



# *the* CHALLENGE

MOVING EARTH TO SHARE HEAVEN **MARCH 2026**

**Trusting  
God in  
Deep Water  
NICARAGUA**

**Seeing the Hand  
of the Lord**

**No Hope...  
KNOW Hope**

**Powering the  
Minsitry**

**2026 Trip  
Opportunities**

**The Prayer  
Collective**



# Seeing the Hand of the Lord

A MESSAGE FROM TIM JOHNSTON, FIA DIRECTOR OF PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



Isaiah 41:20 (NKJV)

**“That they may see and know, and consider and understand together, that the hand of the Lord has done this, and the Holy One of Israel has created it.”**

As Friends in Action serves in the hidden places of the world, one of our core values is to demonstrate the love of Christ to the people we serve. Our desire is to portray Christ’s love in each project that we pursue. We want the people of Africa, Bolivia, Nicaragua, and beyond to know that God’s love for them is so great that He sent us from across the world to minister to them.

## Well Drilling

The drilling of water wells has been a powerful tool to demonstrate God’s love to the people. As our teams serve the indigenous and national people, we find them often asking why? Why have you come from so far to help us, and why do you care? As the people watch the teams work hard and laugh together, they begin to sense their joy and dedication. They can’t help but wonder why their own religious leaders don’t help them in a similar way.

For many, it’s the first time in their life to experience God’s love in a tangible way, and they are drawn to it with a desire to experience more of such love and concern. It develops a hunger and a seeking that only God can place in their hearts as He stirs in their souls and draws them to Himself.

We have seen the hardened hearts of men soften and become willing to listen to God’s word like never before when they see the flowing water from a newly drilled well. Like Isaiah 41:20 says: “That they may see and know, and consider and understand together, that the hand of the Lord has done this, and the Holy One of Israel has created it.”

As the clean water flows into their hands and water basins, the people rejoice, knowing God has provided for them even though they are just ordinary people.

## Jesus, the Source of Living Water

That truly is the effort of Friends in Action as we engage in water projects in Nicaragua, Africa, Bolivia, and around the world. Our desire is that no matter which people group we provide water for, all will see and know that God was the one who provided for them, both physical and Living Water.

## Join Us in Prayer

This year, FIA has work teams scheduled to drill water wells in Nicaragua, Mexico, and West Africa, and we are supporting additional water projects in Vanuatu and Bolivia. While physical water is the objective, Living Water is the purpose. Pray that the Lord will use each work to show the people what the Lord has done for them, and that more souls will come to faith in the Good News of Jesus Christ. ■

**As the clean water flows into their hands and water basins, the people rejoice . . .**



# TRUSTING GOD IN DEEP WATER

DARREN COOK, FIA ASSOCIATE, CANADA

Late Saturday night in the Nicaraguan jungle, we were racing against time. The well casing had to go in immediately. If we didn't get it secured before we left, everything we'd worked for could collapse. Literally.



I watched as the team worked in the darkness, sweat dripping despite the cool air. We'd spent days negotiating locations with the Rama Commission, fought with equipment that didn't work, hauled water to a remote drill site, and pushed a drill bit deeper into the earth than we'd thought possible. And now, in this final critical moment, we were about to find out if it was all worth it.

When that casing finally slid into place, I felt something release in my chest. Even if that was the last thing we accomplished on this trip, we'd succeeded. The well wouldn't collapse. Clean water would flow.

## How I Got Here

I first heard about FIA in 2021 when I worked together with Matt Durkee (Executive Director of FIA) on a building project for Ethnos360 in Canada. Matt has a way of drawing you into the FIA vision; he doesn't just tell you about water wells and remote villages. He shows you how practical service becomes a doorway for the Gospel. After several conversations and much prayer, I became an FIA associate in 2024 and began working in the ministry.

This trip to Nicaragua was a two-week trip to work alongside the Rama people. Our primary goals were to drill two water wells and finish some additional welding projects. Most of our team had been to Nicaragua before, so they knew what to expect with the food, the climate, and the insect bites, which was helpful for me as the Team Lead. Before we left, we spent a lot of time praying and preparing, making sure everyone was ready.

But no amount of preparation fully prepares you for what God will teach you in the field.



