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## Fourth Quarter of 2023 Executive Director Message

December 28, 2023

### Merry Christmas Vera Aqua Vera Vita Family!

Praise God for the Word made flesh! We are now multiple days into the 12 days of Christmas season, and with the New Year mere days away, I cannot help but reflect on the year of 2023 which contained both great joy and immense sorrow. So, for a few minutes, I would like to share with you both this immense sorrow and great joy. Let me start with the sorrow and end with the joy. It is with a heavy heart that my wife, Fernanda, and I experienced a miscarriage recently. We are now parents of three children, one in heaven and two on earth. Experiencing a miscarriage has tested our faith, but Praise God, has drawn us closer to the Lord through the suffering as we now have one our own children in heaven praying for us. We have certainly learned very tangibly the power of prayer!

What my wife and I have experienced has further strengthened my resolve and commitment to the mission of Vera Aqua Vera Vita to ensure that other parents never have to experience the death of a child due to a waterborne disease. As such, it gives me great joy to share the progress and growth we have made at Vera Aqua Vera Vita in 2023, from closing in on a record year of fundraising \$250,000 as an organization to increasing our committed annual recurring funding by over \$48,000 since July through our [RIPPLES FOR HOPE Campaign](#) to forming strategic alliances with the Catholic Church at the parish level in the Diocese of Dallas to initiating the pursuit of Grants, especially a committed partnership with the Rotary Club to pursue a Global Grant, for funding of future projects to most excitedly being a mere couple of months away from going to construction on a new clean water system in Las Mercedes KM11. [Be sure to check out the latest Project Status Update here.](#)

The truth is joy and sorrow go hand in hand because redemption and suffering go hand in hand because the Cross of Christ is the means to our salvation! So, instead of despairing, we must as St. Paul says to the Thessalonians: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." Thus, let us press on in unified service and prayer for our less fortunate brothers and sisters in need of clean water! Stay tuned for VAVV's annual donation gift summary letters and our Year-in-Review Report coming to inbox or mailbox near you by the end of January!

**Gratefully in Christ,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacob Niemeier".

Jacob Niemeier | Founder & Executive Director

p.s. [Check out this quarter's newsletter for even more news!](#)