

WaterBytes – Doc Hendley and Wine to Water

*Recorded by Chris Collins
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How many of us go about our daily lives and wonder that there has to be something greater life has to offer. For bartender Doc Hendley not only has he felt such urges but he has acted on them as well. Hendley is by no means your average bartender. When he pours wine he's also helping to save thousands of lives.

Hendley host wine tasting events as a way to raise money and to educate others about the world water crisis. Using his ability to create relationships with people as a bartender, Hendley's organization provides clean water to people in developing countries through funds raised at wine tasting events.

Hendley's organization is wine to water. It's an organization that started back in 2004 and is still going strong today. More about the organization can be found in their official mission statement on their website; www.winetowater.org.

There mission statement goes as follows:

Sofia:

Wine To Water is a non-profit aid organization focused on providing clean water to needy people around the world. Nearly one billion people in the world today lack access to adequate water and 2.5 billion people lack access to improved sanitation. We are devoted to fighting this epidemic. Wine symbolizes fortune in our society. Our goal is to give the fortunate population an opportunity to fight for those who can't fight for themselves.

Wine to water is a very unique name. Its name is derived from a spiritual story that most of us are familiar with.

Andrea:

The very first miracle that Jesus performed was turning water into wine. He was at a wedding party that ran out of wine before the party was finished, which

would have made the host look bad. Mary, Jesus' mother, came to Jesus and told him about the wine running out. Jesus had compassion and told the servants to fill six stone water pots with water. Wine To Water's goal is to allow Jesus to turn His miracle around for the needy people of this world. It is our prayer that Jesus Christ will use those of us who have plenty to help provide someone who is less fortunate with the gift of clean water.

Since 2004, Hendley has traveled to Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda and Cambodia, working with local communities to build clean water wells and sanitation systems. At the bars where he worked, he solicited evenings to host wine tastings and provide information about the global crisis.

Sofia:

By graduation, Hendley's "Wine to Water" events had yielded enough funding to implement water projects in the developing world. He approached a local contact, Kenny Isaacs of Samaritan's Purse, with the intention of handing over the funds for their international charitable water projects. Instead, Hendley found himself in Sudan in the spring of 2004, training to oversee water projects and developing and installing water systems in zones deemed too dangerous for United Nations aide workers -- all in the midst of civil war.

The concept of wine to water was dreamed up in 2003 while Doc was bartending and playing music around Raleigh, North Carolina. As Doc himself puts it, "I dreamed of building an organization that fought water related death and disease using completely different methods than anyone else. So I started raising money to fight this water epidemic the best way I knew how, by pouring wine and playing music." Doc's dream, and now the goal of Wine To Water, is to quench the thirst of the needy in a way that sets them apart from the rest of the world.

References

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