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Freelance Author, Writer, Ghost Writer, Blog posts, Voice Talent, Speaker

Jackie has written over 450 articles, many blog posts and press releases on subjects, from plumbing to space exploration to environmental challenges. He has 3 popular blogs. Jackie has over 25 years freelance writing experience. For 7 years, he was the commentary columnist for the Environment News Service with his "Healing Our World" column. He holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Studies and is also the president of the Center for Lifelong Learning, offering speed reading programs.

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SAMPLE ARTICLE (~900 words)

Environmental/Social Issue Reporting

Children - The silent victims of global greed.

*Teach me every language of
the creatures that sing to me,
That I may count the cadence of
Infinite lessons in harmony.*

Jamie Sams



A young girl and a river of raw sewage in Iraq [Photo courtesy of Voices in the Wilderness <http://www.nonviolence.org/vitw/>]

Every hour of every day, children die all over the world because of short-sighted political choices that keep toxic substances steadily flowing into our air, water, and food and keep the world's water supplies clouded with human waste. You don't hear about them on the evening news, all these dead children. They are just considered the necessary consequences of progress and the unequal distribution of wealth in our world.

The numbers deaths each day are staggering and rival any natural disaster or plague. The largest single cause of preventable deaths

TESTIMONIALS

"Best I have ever seen." (US Central Intelligence Agency)

"Extremely Insightful." (Government of Kenya)

"Jackie did a great job working to make the solution relevant." (Finances and Administrative Services Director, Major Western US City Government)

*"Profound and brilliant - thank you!"
(March 2012 Seattle Workshop Participant at the end of the class)*

"Your teaching style is spectacular. I wish that my law school, undergraduate, and grade school teachers approached discussion and information dissemination the way you do. Based on my current life philosophies, I would have found your class to be extremely rewarding even without making any improvement in my reading speed." (SR, February 2012 Seattle Workshop Participant)

results from the millions of people who use polluted drinking water around the world.

Over 4 million children under the age of 5 die each year from diseases resulting just from unsanitary drinking water. That number increases dramatically if you include those poisoned by industrial wastes contaminating water world wide.

The people of the U.S. are not immune. The Environmental Protection Agency estimated in the mid 1990's that 53 million people in the U.S., about 20 percent of the population, have been drinking water that is contaminated with feces, radiation, lead, or other poisons.

Two to four million children each year die from diarrhea caused by diseases transmitted in polluted drinking water. This is nearly one fourth of all child deaths in the world. This is not a necessary consequence of living in a country that is less technological than the U.S. These senseless deaths are the direct result of the greed of the government leaders in the more developed countries who choose to increase their profits rather than clean up water supplies and build the necessary sanitation systems.

Diarrhea from bad drinking water is the leading cause of death in the world for children. In developing countries, infectious diseases, many of which are caused by polluted drinking water systems, account for 42 percent of all deaths compared to 1.2 percent in the more developed countries.

The World Health Organization estimates that each year, over 10 million children under the age of 5 die of mostly preventable infectious diseases. That's 27,000 every day! Diseases that come from unsafe drinking water cause Forty percent of these senseless deaths. Sixty percent of rural families and 25 percent of urban homes around the world lack safe water. This contaminated water is wreaking havoc on the world's oceans and impacting fisheries.

The industrialized countries stand by and watch as this worldwide tragedy goes on every moment of every day. Most leaders would say it would cost too much to fix this global problem.

In fact, providing clean water is not all that expensive. For example, a joint program of the Indian government, UNICEF and local non-governmental organizations supplied water to 550 million Indians by providing 2.2 million hand pumps. The annual cost was \$4.00 per person.

Contrary to what you may hear from politicians, there is plenty of money available in the world to stop this tragedy. The World Bank Institute estimates that all of the world's people could be provided with enough water to meet their personal needs for an investment of \$10 billion per year for 10 years. Their figures assume an investment of about \$50 per person for water, sanitation materials, and training. This is about 1.2% of the world's total annual military expenditures, or about 1% of what is being spent on illegal drugs in the world each year. It is also about 15% of what the people in the U.S. spend each year on alcohol and tobacco. Many billionaires in the U.S. alone could write a check for this amount today and not feel the loss.

WGI goes on to say that if you assumed that providing clean water would save only one million lives per year - the actual figure could be more like 10 million - the total savings to the world would be \$990 billion per year. The pay-back on the investment would occur in less than 4 days.

Yet the rhetoric of our political leaders is designed to make us believe that solving problems such as this is impossible. We are made to feel hopeless and helpless, doomed to work in underpaid, unsatisfying jobs to earn enough to provide the bare minimum for our families. How can there be time or money to help those unfortunate enough to be born outside of the United States?



There must be time and there must be money spent on these global problems. If we allow our leaders - and ourselves - to choose to ignore these issues, what kind of statement are we making about the priorities of our lives? What could possibly be more important than providing something as fundamental as clean water to the people of the world? Is any company's annual report to their stockholders worth a mountain of bodies of dead infants?

The silence and acceptance must end, today. I don't know how much more of this our souls can bear.