

# we all need water



© 1987 George Swallow

## Zambia Enroute to Collect Water

As a volunteer on a team with the Zambia Agriculture Research and Extension, I'd travel dirt roads to farming villages almost daily. We often saw groups like this.

"Muli shani?" (How are you?) I asked in Bemba.

"Bwino!" (Good) they answered, on their way to collect water in their colorful *chitenges*.

When they reached their destination they would fill the empty barrels and calabash squash with water. The men, in the background, would take the filled containers back to the village with their cart and oxen.

During the May through October dry season, there is very little, if any, rain. People walk great distances to find sufficient quantities of water.

The sooty bottoms of the barrels probably mean that they have been used to make beer with some of the water. It's the women who make the beer and sell it for cash to buy necessities for the household. --George Swallow, *Zambia Agriculture Research and Extension, 1986-87*

### **Zambia (Republic of Zambia)**

**Capital** Lusaka

**Population** 11,862,740 (2009 est.)

**Life Expectancy** 38.63 years

**Literacy** 80.6% (age 15 and over can read and write)

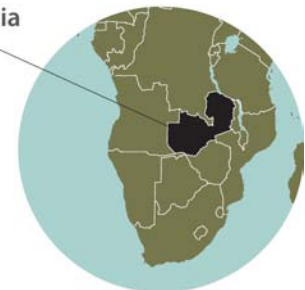
**Languages** English (official), Bemba, Kaonda, Lozi, Lunda, Luvale, Nyanja

**Religions** Christian 50%-75%, Muslim and Hindu 24%-49%, others

**Government** republic

Source: *The World Factbook, 2009*

Zambia



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## Guatemala Washing Clothes

In many towns of Guatemala, women gather daily at public *pilas* (water receptacles) to wash clothes and hair, bathe children and exchange news. The *pilas* here are located at Parque de la Union in Antigua, across the street from the ruins of the convent of Santa Clara. Here, indigenous women from surrounding villages where there is no water source spend the day washing clothes, and laying them out on the grass or on the edge of the fountain to dry. Later in the day, they will return to their homes to prepare an evening meal of tortillas and beans; the family will gather close to the cookfire as the evening air turns cool with the setting of the sun. --Debbie Durham, *Peace Corps/Senegal, 1973-75*

### **Guatemala (Republic of Guatemala)**

**Capital** Guatemala

**Population** 13,276,517 (2009 est.)

**Life Expectancy** 70.29 years

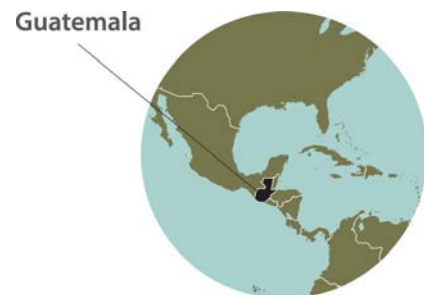
**Literacy** 69.1% (age 15 and over can read and write)

**Languages** Spanish 60%, Amerindian languages 40%

**Religions** Roman Catholic, Protestant, indigenous Mayan beliefs

**Government** constitutional democratic republic

Source: *The World Factbook, 2009*



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© 1991 Scott Faiia

## **Ethiopia** Carrying Water

In 1991 Ethiopia experienced tremendous change. A civil war of nearly thirty years was finally over. It was not followed by a vengeful bloodbath; one can still feel the sense of relief. Shortly afterwards South Africa also experienced tremendous change. It strengthens me to know that such good things are possible.

After the change I traveled to Northern Wollo, an area previously inaccessible to me. People were just as warm and beautiful as in the rest of Ethiopia and this Ambara girl reflects the sense of mood. Was her joy related to the war's end? Or was she just so innocent (and lucky) that she had not yet assumed the burdens of life that others have? I will never know, but I think of her often.

Ethiopia is still in my dreams, still brings tears welling up. I hope that other people can also remember.... and learn. --Scott Faiia, *Peace Corps/Malaysia, 1973-75*

### **Ethiopia (Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia)**

**Capital** Addis Ababa

**Population** 85,237,338

**Life Expectancy** 55.41 years

**Literacy** 42.7% (age 15 and over can read and write)

**Languages** Amargigna 32.7%, Oromigna 31.6%, Tigrigna 6.1%, Somaligna 6%, others

**Religions** Christian 60.8%, Muslim 32.8%, traditional 4.6%, other 1.8%

**Government** federal republic

*Source: The World Factbook, 2009*



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## **Mongolia** Traditional Tea

This woman is drinking traditional Mongolian milk tea. To make it, water is boiled with dried tea leaves, then milk and salt are added. Customarily, milk tea is offered when guests enter a *ger* (yurt). Most Mongolians drink copious amounts of milk tea in a day. The type of milk added varies, depending on the animal giving milk at the time. While in Mongolia I drank milk tea made from camel, goat, reindeer, cow and yak milk.

