



The CHALLENGE

MOVING EARTH TO SHARE HEAVEN **JANUARY 2025**

**To Send.
To Serve.
To Sacrifice.**

**Jesus Didn't Say,
"Me First"**

**Blessing Others
in Response to
God's Call**

**Answering the
Call to Serve**

**2025 Trip
Opportunities**

PHOTO: Field Team Leaders
(foreground) in Rama Cay, Nicaragua

TO SEND. TO SERVE. TO SACRIFICE.



“Also 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 MATT DURKEE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I grew up in a church that deeply valued missions. The missions committee often hosted international workers who shared stories of God’s transformative work around the world. Their updates ranged from the joy of witnessing people come to Jesus to the trials of enduring adversity. These stories made it clear: serving the Lord of the Harvest is both a privilege and a sacrifice.

Each visit ended with a challenge and a call to pray for His Kingdom to come to the nations. From a young age, I was taught to pray those words: “*Our Father, who art in Heaven... Thy will be done.*” This prayer of surrender is also a prayer of declaration. Our Father *will* accomplish his plans on earth. Even in those times of adversity, missionaries would echo the same exhortation of Christ: in all circumstances, trust and yield to God’s perfect will, timing, and way.

Immersed in the example of these faithful Gospel stewards, my heart began to burn for the Lost. At 16, I found myself praying, “Thy will be done, Lord—and do it with me!” I didn’t know how, but I was certain God was calling me to missions. I was

on the mission field nine years later, living out that prayer.

Prayer & Surrender

Prayer is where it all begins and ends—though rarely in ways we expect. True prayer draws us closer to God and transforms us in profound ways. But surrendering to “Thy will be done” will cost you. It will cost you your comfort as you trade your wants for His ways. It will cost you your security as you walk unfamiliar paths. It will cost you your future as you trust His plan over your own.

Yet consider what is gained—a life aligned with the Lord’s heart and character, seeking the lost, living out His truth, and pointing others to the hope found in Jesus.

So, I ask you: Who is willing to pray, “*Thy will be done—and do it with me?*”

Sacrifice is essential to fulfilling the Great Commission. We lay down our comforts and desires when we pick up His Cross. By God’s grace, men and women have planted seeds of faith and shared the Gospel worldwide. Now, we must pass the torch to a new

generation. The Lord of the Harvest is asking the question, “*Who will go?*”

We need workers in the mission fields and senders supporting them. Both are vital to seeing His Kingdom come. Not all are called to go, but the time to say “Yes, Lord” is now for those whose hearts burn for the lost.

The fields are ripe, but the laborers are few. Will you join in the work? Whether as a goer or a sender, your “Yes” matters.

“*Here I am, Lord—send me.*” ■

Get Involved

We invite you to prayerfully consider how you will engage in God’s work through FIA this year.

To do what we’re called to do, we rely on those who will support FIA through prayer, generosity, and serving at home and abroad.

Learn more about how you can get involved on our website:

FIAintl.org

Maggie and Bo (left) with team in front of community center construction



NICARAGUA

Working on the new community center



Filling buckets from the new well

“For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”
— Mark 10:45 (KJV)

Jesus Didn't Say, “Me First”

THE STORY OF BO AND MAGGIE MOON*, FIA ASSOCIATES | BY MAGGIE

Our call to full-time missions started more than 20 years ago when we began using medicine as a platform to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to those in need through short-term medical mission trips to Honduras. We've always wanted to care for others and serve the Lord in all we do as Jesus didn't say “me first,” he said, “you first.” God gifted Bo as a licensed vocational nurse, paramedic, farmer/rancher, and welder; I have been a nurse for 27 years with experience in orthopedics, critical care, and nursing education.

With our first trip to Honduras, we knew that the LORD was calling us to something deeper and more permanent. Through the Holy Spirit, he empowers us to sacrifice and serve others over ourselves. At the time, we thought Honduras would be our destination, but after some

*Names changed for security purposes.

setbacks and hard “no’s” from the Lord, we realized that was not to be.

We had always known that short-term mission trips were necessary, but that full-time service is where we should be.

