



# *the* CHALLENGE

MOVING EARTH TO SHARE HEAVEN **SEPTEMBER 2023**

## **Mission: Vanuatu**

### **Big Bay Water Project: A God-sized Task**

Engineering as Part  
of God's Plan

My First Mission Trip:  
Turning a Wrench in  
Vanuatu

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**Developing Future  
Team Leaders**

**2024 Trip  
Opportunities**

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# DEVELOPING FUTURE TEAM LEADERS



“I heard the voice of the Lord, saying,  
Whom shall I send, and who will go for  
us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.”

— Isaiah 6:8 (KJV)

## A MESSAGE FROM PAUL BROSEY, PROJECT & TEAM COORDINATOR

The concept of leaders developing leaders may seem as simple as coaching people who already know what they are doing, but for Friends in Action (FIA) the reality goes much deeper. The process starts with identifying those with the potential to lead teams—work teams and field teams, and the organization of teams traveling to remote locations around the world.

### Leadership Calling

We start with a question that goes back to our Master teacher, Jesus. How did he know whom to call to be his disciples, the men he would eventually entrust with leading the Church he would build? While the process looked to be random, I believe he called men who would be willing to be taught and coached. While I cannot identify those willing to be trained and coached by FIA, the same Holy Spirit who was active in the first-century Church calling out leaders is still actively calling out those who will heed the call to leadership.

Our approach is geared toward those with leadership characteristics and those who can give several weeks a

year to lead a short-term trip, yet we recognize that the Holy Spirit may call some to commit more time or even a total career to ministry through FIA. We trust that those men and women will be receptive to the Holy Spirit’s guidance.

### Providing Training & Identifying Gifts

As Christ-followers submit to this step of commitment, we need to be sensitive to this calling, providing those who respond with the training and experience to be effective leaders of others.

**We seek to lead in response to God’s call and build upon experience as a foundation for effective leadership.**

We are looking for the assurance that they are surrendering themselves to the desire of the Holy Spirit.

We seek to lead in response to God’s call and build upon experience as a foundation for effective leadership.

We provide training for leaders in project management, intercultural understanding, and spiritual development. We do this personally and within the team context. Very few of us come fully equipped, ready to take charge.

We aim to identify each person’s skills and talents and then encourage personal growth and progress in each area. The truth is, we are all constantly learning. So, our goal is to coach leaders to recognize the growth process and learn how to lead. None of us have arrived; all of us are in the process.

### Are you sensing God calling you to take that first step?

Having a willingness to submit to the process is a heart issue. Only you can take that step. We are here to help. ■

**CONTACT PAUL BROSEY,  
PROJECT & TEAM COORDINATOR**

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“A man’s heart deviseth his way:  
but the Lord directeth his steps.”

– Proverbs 16:9 (KJV)



VANUATU 2023



# Big Bay Water Project A GOD-SIZED TASK



For almost 25 years, the Lord has guided Friends in Action (FIA) ministries in Vanuatu through our partnerships with local missionaries and national leaders. Always with a vision to serve the missionary and evangelical community, we began on the island of Espiritu Santo, while keeping an eye on the horizon to serve those in the surrounding islands if the opportunity arose.

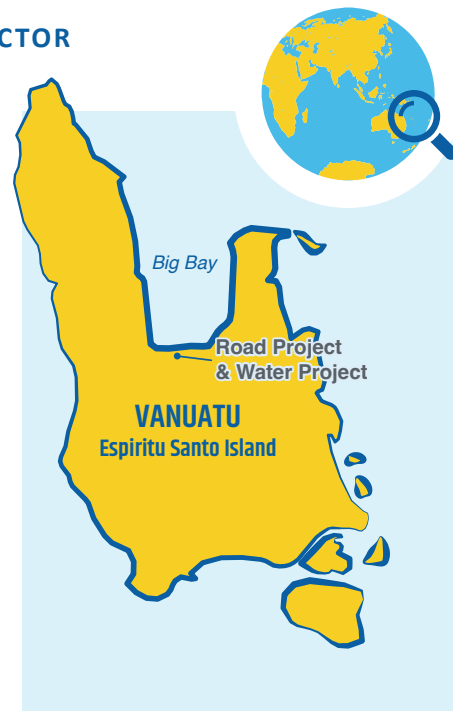
BY MATT DURKEE | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Through years of prayer and service, we have accelerated the work of partner ministries by drilling water wells, building roads and creating access to remote jungle communities, constructing homes, churches, and schools, and helping to source and provide medicine, equipment, supplies, vehicles, and more.

Now, our most ambitious and long-term project lies before us—to bring clean water to over 30 remote communities in the Big Bay region of Espiritu Santo.