## When Plans Meet Reality

When we arrived in Nicaragua, it took us longer than expected to work out our first drilling location with the Rama Commission. We quickly learned that drilling wells on private lots would not be a good idea for long term use, which limited our potential locations. It took back-and-forth communication with the Rama Commission, Matt Durkee, and Tim Johnston, to finally settle on our first location. By then, our drilling window had narrowed.

Well drilling is difficult, especially in remote locations with limited tools. You need massive amounts of water to keep the drill bit cool and flush out cuttings, and every gallon of water must be hauled to the site. Before we left for the trip, we had shipped a part we needed, the "quill", to Nicaragua. The quill is the component that manages heavy drilling loads and facilitates precise depth control. However, when we received the part after our arrival, we found it was the wrong size, making it completely incompatible. We identified the error and ordered a replacement for the next trip, but that didn't help us now. So...we improvised. We fixed up the old quill we had on-site and made it work.

When we finally started drilling, something remarkable happened; we went deeper than anticipated. Much deeper. And when we measured the flow rate, the well was producing two and a half gallons per minute, which is excellent for this area!

## Working Shoulder to Shoulder

Every day as we worked, a crew of Rama men worked alongside us. And every day, I learned something from them. We got to hear them share their powerful testimonies during our morning devotions and connected as the global church when we prayed together for a local man who'd fallen from a tree. Many of the Rama are believers, part of the local church that is on the island. They know why we're here and these water projects give them a tangible way to tell others about God's love and provision.

## A Miracle

One day as we were working, the generator was having issues and wouldn't start. We were trying to troubleshoot the problem and do everything we could think of to fix it, but failed. Finally, we got in touch with one of our team members' friends back in the States, someone with technical expertise. He asked us to take some voltage



readings. While we were taking them, the voltage started climbing higher and higher, right to where it was supposed to be. And suddenly, without us doing anything, the generator roared to life.

We looked at each other, knowing we hadn't fixed anything; we hadn't replaced a single part. The only explanation we had was prayer.

Throughout this trip, God taught me something profound. He can use our earthly vessels for His honor and glory when we humbly submit to Him. We can only do what we can do, and the final result belongs to God. Knowing that frees us to work with joy, trusting Him for outcomes we can't control.



## What's Next

The well still needs its pump installed, so the full impact is yet to come. But we're already seeing what's possible. We want to keep drilling more wells, finish the community center, and most of all, see the Rama church flourish as they grow in their ownership of the community. ■

# No hope ...*KNOW* Hope

## Ever Wonder How One Word Can Change Eternity?

MIKE & RUTH BUTLER, FIA FIELD LEADERS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Shortly after we returned to Wewak, PNG, in late December 2025, Mike went down to the wharf (loading dock) to check on a shipment for New Tribes Mission. He greeted the guard at the gate, saying, "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!"

Sadly, the response wasn't what Mike expected. "I have no hope, there's no hope," said the guard. Right away, Mike knew what the guard needed, but it was too busy at the gate, so he came home, already planning to return. The next afternoon, Mike went back with a Bible and another book, *The Story that Matters*, an easy-to-read chronological story of the Bible. Here's what happened next.

"I stopped at the port and saw my guard friend again," said Mike. "He



was sitting, so I kneeled in front of him and said, 'Remember yesterday you said you had no hope when I wished you Happy New Year?' The guard nodded. 'Today, I'm bringing you hope! A story about a Saviour we celebrate at Christmas, born to have a relationship with you forever and ever. He wants you to know Him, so when your time in this temporary world is done, you will spend forever with Him if you believe in Him and change your sinful direction. If you don't believe in Him, you will die still in your sins and spend forever apart from Him. This little book is about the greatest hope we can have, and here's a Bible to follow along.'"

The guard nodded and seemed very thankful. Then, two more men moved in and asked for a Bible and a *Story that Matters* book as well. "They all seemed very grateful that I stopped and talked with them," said Mike.

Mike left that day feeling tremendously blessed that we have the hope of Jesus to share with people who desperately need it. We were also so grateful that the Lord provided a short break with all the trucks coming and going that day at the port, so Mike had enough time to share!