The Mongolian woman in this photo is wearing a traditional *dell*, silk on the outside and during the winter, lined with sheepskin. In the summer the *dell* is lined with cotton material. Mongolian women often wrap their heads with scarves, for everyday wear and for special occasions. --Shelly Kremer, *Peace Corps/Mongolia, 2001-03*

### **Mongolia**

**Capital** Ulaanbaatar

**Population** 3,041,142 (2009 est.)

**Life Expectancy** 67.65 years

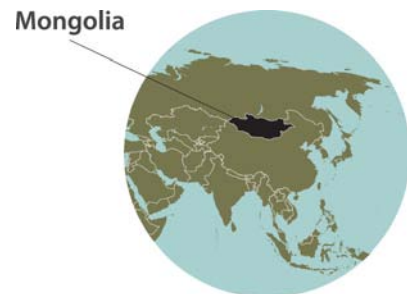
**Literacy** 97.8% (age 15 and over can read and write)

**Languages** Khalkha Mongol 90%, Turkic, Russian

**Religions** Buddhist Lamaist 50%, Shamanist and Christian 6%, Muslim 4%, none 40%

**Government** parliamentary

Source: *The World Factbook, 2009*



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© 2003 B. Pat Murray

## **Bolivia** Net Fishing

Huacareta, Bolivia, is a mini paradise situated in a canyon between two small mountain ranges. The Rio Parapeti runs past on the western side of the town.

As long as there are no cold fronts, called *surazos*, coming from the south, winter days in Huacareta are reasonably warm, but the nights dip below freezing. This photo was taken at the end of July, just past the middle of winter, and the water is very cold.

This was the first full day of my site visit. Fishing season had passed, but my working companion's son and nephew still managed to catch one fish with their net. They gave me the fish for dinner, fried with lemon juice. It was delicious.

--B. Pat Murray, *Peace Corps/Bolivia, 2002-04*

### **Bolivia (Republic of Bolivia)**

**Capital** La Paz

**Population** 9,775,246 (2009 est.)

**Life Expectancy** 64.2 years

**Literacy** 86.7% (age 15 and over can read and write)

**Languages** Spanish 60.7%, Quechua 21.2%, Aymara 14.6%

**Religions** Roman Catholic 95%, Protestant 5%

**Government** republic, a "Social Unitarian State"

Source: *The World Factbook, 2009*



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© 1992 Paul Pickhardt

## **Kiribati** Fisherman Preparing Sailing Canoe

The Gilbertese *wa* (sailing canoe) is an amazing maneuverable fishing vessel, essential in the lives of outer island residents of Kiribati. Once built entirely of local or driftwood materials, the modern *wa* has evolved into a blend of traditional and imported materials. Here, two of my host fathers ready the canoe for a day of fishing in the lagoon of Tabiteuea North. Kamoamo (in the red shirt) is proficient with traditional home construction and, like most Kiribati men, he is a skilled fisherman. Tekale built this *wa* and the eel house on the outrigger. By baiting the eel house with small fish (usually the only kind I speared), and leaving the house amongst the corals overnight, moray eels are lured into the one-way entry and trapped. After 6-7 hours on the fringing reefs of the lagoon we return to meet the families' women at shore, often with reef fishes, eels, octopus, and clams in the bottom of the canoe.

-- Paul Pickhardt, *Peace Corps/Kiribati, 1991-93*

### **Kiribati (Republic of Kiribati)**

**Capital** Tarawa

**Population** 112,850 (2009 est.)

**Life Expectancy** 63.22 years

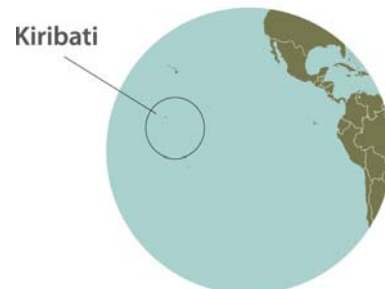
**Literacy** *information not available*

**Languages** I-Kiribati, English (official)

**Religions** Roman Catholic 52%, Protestant 40%, other 8% (1999)

**Government** republic

*Source: The World Factbook, 2009*



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## Philippines Rice Terraces

The rice terraces of the Philippine Cordillera were first built 2,000 years ago by the Ifugao people, a tribal minority, who still farm and maintain them today. If placed end to end, the terraces would extend for 12,000 miles. Rice is a thirsty crop, so gravity moves water from uphill sources by intricate irrigation systems, from higher to lower terraces. All this is an astounding work of elegant indigenous engineering. It is spectacular and when the terraces are newly planted the green is really beautiful.