## An Hour Hike For Water

In the highland and mountainous regions of Big Bay, the people hike an hour down the mountain to gather water and back up another hour with water for the day to use in their homes. Several years ago, FIA missionaries were introduced to Gabi, a NiVan pastor from Mataloi (a village in the Big Bay region), led to Christ by an Australian missionary back in the 1980s. Since then,







he has grown in his faith, became a pastor, and started a local Bible school in his village, training local believers to be sent into the Big Bay region to share the Gospel.

As Pastor Gabi shared his passion for Christ and the need for the Gospel in his local community, he also shared the need for clean water to reach the villages in the mountains. **At his request, FIA began the preliminary investigation to develop a pipeline to bring clean water to 30 villages, three schools, and two clinics on top of the mountain.**

Pastor Gabi understands the connection between bringing water to the villages and the word of God to the people: if water was brought into the villages, he would be invited by the chiefs of each village to share the Gospel.

*"Through the testimony of your good work, it has greatly helped soften and prepare the hearts of the people towards the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Because these good deeds have shown the love and compassion of God, as a result people have come to know that God loves and cares for them. This causes them to praise God just like it says in Matthew 5:16."*

— Pastor Gabriel, Mataloi Bible Baptist Church



## Collaborating with Messiah University

In 2017, we partnered with Messiah University's Collaboratory (The Collaboratory for Strategic Partnerships and Applied Research) and conducted our first field surveys to assess the need and feasibility of the project (read Sarah Barley's story on page 6.)

## Answered Prayers

At the time, we had no field personnel or means for this project, so we began to pray. We prayed for a project leader (a couple) to live in Vanuatu to oversee the project, personnel to do the work, specialists, and engineers to help design the needed solution, a company to provide the water pipe, and the funds to accomplish the entire project. A big list—but we believe in a Big God!

And He answered our prayers! We began working with **Dave Miller Associates (DMA)** out of Lancaster, PA, to manage the engineering of the water system, and a design specialist from **WaterTec** (Langley, British Columbia) has assisted in developing the necessary system design and is willing to help source and supply pipe as well.



The Lord brought **Levi and Jenn Pitman** to serve in Vanuatu with their family as the FIA field leadership, as well as a **U.S.-based project manager and a construction manager** to step up to the task, by God’s grace, of bringing this project to fruition. We have **donors** recognizing the opportunity to make a significant impact in both the physical and spiritual lives of the NiVan people, and **volunteers** (both general laborers and skilled equipment operators) realizing that God can use their skills to open the door to sharing the hope and life that comes from the Living Water. Mechanical teams repaired some of the existing equipment this year to support upcoming construction.

The NiVan government has given the water project its blessing, which is a great answer to prayer as this potentially means exoneration for materials and equipment associated with the project.

## A Complex Project

This project is complex: a 16-mile gravity-fed pipeline sourced by an artesian well that produces approximately 77 gallons per minute, traveling across elevation changes sometimes up to 600’ in length. Materials and equipment all need to be sourced (either local aggregate, mined from the river, or pipe and equipment shipped in), and shuttled 30 miles from the FIA mission base to the Big Bay project site, crawling over poorly maintained mountain roads that, in some cases, are little more than paths.

The next hurdle we trust the Lord to help us overcome involves equipment, accessibility, and funding. A key road allowing access into the region has fallen into disrepair, and the island’s regional government does not have the personnel or equipment to complete the repair work needed—they have asked FIA to take that on. While we do have some construction equipment left over from a previous road construction project, the aged equipment (which was already old and used when first shipped to Vanuatu 15 years ago) has not weathered well through major cyclone events and three years of deferred maintenance (due to COVID country restrictions).

## Project Needs

As we move deeper into the project planning, the needs have continued to grow. At this point, to do all that has been asked, this project may now require newer, stronger, appropriately sized equipment, including:



## A God-Sized Task

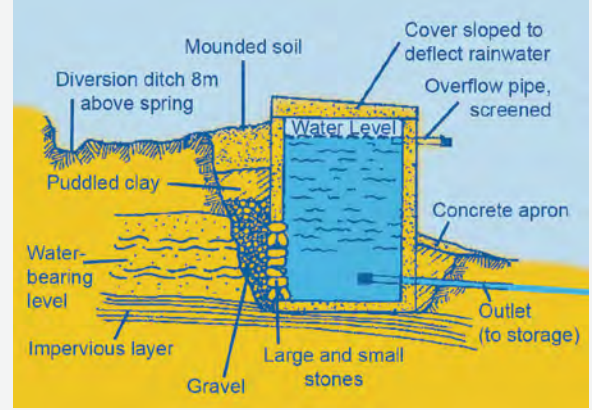
We are still committed to our goal of providing water in these locations in order to give access to Pastor Gabi and others to share the Gospel. We are committed to being good stewards of the resources and trust of our donors and supporters, to make wise decisions that serve to move forward the work of the Lord in Vanuatu. As for this project, there are big decisions that need to be made about project development, and **we ask for you to keep us in prayer** as we look for the Lord to lead us in the best way forward.

