring Penny Power gifts to the Oregon Mennonite Festival for World Relief: Saturday, October 11, 2014.**

<http://www.oregonfestivalforworldrelief.com/>

*Learn more about MCC water projects via the WaterWorks Storybook, available for free download (PDF) at:*  
<https://resources.mcc.org/content/waterworks-storybook>