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Dear Friends,

I'm going to Costa Rica for a Cru & Filter of Hope partnership project to help provide clean water to families and share about Jesus. This is one of around 50 such trips to Central America this year.

Is there a water problem?

- 1 in 9 people worldwide do not have access to clean, safe water.
- In developing countries, up to 80% of illnesses are linked to poor water and sanitation conditions.
- 1 in 5 deaths of children under the age of 5 are due to water-related disease.
- Water related illnesses prevent children from attending school.
- Without clean drinking water, there is no way for families to break out of the cycle of poverty.

Who is involved in the trip and what will you do?

I am joining a team of about 15 Cru staff and students from North Dakota. We are working with a partner organization called Filter of Hope. They do all the ground work – providing in country housing & food, transportation, and translators. The locals will orient us to the area and will already have let families in the communities know we are coming. In groups of 4-6 with a local translator, we will be going house-to-house distributing water filters and providing basic hygiene training and soap for the family. While in the home, we will engage in a conversation about God.

How does the filter work?

Filter of Hope has created a point of use water filter using the same technology found in kidney dialysis machines. The filters allow individual families to have access to clean drinking water in their own homes. Each filter attaches to a 5 gallon bucket, and is gravity fed. It can clean upwards of 150 gallons of water a day. Even the dirtiest water entering the bucket comes out completely clear of bacteria, protozoa, and microorganisms. This makes the water completely safe to drink. The only maintenance required is to back flush the filter every day (the tool for this is provided with each filter kit). If cared for properly, it should last up to 10 years!

I'm both excited and nervous about this opportunity. Please pray I will connect in well with the team, love the families well, do a good job teaching them how to use the filter, and have courage to share how Jesus is like the filter making us clean. Thank you.

Thank you for your partnership that helps makes it all possible.

Because God loves people,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Liz".