Transitioning To Nicaragua

We first heard about Friends in Action, International in 2013 through our worship leader, who had participated in several short-term trips with them to Africa. But it wasn't until Matt Durkee, then Field Leader, FIA West Africa, came and spoke at our church in 2015 that Bo felt God calling him to go and serve with FIA.

In 2019 when we became FIA Associates, Bo was ready to go to Africa with FIA again, but due to terrorism

in the area, the trip was canceled. Immediately after this happened, Matt called Bo to ask for help drilling a water well in Nicaragua. Bo had funds available from his canceled trip to Africa and could switch gears and say “yes” to Nicaragua.

We went to Nicaragua together in 2021, where we both realized that this was where God was calling us to “go” and serve. We had always known that short-term mission trips were necessary, but that full-time service is where we should be. For years, we prayed and told the Lord, “Here we are, send us,” and He did! Not to Honduras, but to Nicaragua.

In preparation for moving to Nicaragua, we attended a month-long training in August 2023 to learn how to integrate into a new culture. We would be living among the Rama people, which required us to learn how to adapt and



JESUS DIDN'T SAY, "ME FIRST"

Enjoying the catch of the day



New home for a Rama family

adjust to their way of living. The Rama are a group of indigenous people located on the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua. They have approximately nine different tribes, with their culture dependent on self-sufficiency. Most fish and farm for a living and grow up in the Moravian church. Initially the Rama deeply connected their spiritual beliefs with nature, but today, there are a growing number of born-again believers in Jesus Christ.

In January of 2024, we could finally relocate to Nicaragua, where we spent another eight months in language school with one-to-one instruction with a Spanish speaker. Our role in ministering to the Rama involves walking alongside them in daily living and work, encouraging them, and showing them how to live a godly life. In our village, the Rama are not only being taught God's word but also reaching out to other Rama villages and ministering to them. They have made several mission trips on their own to other villages,

doing the chronological teachings of the Bible while helping the people when needed.

As we serve them, we will assist with hosting teams, facilitating construction and development in the community, and teaching life skills. We will work alongside them to develop plans for a school and clinic. FIAs goal was to bring the Word of God to the Rama and use **practical service** (construction and community development) to **live out** the Gospel as the Lord provided opportunities to present the Good News. That goal has grown to transition the responsibility for what has been built entirely into the hands of the Rama people.

God's Faithfulness

Along our journey into missions, we have faced several challenges. A few months after we answered God's call to "go" to Nicaragua, COVID-19 hit, and the world shut down. It was a challenge to raise support and go

to speaking engagements. Due to political reasons, we currently don't have a long-term visa, but a tourist visa. So, every 90 days, we leave the country by hiring a driver to take us across the border to Costa Rica, where we can stay for a minute or an hour or days and then return. We've also faced several health-related challenges along the way, but we have seen God's hand at work throughout all the challenges.

If we have learned anything, it is that God is faithful to His people. He will finish what He started, and if He calls you into something, you can rest assured that He will walk beside you and guide you through it all. We know that just because He called us to this remote village on the coast of Nicaragua, we will still have assignments to complete in other places along the way. **Be still and look around where you are because this might also be part of your ministry.** ■



Bo & Maggie with the Rama people.

Blessing Others in Response to God's Call

"For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." – Mark 10:45 (KJV)

Third season of drought in the Sierra Madre mountains

FIA serves the Mexico Medical Mission in the Sierra Madre mountains and its various partners through clean water initiatives that assist them as they make disciples among the nations. In November 2024, FIA Canada organized a trip to the Mission where volunteer Mark Henkell, 52, a licensed plumber, evaluated the infrastructure for water distribution at the hospital and compound.

This was Mark's second trip with FIA. Several years ago, he participated in a trip to Africa that he initially said no to. His employer, a Christian-based company, prayed over him and gave him permission to go – a clear sign to Mark that God was calling him to go.

That first FIA trip was emotionally overwhelming for Mark as almost 100 people greeted them when they arrived. The people were shocked that the team was all volunteers. "The Elders felt their government had forgotten about them, and here were these strangers devoting their time and talent for nothing in return," explained Mark. "We were commanded to go, and we went – a better witness than drilling a well."

