

Through the Eyes of a 9-Year-Old

There's a beautiful story of a little girl named Rachel Beckwith who wanted to do something for people in need.

So Rachel, a 9-year-old Bellevue, Washington, girl, decided to "donate" her ninth birthday to an organization called *Charity: Water*. That's a non-profit organization that raises money to fund water projects around the world. Since 2006, it has funded 30,000 water projects in 26 countries and provided clean drinking water to more than 8 million people.

Charity: Water has saved hundreds of thousands of people who would have suffered from preventable diseases or even died from drinking unclean water.

One of the many ways that *Charity: Water* raises money is to convince celebrities to "donate" their birthday to the charity. Will Smith and Jada Pinkett Smith, Justin Bieber, Kristen Bell and Jessica Biel are just a few of the celebrities who have asked family, friends and fans to donate money to *Charity: Water* in honor of their birthday.



Rachel Beckwith isn't a celebrity, but she decided to donate her birthday, with a goal of raising \$300 for the charity. She raised \$220. That's a really impressive amount of money for a child to raise.

Just a few weeks after her ninth birthday, however, Rachel died in a car accident. Her mother, Samantha Paul, was traveling westbound in a car on I-90 with Rachel and younger sister Sienna in the back seat when a semitrailer jackknifed into a logging truck. Logs crashed down onto traffic. More than a dozen vehicles were caught in the pileup, and the semi rear-ended Paul's car. Rachel was the only person critically injured.

Jeremy Johnson, pastor at Eastlake Church in Bothell attended by the family, said doctors told the parents they couldn't save Rachel because of her severe spinal and head injuries. News media across the country spread the story of this generous child and her tragic death. Strangers began making donations to *Charity: Water* in Rachel's honor. Since then, more than \$1.3 million has been donated in her honor – enough money to provide clean water to more than 37,000 people.

Rachel Beckwith saw the world with Jesus' eyes. She looked at the world with compassion, and that inspired people all over the world to give to this charitable organization.

(more)

Think about it: 37,000 people around the world having clean water because of her act is a miracle like unto the feeding of the 5,000 performed by Jesus. Jesus, in that miracle, was teaching His disciples to see the world through His eyes.

He is still doing that today. Whenever you or I see a need, however large or small, we should look at it through the compassionate eyes of Jesus.

Then Jesus called His disciples to Him and said, "I have compassion on the crowd because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. And I am unwilling to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way (Matthew 15:32-33 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter