



The CHALLENGE

MOVING EARTH TO SHARE HEAVEN JUNE 2024

Hearing Javier's Heart FIA IN NICARAGUA

FIA Engages the
Next Generation:
VBS & Rama Cay

Eager to Learn
the Word of God:
Bolivia

Continuing to
Invest in Our
Mission's Future

2024 Trip
Opportunities

PARTNERSHIP LEADS TO PRAISE: FIA Half-Year Celebrations!

“They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness, and shall sing of thy righteousness.”

– Psalm 145:7 (KJV)



A MESSAGE FROM TIM JOHNSTON, FIA DIRECTOR OF PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

When we are aware of the goodness of God, our response is joy! We made our ministry needs known to you in 2023, and you responded enthusiastically through your generous prayers and financial gifts. Here are a few amazing reasons to celebrate what God has done through your kindness in the first six months of 2024!

Nicaragua

The Rama Cay people are experiencing God’s love in a tangible way as a kitchen/dining facility is taking shape in their midst. Recent teams completed the framework and installed a water pump, bringing the villagers 2.5 gallons of fresh water a minute (1800 gallons a day)!

Papua New Guinea

A massive solar project was completed in which 60 solar panels weighing over 3,000 lbs. were installed after teams reinforced trusses on a workshop roof. God has literally enabled us to be His light in the darkness in the remote regions of PNG!

West Africa

Villagers are learning about Jesus, The Living Water, as the final trusses and

tin roofing were added to a hangar to house well-drilling equipment. Construction and repairs were completed on missionary housing, and progress was made toward two projects: solar power conversion and housing for guest teams.

Vanuatu

We are ever closer to bringing 3,500 villagers clean water! We purchased machinery and supplies, retrofitted a Mack truck for jungle terrain, and an ocean container is en route with essentials for teams to break ground this June!

Bolivia

Construction updates were completed at The Indigenous Training Center, enabling close to a dozen conferences. Hundreds of villagers have attended women’s camps, men’s retreats, youth and children’s camps, and leadership training for youth leaders, pastors, and children’s ministry directors! Village teens shout with joy as excavation is underway on a youth recreation expansion project!

We are privileged to team up with an army of generous Christ-followers unafraid of sacrificial and long-term commitment and giving.

As the Director of Partnership Development, I stand in awe of our God who always does more than we can ask, think, or imagine (Ephesians 3:20). And, I stand humbled to partner with each of you whom God uses over and over again to be the answer to our prayers! We are privileged to team up with an army of generous Christ-followers unafraid of sacrificial and long-term commitment and giving. Let me express our sincere and heartfelt thanks for your invaluable support.

God’s greatest provision to us is not financial. It is our salvation through His Son, Jesus, and the empowerment of His Holy Spirit to serve Him here and among the nations until that Final Day.

In Psalm 107, four times God says, “Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness and for His wonderful works to the children of men!” Before you turn the page, would you take a moment with me to bow your head and thank God for just a few things He has done for us? He is so worthy. As you pray, know that you, too, have been prayed over as friends of this ministry. Together, let us give Him the praise He deserves. Amen, and amen. ■

“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”

– James 1:22 (KJV)



Hearing Javier's Heart: FIA IN NICARAGUA

TIM JOHNSTON, FIA DIRECTOR OF PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Javier, a Rama Cay village man, wrinkled his face into a broad smile as he settled into his plastic lawn chair. Javier's excitement was evident as he shared how he came to know Christ with FIA's team working among one of the last indigenous tribes in Nicaragua.

"It is a pleasure and happiness to share a small testimony of what God has done for me," Javier began, reflecting on the difference between working to be acceptable to God by his good deeds versus coming to understand salvation by grace and through faith alone.

After quoting Ephesians 2:8-9, Javier nodded in affirmation, "Yes, I used to have my way of thinking, my way of life and living. But a new way has come through Jesus, God's perfect and innocent One, who died on the cross for me personally. Jesus is my connection with God to make me His child."

One of the philosophies undergirding FIA's project work among the Rama and worldwide is that we are making Jesus visible through how we live and serve. People should see Jesus through those serving and those whose lives have been impacted by that service.

Javier illustrated this truth as he leaned forward in his chair with a serious tone. "Our works do not save us, but I have learned to put into practice what I have learned from God's Word. I do things differently now. I lead my family. I work together with my wife. I am an example for my children. We live and love in our home as Jesus has and then show testimony of those changes to those outside."

Javier is part of a small group of Rama Cay believers participating in the chronological teaching of God's Word, equipping them to take the Gospel to neighboring villages. Javier and a team of nationals recently returned from their second evangelical outreach trip to nearby Sumu Kaat.

As Javier continued, he gestured across the landscape toward the recently constructed framework of a kitchen/dining facility slated to serve villagers attending Bible training sessions and future teams serving the community. "I have learned the importance of discipleship. I learn trade skills from visiting teams. They show us how to build and give us the tools, and we build with them. It is the same spiritually. I help my brothers and sisters in



Christ. I look to teach and help others grow in God. I care about and love them. As Jesus loved, we love."

Before continuing, Javier reached down to the browned grass surrounding him and picked up a worn, plastic cup filled with water. Before taking a gulp, he raised his cup a little, juttied his chin forward, and smiled knowingly at the team.

The villagers have struggled through a critical drought this year, worse than any FIA field leaders remember. The people from the island, those on the mainland, and those in the towns are all struggling due to the lack of water and rain. Volunteers even took bucket showers to conserve water until the team was able to install a pump on a viable well.

Through that well, God provided 1,800 gallons of water daily in the Spring of Living Water village. The water pumped 8-12 hours a day for over eight days, at 2.5 gallons a minute nonstop, and the well never ran out of water! What love the Father hath poured out unto us!

Javier's lips glistening, wet with water, said, "I want to thank the believers from the other countries that you

come from who remember us. We don't know you, but we hear about you. Thank God for your service, love, and worry for us here in Nicaragua."

As he spoke, he also assured the team of his wife's appreciation. She was in the nearby laundry/shower house, which teams completed last year. The newly sourced water was a great cause for celebration among the women who were fellowshiping while washing clothes, dishes, and children.

Javier and his family look forward to FIA helping them to build a home on the mainland later this year. With additional funds raised, FIA will secure the building materials necessary to work alongside Javier. He will learn the skills needed to create a structure to withstand the hurricane-strength storms in the region while remediating unsanitary conditions caused by overcrowding on the island.

Javier waved his hand in a grand farewell gesture, "I have plenty of affection for you from me, my family, and our group that we named 122. We call the believers here 122 for James 1:22 to remind ourselves to hear God's Word and put it into practice. Thank you, brothers and sisters, for hearing me and helping me." ■



ANNUAL AWARENESS BANQUETS

4 DATES & 4 LOCATIONS

CANADIAN FRIENDSGIVING

SATURDAY, OCT. 19 | 5:00 PM

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

PENNSYLVANIA AWARENESS BANQUET

FRIDAY, OCT. 25 | 6:00 PM

Lebanon Valley Bible Church
1482 Horseshoe Pike
Lebanon, PA 17042

PENNSYLVANIA AWARENESS BANQUET

SATURDAY, OCT. 26 | 5:00 PM

The Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey Hotel
4650 Lindle Rd.
Harrisburg, PA 17111

ILLINOIS AWARENESS BANQUET

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1 | 6:00 PM

Four Rivers Environmental Education Center
25055 West Walnut Ln.
Channahon, IL 60401

Uniting The Generations & The Nations!

FIA Engages the Next Generation: VBS & RAMA CAY

NICARAGUA

Imagine the joy of witnessing the Rama village children provided with a boat, fuel, and life jackets needed to transport them to school safely. Knowing God used mission-minded children from Living Word Bible Church in Morris, Illinois, to help meet their needs!