This is a God-sized task. COVID delayed our initial timeline, our equipment and project challenges caused us to regroup and think bigger and differently, and the financial cost is far greater than anything we have looked to carry before. But we gather strength from Galatians 6:9 “And let us not be weary in well-doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not” (KJV).

We must persevere, and remain resilient in the face of the challenge, knowing that this, too, shall pass because our labor is in the Lord. We already know that we serve a Faithful God and that He provides. At the end of the day, this is all about Him, and because of that, we can trust Him to show us how best to go about doing His work. ■







# Engineering

## AS A PART OF GOD'S PLAN



SARAH BARLEY | FIA VOLUNTEER

Sarah Barley was a sophomore college student in 2017 when she joined Messiah University's Collaboratory to gain hands-on engineering experience and fulfill her desire to help others and share Christ. She participated in the gravity-fed water project team with little knowledge but much determination to learn. Together, they **designed a method to treat Vanuatu's hard water** (meaning it contained a lot of calcium and magnesium), which clogs pipes over time.

### Environmental Impact Study

In her junior year, Sarah helped conduct an **environmental impact study** of the effects the water system would have on the environment and the risks the environment would have on the water system. Further, she **helped finalize pipe path calculations**

to ensure the pressures within the pipes didn't get too high due to changes in elevation and blow the pipelines off or too low, and the lines would crumble in on themselves.

### Switching Gears

When COVID hit, it delayed Sarah's internship, and FIA couldn't travel. Sarah was thrilled to be asked to be the **technology lead for the remote onboard training of FIA's missionaries**. She felt this was a direct answer from God to her prayers to continue to be involved with FIA. She continued to assist FIA while in school, helping to coordinate with the Vanuatu government and FIA field leader Levi Pittman to develop the **drinking water safety and security plan**. This plan helps ensure that the Vanuatu village is appropriately trained on the water system and will be able to maintain it.

Throughout her journey with FIA, Sarah knew that God was working in her life to provide opportunities she had been praying for. Once she graduated, married, and moved to North Carolina, she continued her involvement with FIA by recruiting volunteers. "I've loved being involved with FIA and getting to know all the great people that volunteer and the staff. They do great work for not just physical needs but spiritual needs," shared Sarah.

### The Impact of FIA

Today Sarah is an environmental engineer working for GHD, a global company located in Camp Hill, PA, where she is a water and wastewater engineer designing upgrades for water and wastewater treatment plants in central Pennsylvania. ■



"We believe a better world is possible by equipping the next generation now with a space for real-world application of professional disciplines, Christian discipleship, and partnership with the poor in a collaborative struggle for justice." **Learn More: [Messiah.edu/collaboratory](https://messiah.edu/collaboratory)**



## MY FIRST MISSION TRIP: Turning a Wrench in Vanuatu

As a child, Elijah Grab dreamed of becoming a construction worker and traveling to other countries to build homes for those who don't have one.

So, when the 16-year-old junior at Lebanon Christian Academy heard about an opportunity to travel with FIA, he felt God was opening a door. **The trip to Vanuatu would involve repairing buildings and machinery in preparation for the gravity-fed water project that would bring safe drinking water to remote villages.**

"I had a lot of encouragement from people saying, 'You should go. It's a

new experience for you, and maybe it's what God has planned for you—to be a missionary or do mission work," he said. "And since I always had an interest in mechanics and construction, I thought this is the perfect trip to go on."

Grab, of Lebanon, PA, was the youngest in a team of 10 men that spent about two and a half weeks in Vanuatu from February into March. The goal—beyond glorifying Christ—was to assess and repair buildings and machinery devastated by a cyclone in March 2020, followed by two years of vacancy because of the pandemic.

The ranch at Espiritu Santo, where Grab and his team stayed, is a vital hub for FIA's work farther into the remote villages on the island.

Grab said his mechanical skills were limited, but he looked forward to learning from his colleagues, including Rob Donley, lead mechanic, whose testimony about the work in Vanuatu inspired Grab to go. They attend the same church.

Their many endeavors in Vanuatu included: pouring cement floors, repairing electrical systems, installing a new well pump, rebuilding hydraulic cylinders, and engine repair for dump trucks, mowers, tractors, and other equipment.

