



# LIFE *On* MISSION

ADVENTIST CHURCH *in Sydney*



## A LITTLE BOY MAKES A HUGE IMPACT!

<sup>12</sup> “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.”

1 Timothy 4:12

### Ryan Hreljac’s vision is for all of Africa to have clean water!

He was just 6 years old when a talk by his grade one teacher, Mrs. Prest, changed his life. She told the class about people in Africa who had a very hard time getting clean water and access to wells. Without this basic human necessity, people, especially children, can get sick and sometimes die. Deeply moved, Ryan persuaded his parents to pay him to do extra chores and finally came up with the \$70 he thought was needed to drill a well. But he was in for a shock.

WaterCan (a non-profit organization that provides clean water to poor countries) told him that it would actually cost \$2,000 to drill a well on another continent. Ryan didn't give up. He got very busy doing more chores and expanding his fundraising. Several months later he had finally collected the \$2,000 and the rest, "as they say", is history. He sent the money to WaterCan and in January 1999. The Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief (CPAR) drilled a well beside Angolo Primary School in northern Uganda, with funds raised by Ryan and many others.

Since that first well was dug in Uganda in 1999, **RyansWell.ca** has, with the support of numerous other organizations such as WaterCan, CPAR, CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) and Free The Children, raised over \$800,000 to provide clean water to people in Africa. According to his mother Susan, many others

have helped along the way, including his school community.

Ryan has been invited to travel across Canada and overseas, and to Australia, South Africa, the United States, China, Japan and Italy to motivate and inspire others. His **Ryan's Well Foundation** has supported water and sanitation projects that have been completed in Uganda, Malawi, Nigeria, Kenya, Ethiopia and Tanzania.

His mother Susan said: "Ryan treats everyone he meets in the same way. In his heart we all make a difference whether we are Prime Ministers, gas station attendants or Grade 7 students. He believes in his heart that a five-year-old girl from Florida who sent him five cents from doing chores is as important as the man from Dubai who sent him five thousand dollars."

A lot has happened since that first well was dug. Jimmy Akana was first Ryan's pen pal from Uganda. Jimmy's parents disappeared during the country's civil war and an aunt raised him. He used to get up at midnight so that he could fetch water for her before school. The two boys met during that first visit in 2000 to the school in Uganda, where the first well was drilled. Jimmy was later abducted by a rebel group, Lord's Resistance Army, and then escaped to the home of an aid worker. The Hreljac family paid for his schooling for a couple of years, and then brought him to Canada. Ryan's family adopted Jimmy, and he became a Canadian citizen in 2007.

Back in 2011, **Ryan's Well** celebrated its 10th anniversary and it's still going and on track to soon celebrate 20 years - an amazing achievement for the dream of one little boy!

What need or mission has God put on your heart to faithfully serve Him & others?

 <p><b>1,166 WATER PROJECTS</b> Funded by the Ryan's Well Foundation</p>	 <p><b>MAKE A DONATION</b></p>	 <p><b>GET INVOLVED</b></p>
 <p><b>1,245 LATRINES</b> Completed by Ryan's Well</p>	 <p><b>JOIN OUR SCHOOL CHALLENGE</b></p>	 <p><b>LEARN THE FACTS ABOUT WATER</b></p>
 <p><b>892,725 PEOPLE NOW HAVE CLEAN WATER</b> From Ryan's Well Projects</p>		