Friends In Action was privileged to partner with Living Word in developing and enacting Vacation Bible School. During the week-long event, children learned about a different piece of spiritual armor from Ephesians 6 while understanding how to stand in the truth of God's Word.

During the first day's events, the children learned how their lives, likes, and dislikes were similar to and different from Diego, a child from Rama Cay village. Each day, the Vacation Bible School (VBS) youth learned more about the Rama children through videos provided by FIA. By mid-week, they had already raised money toward purchasing a boat for Diego and his friends to get to school! By Friday, they had raised additional funds for fuel!

Their contributions were added to proceeds from The Amanda Brandt Memorial Fund to fund the project fully.

Living Word's Cheryl Lewis shared, "Thank you for partnering with us and sending us the videos and detailed information about the project. We pray for the children there in Rama Cay and the children here at home that the seeds of truth sown in their hearts may reap a bountiful harvest for the Kingdom of God!" ■

Are you also interested in partnering with FIA and your church's children's or youth program? Or crafting a year-end giving opportunity for your church? Or would you like to contribute to The Amanda Brandt Memorial Fund? Our Partnership Development team would be happy to connect with you.

Contact Partnership Development

Tim Johnston, Director
717.564.0208 | TimJohnston@FIAintl.org





BOLIVIA

Eager to Learn THE WORD OF GOD

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth...”

– Romans 1:16 (KJV)

Deep in the Amazon Basin of northern Bolivia, a transformative journey is unfolding as God builds His Church. God used Pastor Saul Peralta, a Bolivian national pastor with a heart for seeing the Lost come to faith, to catalyze the ministries of the Christian radio station "Inspiracion" and river outreach ministries via boat and motorcycle. For the past 20 years, the Gospel has been sent into the most remote areas along the Amazon River system, and people are responding!

Every year, new indigenous and Bolivian national believers want to learn the Word, and cohorts of lay pastors and leaders-in-training turn to teach others. In the early years, many new believers couldn't attend Bible school for formal training because these new brothers- and sisters-in-Christ didn't have a high school diploma. As an answer, and in partnership with FIA, the vision for the Ministerial Bible Training Center (MBTC) was born. Originally emphasizing indigenous training and ministry, the MBTC has expanded to address the need for training, discipleship, and evangelism for ethnic groups through rural churches and throughout the Amazon area of northeastern Bolivia.

FIA continues to partner financially with the MBTC, breaking ground this year on a new site development project that will multiply the effective efforts of the Center to engage more people and send out more workers. Discipleship training takes place using chronological biblical teaching,

which is made appropriate for churches of ethnic groups. Students attend for three or more days per quarter to avoid neglecting their jobs or family. It is a program that no Bible school is offering in the area, and these ministry training sessions are necessary to build up the base of believers who are now evangelizing others within their culture and communities. In the years since its inception, the Center has, with FIA's help, built a simple campus (El Eden) that facilitates camps for children, adolescents, and young people in addition to the training. Emphasis is placed on evangelism and discipleship and challenges the next generation to serve the Lord. Retreats and camps are often held to teach and equip women for ministry.

With gratefulness, Pastor Saul shares, "In the past year, El Eden hosted a dozen camps and spiritual retreats for children, adolescents, youth, and adults, along with brothers of the indigenous groups." By partnering to build the infrastructure, FIA is privileged to partner in this worthwhile endeavor, as the Lord has impacted more than 2,000 people through the ministry of our partners in Northern Bolivia: 250 children prayed, putting their faith in Christ as Savior, 200 young people believed in Christ as their Personal Savior and 1,500 or more people were touched by the word of God.

Our co-workers with hearts for those in the remote Amazon Basin are still going for more for the glory of God! ■



Continuing to Invest in Our Mission's Future

FIA is blessed with the opportunity to invest in the next generation of servants that, by the grace of God, will keep our mission going and continue to meet the needs of our partners in the future. Derek Hottenstein, 20, and Andrew Aument, 26, are part of that next generation serving to make Christ known to the last, lost, and least.