Improving Water for the Mexico Medical Mission

Since then, a long-term summer commitment as camp director for Lions International ended for him and his wife, Allison. God spoke to him, telling him he needed to get involved with FIA again. Mark did not respond to God's prompt immediately, as we sometimes do, but eventually, he contacted FIA.

When Mark learned of the Medical Mission's need for improved water infrastructure, he felt a powerful desire to go. "My wife and I believe that those who have, have a responsibility to those who have not." Further, Mark says he has a passion for water. "I know that may sound funny, but we shouldn't take water for granted," he said.

His evaluation determined that the water system is already 10 years past its 15-year term of durability, which means a loss of pipe integrity through corrosion and breakdowns leading to leaks. The need has become even more urgent as the area is in its third season of drought.

The current water supply system for the hospital is a "cobbled-together" water distribution network, such as the red tank (pictured left) pumping water from one of the few wells onsite through a pressure vessel. The wiring is old and lacks labeling and diagrams.



Mark Henkell, FIA Volunteer



Water being pumped from one of the few wells onsite

BLESSING OTHERS IN RESPONSE TO GOD'S CALL



Water supply hose running exposed along a wall

Well pump wires covered only with electrical tape



It is not uncommon to find live wires protected more by electrical tape than sheathing!

Mark is working on a plan to upgrade to a different piping system, centralize controls currently spread over four locations, change the elevation of storage containers to improve water pressure, and improve fire protection for the hospital and residences.

"I am not strong biblically or theologically, but everyone has a job to do, and my talent is water systems and the ability to connect people," said Mark. He believes in using his resources to help support the spread of God's word.

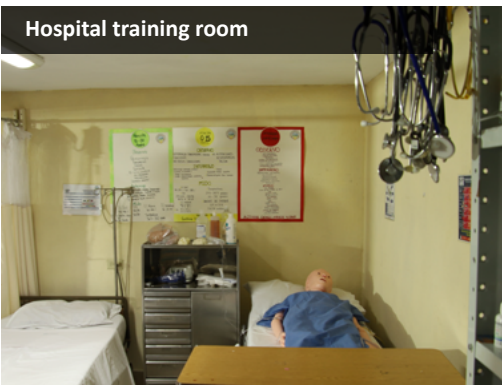
Mexico challenged Mark spiritually because although he agreed with core Christian beliefs, his views were a bit more liberal than those of the more conservative people with whom he was serving. Ultimately, the experience stretched his faith through good conversations and connections with strong Christian men.

"I believe the trip helped me considerably more than I helped the program," he said. "Differences aside, we serve the people because we love them and want to meet their needs. Well drilling is a small part, but when God reaches out, He changes people's lives."

Mark says God is calling him to go back to the Medical Mission. "I know I can have an impact. The hospital has existed for 25 years, and we are looking at a water system that will last for the next 25 years. I want to be a part of that legacy."

Mark and his wife are not ready to retire, but they are planning for a future that will allow them to be more involved if God calls them. ■

Hospital training room



New well drilled for the hospital



Answering GOD'S CALL TO SERVE

"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?"

— Romans 10:14 (KJV)

PAUL BROSEY, TEAM LEADER, PERU

Friends in Action, International has provided various support mission work for more than six years in the interior regions of indigenous villages and Pucallpa, Peru, a highly populated lowland jungle region in Eastern Peru. We are blessed to have developed a relationship with Vann and Vanessa Brock, international workers in this remote region for 20 years.

Petra Mission Base Camp

Surrounded by the Amazon Rainforest, Pucallpa has limited transport access, with its most extensive transport being the Ucayali River. Yet, in this isolated region, the Brocks, with their three children, founded Petra Mission Base Camp, which houses and equips tribal-working church-planting missionaries.

Strategically placed near an aviation ministry base, the Brocks can bring supplies to the missionaries and the community. Petra has become a gathering spot for many mission teams, youth camps, and local churches.

