

May 27, 2008

Dear Friends,

I'm writing to ask for your help with a grave international emergency: helping the rural -based survivors of the recent devastating earthquake in Sichuan, China. This tragedy occurred where I have worked for more than fifteen years, so I have personal knowledge of how much is at stake. I am close with the head farming family in Wolong village, totally devastated, as I am with the farmers in our model villages who suffered partial damage. There were hundreds of children in our environmental education programs, the fate of many unknown. Precious national forests and hundreds of farmers, Chinese NGO activists and government workers—many of whom are personal friends—are all near the epicenter of the devastation. Many are working day and night to assist the victims. Fortunately, most are okay so far—but lack of sanitation, clean water, and food pose enormous threats.

At the moment, I am in constant communication with the Jane Goodall Institute, Chengdu Urban River Association and Green SOS, a large environmental student organization. They tell me that in addition to the human loss, vast acres of forest, arable land and water resources have been destroyed.

The crisis is mounting and time is of the essence. The next two months are the rainy season and, so, much rebuilding will be delayed until late summer. The next four months will determine the fate of many. I am certain we can save lives and restore essential systems, but it will take many—and money—to do so.

**Will you join me as one of the many?**

I am raising money through Keepers of the Waters, a not for profit, to assist in this effort. Any amount would be helpful. My goal is to raise more than \$50,000. All monies will be directed towards the greatest need through on the ground organization. A first priority, when possible, is the building of potable water systems.

**Every contribution is a gift, regardless of the amount.**

I'll be returning to China at the end of the summer to assist in the rebuilding effort, and will be able to personally report on the impact of your efforts.

**You can join us.** Please send checks to Keepers of the Waters, 1415 S.E. Tacoma Street, Portland, OR 97202. Or go to our website, and click on the "Support Us" button to donate instantly. [www.KeepersoftheWaters.org](http://www.KeepersoftheWaters.org). Be sure to indicate this as an "Earthquake Donation".

**Your small gesture can make a world of difference.**

Thank you in advance for your open hearted generosity.

With much gratitude,  
Betsy Damon

**"If we don't try to extend our reach, how can we know what more could be touched?"**