The Ifugao live in house-clusters, *sitios*, scattered among their terraces. Farming them is the center of Ifugao life and religion, and a beautiful terrace is a religious act. The Ifugao worship Rice Gods. A series of ceremonies take place that focus on the rice terraces and work to be done in the fields. I lived in a *sitio* with only Hamouen Tuguinay as neighbor, seen here. She is carrying rice seedlings to be transplanted in the terraces. The process to plant takes months. One day I asked her where she'd been all day. She said she'd been in her fields, watching the rice grow. The harvest is the happiest time of the year. Eating newly harvested rice is a treat unlike any other! --Paul Ohlrogge, *Peace Corps/Philippines, 1981-84*

### **Philippines (Republic of the Philippines)**

**Capital** Manila

**Population** 97,976,603 (2009 est.)

**Life Expectancy** 71.09 years

**Literacy** 92.6% (age 15 and over can read and write)

**Languages** Filipino (official), English (official), Tagalog, Cebuano, Ilocano

**Religions** Roman Catholic 80.9%, Muslim 5%, other Christian 11.6%

**Government** republic

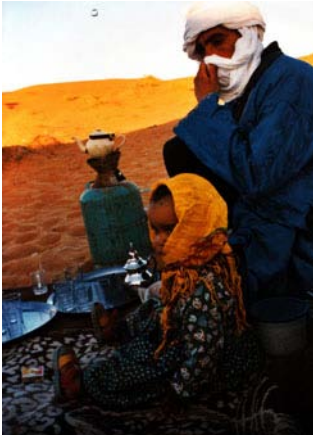
Source: *The World Factbook, 2009*

Philippines



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© 2003 Justin Mog

## **Morocco** Tea in the Desert

Moroccans love their tea. Affectionately known as “Berber whiskey,” since Muslims are prohibited from consuming alcohol, the national beverage is an unforgettably powerful brew of fresh mint leaves, Chinese gunpowder tea, and plenty of sugar. To maximize the frothiness it’s poured with great flourish from metal teapots held at impossible heights. Glasses of the golden concoction can be seen steaming away on trays throughout Morocco, from cosmopolitan cafes on the bustling streets of Rabat to remote dunes like this one on the edge of the Sahara near the Algerian border.

These drifting, towering sandscapes are home to the Tuareg nomads known as “blue men,” because they use indigo to dye their clothes and to protect their skin from the relentless sun.  
-- Justin Mog

### **Morocco (Kingdom of Morocco)**

**Capital** Rabat

**Population** 34,859,364 (2009 est.)

**Life Expectancy** 71.8 years

**Literacy** 52.3% (age 15 and over can read and write)

**Languages** Arabic (official), Berber dialects, French (language of business, gov’t)

**Religions** Muslim 98.7%, Christian 1.1%, Jewish 0.2%

**Government** constitutional monarchy

Source: *The World Factbook*, 2009



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© 2005 Dan Patterson

## **Niger** Washing for Prayer

Ablutions are performed before the *salah* or prayer, preparing the body, mind, and soul to commune with God. In the village of Sabon Gida, the Imam calls the *Asr* prayer from the mosque and men send young boys to fill plastic tea kettles with water to wash for the prayer. Likewise, my friend, Maman, fills a small kettle with water from a clay pot, sits under a neem tree and tips water into his hand. He whispers the name of God and performs his ablutions, his motions effortless and efficient. When he finishes, he picks up a string of prayer beads, puts them in his pocket and joins the other men at the mosque.

--Dan Patterson, *Peace Corps/Niger, 1997-99*

### **Niger (Republic of Niger)**

**Capital** Niamey

**Population** 15,306,252 (2009 est.)

**Life Expectancy** 52.6 years

**Literacy** 28.7% (age 15 and over can read and write)

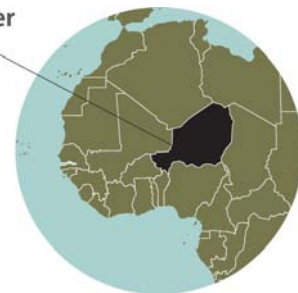
**Languages** French (official), Hausa, Djerma

**Religions** Muslim 80%, other (includes indigenous beliefs and Christian) 20%

**Government** republic

Source: *The World Factbook, 2009*

Niger



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© 2000 Carol Cisse

## **Gabon** Washing at the River

Gabon is a country of rivers. The “l’Eau Claire”, the river featured here, is the main water source for Leconi, a border town of about five thousand on the Bateke Plateau. Water from the l’Eau Claire is bottled and sent all over the world under the name *Andja* – the Bateke word for water. These children were my constant companions and on this afternoon we got a rare ride down the river’s edge to do our weekly washing. I still marvel today at the enthusiasm these children showed even as they tackled the most mundane of activities.

-- Carol Cisse, *Peace Corps/Gabon, Central Africa, 2000-01*

### **Gabon (Gabonese Republic)**

**Capital** Libreville

**Population** 1,514,993 (2009 est.)

**Life Expectancy** 53.11 years

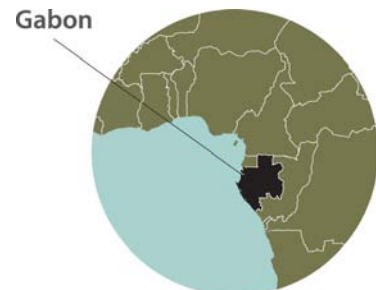
**Literacy** 63.2% (age 15 and over can read and write)

**Languages** French (official), Fang, Myene, Nzebi, Bapounou/Eschira, Bandjabi

**Religions** Christian 55%-75%, animist, Muslim less than 1%

**Government** republic; multiparty presidential regime

Source: *The World Factbook, 2009*



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