### A TEEN'S FIRST MISSION EXPERIENCE

**Grab returned home with new skills, greater confidence, and deeper faith.** Getting away from technology and spending time in the Word drew him closer to God.

He encouraged other young people to consider volunteering on a mission's trip with FIA—as did Donley.

"The mechanical stuff that we are doing is not huge and intensive. Anyone can be taught to do it," Donley said. Across FIA, he said, "there are plenty of opportunities for young people, and they don't have to get up and speak. Most of them don't want to do that. They can serve and be bold and adventurous and not only do this for themselves but to serve the Lord."

Grab agrees. "It's a great thing to do for God. No matter if the blessing comes now or five years in the future, I'd definitely do it because it's for the Lord," he said. ■



# ANNUAL AWARENESS BANQUETS

4 DATES &  
4 LOCATIONS

Save the Date!

**SATURDAY, OCT. 14**  
**5:30 PM**

**Rockmosa Community Hall**  
110 Rockmosa Dr.  
Rockwood, ON N0B 2K0  
Canada

**FRIDAY, OCT. 27**  
**6:00 PM**

**Community Bible Church**  
331 Anderson Ferry Road  
Marietta, PA 17547

**SATURDAY, OCT. 28**  
**5:00 PM**

**The Sheraton  
Harrisburg-Hershey Hotel**  
4650 Lindle Road  
Harrisburg, PA 17111

**FRIDAY, NOV. 17**  
**6:00 PM**

**Four Rivers Environmental  
Education Center**  
25055 West Walnut Lane  
Channahon, IL 60401

*Celebrate how God is empowering FIA's ministries to speed the Gospel to unreached people groups!*

# 2024 TRIP OPPORTUNITIES

A short-term trip can be an adventure of a lifetime! On a trip with FIA, you'll see the work of God on the mission field, be a blessing to another culture, and discover how your skills can help further the Gospel. Use your trade skills to help make Christ known by volunteering on one (or more) of FIA's upcoming trips. **Learn More:** [FIAintl.org/get-involved/trips](https://faintl.org/get-involved/trips)



## Bible Teaching



### Nicaragua | July

Bible Conference, Children's Ministry Program with the Rama villagers

## Well Drilling



### West Africa | April

Drilling water wells to support partner ministries. Need general laborers.

### Mexico | April & November

Drilling community wells and mechanical services to support vehicle and equipment maintenance programs for a remote mission hospital. Need automotive mechanics.

## USA Teams



### Arizona | January

Exterior renovation-concrete, siding, landscaping, and building upgrade for ETHNOS Aviation Training Center. Need construction and general laborers.

### Missouri | February & March

Interior remodel/renovation work, interior remodels of residential dwellings at ETHNOS 360 mission training center in Camdenton, MO. Need general laborers, interior finishing, plumbing, and electrical workers.

### Wisconsin | June

Supporting ETHNOS 360 training school in Waukesha, WI, through interior and exterior renovation work. Need general laborers, interior finishing, plumbing, and electrical workers.

## Construction



### Vanuatu | January

Fabrication and construction of steel frame for vehicle and equipment maintenance hangar, welding, and finishing. Need welders and general laborers.

### West Africa | February

Fabrication and construction of steel frame for vehicle and equipment maintenance hangar, welding, and finishing. Need welders and general laborers.

### Vanuatu | February

Completion of steel frame hangar construction and work on team's building. Need welders and general laborers.

### West Africa | March

Fabrication and construction of steel frame for vehicle and equipment maintenance hangar, welding, and finishing. Need welders, general laborers, and framing/construction skills.

### Nicaragua | March & April

Construction of a community kitchen and meeting space (installation of steel-frame structure). Need welders and general laborers.

### West Africa | May

Finishing FIA teams center (roofing and finish work) and supporting FIA site development projects. Need construction and general laborers.

### Uganda | May & June

Construction of community outreach center and housing units for partner project. Need construction and general laborers.

### Vanuatu | July

Roadwork and construction for water project. Road work and excavation, remote site access and materials stockpiling. Need equipment operators and general laborers.

## Mechanical



### Vanuatu | April

Mechanical services to support vehicle and equipment maintenance programs. Need electricians and mechanics.

### Mexico | April & November

Mechanical services to support vehicle and equipment maintenance programs and drilling wells for a remote mission hospital. Need automotive mechanics.

## Special Projects



### Papua New Guinea | February

Solar installation partnering with ITEC, setting up solar panel array and installing solar power supply system for FIA ministry.

### Nicaragua | June

Water filtration project by Messiah University students, installing 2x water filtration units for island and mainland clean water supply.



**FRIENDS  
IN ACTION  
INTERNATIONAL**

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