

May 18, 2025

Rivers of Living Water

On March 28, 2025, almost 5,000 people participated in Water Mission's Walk for Water. The three-mile round-trip walk, which takes place annually in Charleston, South Carolina, symbolizes the long distances millions of people worldwide must walk just to have water. "Participants [carry] a bucket and [walk] a mile and a half to Water Mission to fill those buckets up with dirty water and then walk the mile and a half back with the water collected."

Charleston company Water Mission uses the walk to spread "awareness about the need for clean, safe water," and it raises money to support the company's work. First-time walkers Gary and Eileen Turner participated in the walk with their daughters to teach them service and gratitude. "We're called to be cheerful givers by God, so I think having a proper perspective of how wildly blessed we are should lead someone's heart to have a desire to take care of those that don't have those things and to love our neighbors better."

While the Charleston Walk for Water is the "flagship" event, over 80 related walks take place around the world. All the walking events help Water Mission in its year-round goal of helping people have access to clean water.¹

While thousands of people work to give others around the world access to safe, clean water, this natural water will always be used up and need to be replaced. But Jesus came to give life-changing water that will never be depleted. In John 7:37-46, Jesus declares, "All who are thirsty should come to me! All who believe in me should drink!" This statement links Jesus with the long-anticipated source of eternal life: God's Spirit. Jesus identified himself as the fountain of living water. Just as water is essential for sustaining the physical life, the Spirit is essential for sustaining the spiritual life. Through Jesus, this living water would soon be poured out to all who believe, bringing satisfaction, transformation, and eternal hope.

Many are spiritually thirsty, searching for fulfillment. But like the woman at the well (John 4), we find that worldly sources run dry. But Jesus' invitation remains open today. He offers us a deeper, sustaining life through his Spirit. This living water flows from within, not only refreshing the soul but also overflowing into the lives of others. Jesus calls us to come, drink, and be filled and then to pour out that same Spirit in witness, love, and service to a thirsty world.

1. What signs of spiritual thirst do you have? How is Jesus inviting you to come to him for living water?
2. What holds you back from sharing Jesus' invitation to others who may be spiritually thirsty?
3. How can your church become a vessel for the living water of the Holy Spirit to flow into others' lives?

¹From "2025 Walk for Water Will Change 12,000 Lives Worldwide," Water Mission (April 16, 2025) and "Water Mission Hosted Its Annual 'Walk for Water' in North Charleston," by Autumn Klein, WCSC (March 20, 2025).