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Media Contact:

Mike Tucker
Apple Core Productions
2320 S Downing St., Seaside, OR 97138
503-939-6155 (direct)
mike@applecoreproductions.com

New York Times bestselling author is cycling across America to raise awareness for clean water projects in Africa.

AIDS victims and the poor are suffering unnecessarily because of contaminated water.

Portland, OR – May 30, 2008: Bestselling author, Donald Miller (Blue Like Jazz), will be joining the Ride:Well Tour across America this summer. Miller and a small group of others will be cycling from Los Angeles to Washington D.C. to raise financial support and awareness for the 1,000 Wells Project, a campaign that produces clean water projects in Africa.

AIDS victims rarely die from the virus itself but from other often less harmful and more common bacteria and viruses. In many poverty stricken regions of Africa people have few or no water options available to them and are forced to drink and bathe in contaminated water, increasing their risk of infection and disease.

The 1,000 Wells Project has been initiated by Blood:Water Mission which is founded by members of the band Jars of Clay. Their goal is to alleviate AIDS patients and the poor from unnecessary suffering and risk by providing clean drinking water.

Unsafe water and poor sanitation play a major role in the transmission of many diseases, including diarrhea, cholera, malaria, schistosomiasis and typhoid. Diarrhea alone is responsible for the deaths of 1.8 million people each year, 90% of whom are children under 5, and 88% of diarrhea is caused by unclean water and inadequate sanitation (World Health Organization).

Accessible clean water is also very important for women, who are otherwise forced to spend hours each day retrieving water for their families. Having clean water nearby gives women more time to become active in their communities and helps assure that girls can attend school rather than spending their days helping carry water.

Donald Miller and those participating in this demonstration believe that clean, safe water is a basic human right and a foundational element in community health. The riders will begin their trip in L.A. on June 4th traveling a southern route across the United States, finishing in Washington D.C. on the 28th of July. They will be speaking at schools and churches along the way, as well as participating in public fundraising rides in Dallas, Nashville, and Washington D.C.

About: Donald Miller

Donald Miller grew up in Houston, Texas. Leaving home at the age of twenty-one, he traveled across the country until he ran out of money in Portland, Oregon, where he lives today. Miller's

next book, *A Million Miles in a Thousand Years*, published by Thomas Nelson, will be released Fall of 2009.

Harvest House Publishers released his first book, *Prayer and the Art of Volkswagen Maintenance* in 2000. Two years later, after having audited classes at Portland's Reed College, Don wrote *Blue Like Jazz*, which would slowly become a New York Times Bestseller selling over one million copies.

About: Blood:Water Mission

Blood:Water Mission is a non-profit organization founded by the members of the multi-platinum, Grammy Award-winning band, Jars of Clay, to address the HIV/AIDS crisis in Africa.

“Our Mission is to tangibly reduce the impact of the African HIV/AIDS pandemic, to promote clean blood and clean water in Africa, and to build equitable, sustainable and personal community links.”

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For more information about Donald Miller, photos, videos or to read a Q & A about why Donald is participating in this trip, visit this link <http://www.donaldmillerwords.com/ride/press/>