Derek Hottenstein

Derek served on three FIA short-term team trips in just two years, including one stateside and two international trips. His most recent journey took him to Nicaragua in December 2023, where his main assignment was to assist in the final assembly of steel trusses for the new kitchen and dining building under construction. Despite being an assistant to the main welder, Derek managed to weld quite a bit to help increase efficiency and productivity.

His other international trip was to Peru in 2022, where he helped to build the home for missionaries Rebecca and Brad to advance Gospel work among the Asheninca people of Pucallpa, Peru. Both trips tested his skills. In Nicaragua, he expanded his welding skills; in Peru, he used his general construction skills and was a general laborer.

Derek noted some differences between his trips to Peru and Nicaragua. In Nicaragua, the Rama Cay is located right on the water, and they worked in the village. The location in Peru was landlocked, and the work was not in a village but outside a main town. Also, he could disconnect from technology more in Nicaragua since there was no cell signal.

"During both trips, I found God used the time as a "vacation" and allowed me to be more open to what he was teaching me," shared Derek.

Throughout his stay in Nicaragua, he depended on the missionaries to communicate with the locals. Their language was foreign to him, so communicating, engaging, and observing was difficult, but the missionaries assisted him. Derek was excited to share that towards the end of their stay, they had the privilege of training Carlos, a Nicaraguan, on how to weld so that the village could start to become dependent on themselves. The people were also willing to help the other team members by painting and cleaning the trusses.

Reflecting on his journey, Derek stated, "Overall, the trip was wonderful, and God used it to work in my life in multiple ways as He has before. I look forward to where the Lord leads me for my next trip."

"As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God... that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

— 1 Peter 4:10-11b (KJV)

Andrew Aument

"I have witnessed countless lives transformed and the discipleship that occurred while we were constructing buildings for discipleship and outreach," shared Andrew, who also participated in the short-term trip to Nicaragua in December 2023.

This trip was his second to Nicaragua; his first was in 2019, when he worked on a washhouse. He discovered the mission of FIA through outreach to his employer at that time. FIA sought welders to fabricate steel for the pavilion that a future team would erect. The team worked alongside the locals and taught one man how to weld.

Andrew remarked that being in Nicaragua four years later, it was exciting to see the local church's growth and maturity and desire to be missionaries to their people.

Andrew was not new to missionary work when he learned about FIA. His first mission trip was in 2018 to Alaska for construction work for Last Frontier Ministries. Over the years, he made frequent trips to serve LFM through construction and accepted a maintenance position in 2023 while participating in other trips to serve other ministries.

"Recently, as I have been witnessing the visions becoming reality, I was thinking of all the work people have invested into these visions. Those who come and serve for a short time may never witness the impact that their work brings, but it truly is investing in the furtherment of the Kingdom," exclaimed Andrew. ■





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.

Seeking Project Managers



FIA receives requests from partner missions to engage in both short-term and ongoing project management services to support construction and expansion projects.

We are looking for experienced managers willing to serve anywhere from two weeks to 12 months (single deployment or multiple deployments) based on the needs of the projects.

For more information, contact Andy Bachert, U.S. Chief Operating Officer, at andybachert@fiaintl.org.

Well Drilling Mexico



NOVEMBER 2024

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

Need automotive mechanics.

USA Teams



Missouri

SEPTEMBER & NOVEMBER 2024

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.

Want to Learn More? Visit [FIAintl.org/get-involved](https://fiaintl.org/get-involved)



United States Headquarters

✉ PO Box 323, Elizabethtown, PA 17022
📍 3950 E Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057

Phone: 717.546.0208

USA Email: FIA-USA@fiaintl.org

501(c)3 Non-profit Organization

Canada Headquarters

✉ PO BOX 901 Stn Main, Guelph, ON, N1H 6M6

Phone: 905.642.9531

CA Email: office.fiac@gmail.com

Charity Number: 818791212RR0001

[FIAintl.org](https://fiaintl.org)