Volunteers Answer the Call

Due to this continual expansion, the Brocks contacted FIA to help complete a new guest house. This past November, an FIA team of six new and returning volunteers answered the call to experience the joy of assisting missionaries to stay longer to share the Gospel with the unreached. Throughout our two weeks, God unified our team with the Brocks. We were one big family working together for the Kingdom of God.

FIA's main job was to finish installing the vinyl plank flooring, which required the old concrete floor to be scrapped and re-sanded to ensure a level and clean surface. We completed the floor installation in just a few days through strong team unity and encouragement! Next, we used a local solid wood, Quina, for the door jambs and trim. It required 70 pieces of 14 ft boards to complete!

When our team left Pucallpa, we had finished much work in the name of the Lord. Our team completed the

caulking, the final painting of the woodwork, most plumbing hookups for the bathrooms, and the electrical work. We hung doors and finished installing the house's electrical fixtures. The only part that needed to be completed was the installation of the kitchen cabinets and bathroom vanities, as these have yet to be built.

Selfless Obedience

Christians are called to serve and sacrifice even when nothing is in it for them. Jesus calls us to sacrifice our comforts so that others might be blessed. The Brocks answered Jesus' call to service and sacrifice many years ago. They have suffered many personal losses, lived without electricity and running water, and survived a home invasion.

FIA field workers have experienced some of the same trials. Volunteers on short-term trips sacrifice vacation time or time with family. Despite these sacrifices, may we continue to say "yes" to the call of service God places on our hearts, for we may never know the impact they may have on His glory. ■



The Brock family



New flooring being installed



Hunter, volunteer, painting door jambs

2025 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.

DOMESTIC

MISSOURI | March, May, November

- 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.

INTERNATIONAL

WELL DRILLING

WEST AFRICA | March, April

- Drilling water wells to support partner ministries.
- Need general labor and manpower.

MEXICO | April, November

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

CONSTRUCTION

NICARAGUA

March, April

- Community Center development (pouring concrete flooring, basic septic/water management, laying/finishing cement block walls, concrete pillars and bond beams).
- Need mason, concrete, plumbing and general laborers.

August

- Finish carpentry (tables, benches, doors, cabinets) to complete the work on the Community Center development.
- Need finish carpenters and general laborers.

November

- General construction (assisting the general construction & development of the Rama community).
- Need plumbers, builders, and general laborers.

UGANDA | February

- Clinic construction and masonry.
- Need general construction, masonry, labor, and agriculture.

VANUATU | August, September

- Services workshop construction (steel frame, truss & roof).
- Need welders, fabrication, and general laborers.

MECHANICS

PAPUA NEW GUINEA | February

- Equipment and vehicle maintenance (small engine repair, generator, large equipment mechanics, automotive service.)

VANUATU | April

- Equipment and automotive service.
- Need heavy equipment mechanics, hydraulic technicians, and vehicle electrical systems experts.

WEST AFRICA | September

- Diesel engine/equipment service and repair, and trailer fabrication.
- Need heavy equipment mechanics, and fabricators/welder.

MEXICO | April, November

- Hospital vehicle & equipment/generator servicing.
- Need general laborers, equipment service and automotive service specialists.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

VANUATU

March or April (date not finalized)

- Installing an off-grid power supply for FIA base.
- Need general laborers, solar/electrical technicians, welding, and fabrication skills.

July

- Remote water distribution project.
- Village-level community assessments and rainwater harvesting project.
- Need surveyors, water resource engineers, and general laborers.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA | February

- Assembly and installation of pre-engineered steel frame aviation hangar.
- Need steel-frame builders, welders and general laborers.



SCAN TO LEARN
MORE ABOUT
TRIPS:

FIAintl.org/get-involved

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.

Full-Time International Workers

Is the Lord leading you to jump all-in to serve alongside our mission partners as a full-time international worker? Our team is growing, and we are ready to welcome you!

For more information and to start the conversation:

Canadians, email FIA-CAN@fiaintl.org
Americans, email FIA-USA@fiaintl.org

Open postings include Well Drilling (West Africa), Builder (Papua New Guinea & Vanuatu), Mechanic (West Africa & Papua New Guinea), Sustainable Income Project Developer (Bolivia), Farm Manager (Vanuatu)



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