

## One million people have received safe water with Samaritan's Purse

*Christian organization's Turn on the Tap program marks historic milestone on World Water Day*

**CALGARY, AB, March 21, 2011** — Samaritan's Purse is excited to introduce Canadians to Voleak, the 1,000,000<sup>th</sup> person to receive safe water through our Turn on the Tap program.

Voleak is an 18-year-old high school student from the province of Kampong Thom, Cambodia who lives with her parents and younger sister. Her family received their life-saving BioSand Water Filter from one of Samaritan's Purse Canada's partners just two weeks ago.

"I know it's important to drink safe water," said Voleak, "since I learned about it at school and at the health and hygiene training session I attended from Samaritan's Purse."

Samaritan's Purse has been providing safe water to families around the world since 1996 through the amazing BioSand Water Filter. The filters, which were created by Canadian engineer Dr. David Manz, are an adaptation of the natural process of slow sand filtration. It is an affordable, sustainable household technology that quickly transforms contaminated water into drinkable water.

"We are thankful for the prayers and financial support of Canadians who have helped us to provide safe water to one million people," said Fred Weiss, Samaritan's Purse executive director. "We will continue working to provide safe water to people in the developing world."

Samaritan's Purse has installed BioSand Water Filters in 24 countries, including Cambodia, Kenya and Honduras. Along with receiving a filter, families also receive health and hygiene training that works to significantly lower the incidence of water-borne illness. While these filters and training are making an incredible difference in the physical well being of the recipients, many are also gaining the peace and freedom found in following Jesus Christ.

In Cambodia, Voleak's dream is to attend university in Phnom Penh to become a doctor.

"I want to be a doctor because then I can help the poor with the many different health issues they go through," said Voleak.

### **About World Water Day**

World Water Day is held annually on March 22 as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and to highlight the fact that 884 million people around the world still do not have access to safe water. Samaritan's Purse is celebrating World Water Day this year with the announcement of our one millionth beneficiary, with an eye towards providing millions more with safe water in the coming years.

### **About Samaritan's Purse Canada**

Samaritan's Purse Canada is an international Christian relief and development organization working in about 70 countries to provide aid to victims of war, disease, disaster, poverty, famine, and persecution. The Calgary-based charity also operates the well-known Operation Christmas Child program that sends gift-filled shoe boxes to needy children around the world each year, and the Turn on the Tap initiative that raises funds for life-saving BioSand Water Filters in the developing world. Go to [www.samaritanspurse.ca](http://www.samaritanspurse.ca) for more information.

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