A couple of weeks later, Mike needed to check on another shipment. He encountered the same guard and found out his name is Peter. Peter told Mike he'd given his book and Bible away to a family member who wanted them. He asked if he could please have more copies for himself. "Yes, of course!" said Mike.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Romans 15:13 (NKJV)

"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."



## From No Hope to *KNOW* Hope!

God has placed our ministry in the ideal location. The shipping company we receive containers from is directly across the road, and the wharf is a short distance down the road. We are in the right place to manage the shipping of supplies for missionaries, allowing them to be effective in their ministries.

Yet along with that practical assistance, we often encounter meaningful moments such as the opportunity to share the Good News with a security guard at the wharf. It's all part of building God's kingdom here in Papua New Guinea. We're so grateful to be back in Wewak serving the Lord, however and wherever He leads! ■

# Powering the Ministry

DARRELL STONE, FIA ASSOCIATE, CANADA

January 1st, 1973, was the day the Lord put Roger Wingfield in my life, a friendship that would span decades and eventually lead me to Friends in Action. After I retired in January 2011, Roger introduced me to FIA, and I joined the Canadian FIA Board in 2012, now serving as an associate. Over the years, God has used mission trips to shape my faith and expand my understanding of His work around the world.



This recent trip to Ethnos360 Ranch in Chihuahua, Mexico, brought together a team the Lord had been preparing: Paul and Paula Jarot, Ron and Arlene Heasman, and others He'd connected through previous partnerships. While the work ahead was important, I soon discovered that God had just as much to teach us through the journey itself.

## Going to Mexico

Our trip started with challenges before we even left home. Weather conditions grounded flights and scattered our team across multiple days of arrival. At first, the delays felt frustrating. But looking back, I can see God's hand in it. Those staggered arrivals gave some of us more time at the Ranch than we'd originally planned. What seemed like chaos was God rearranging our plans for His purposes.

Our goal for the trip was clear: assist with electrical infrastructure at the Ranch. However, our task list was ambitious. Correcting safety issues, upgrading electrical systems, rewiring buildings, and installing new wiring in the Ranch workshop was a lot to complete for a small team. But we prioritized the projects and tackled them one at a time.

## Electrical Work

Before our arrival, Ethnos360 had purchased most of the required equipment we needed for our projects, allowing us to work efficiently from day one. Each day, the work varied from installing new wiring, to adding additional lighting in the woodworking shop, to upgrading electrical systems for the incoming five services and existing buildings, all to ensure reliable electricity for the mission staff and students. The project that felt the most significant was the electrical work done in the woodworking shop. After its completion, students will have hands-on teaching involvement as they learn practical skills alongside their biblical training. This will better prepare them for life in the mission field!

## Supporting Future Missionaries

Each morning before work began, God blessed our devotion times. Team members shared their testimonies and life experiences, setting the tone for everything that followed. One morning, we studied 2 Corinthians 8:1-16, which talks about generosity, giving oneself first to God, then generously to others in need. That truth resonated deeply as I thought about the missionaries we were serving, people who had given their entire lives to reach the lost in Mexico.

I'm task-focused by nature. Give me a project list, and I'll work through it efficiently. But this trip reminded me of something I often forget: the work we accomplish is important, but the relationships we build and the encouragement we offer are equally vital. It's a challenge for me to slow down and understand how God has led each person on the team, and how He's shaping the missionaries we serve. But when I do, I'm always grateful that I made the effort.

## Worship Across Cultures

On Sundays, we were blessed to attend two different Spanish-speaking congregations that welcomed us with warm handshakes and genuine smiles. Even though I couldn't understand every word, something deeply encouraging happened as we worshiped together. We heard familiar melodies sung in a different language. We watched people flip through well-worn Bibles, pages marked with highlights and underlined verses, following along intently as the pastor preached. In that moment, it hit me: the body of Christ truly is global. Worship transcends language barriers. We may speak different tongues, but we serve the same Lord.

## Looking Forward

The most rewarding part of the trip wasn't checking items off the task list; it was working shoulder-to-shoulder with brothers and sisters in Christ who have dedicated their lives to reaching the lost. Yes, having proper tools to complete jobs safely was satisfying. But the eternal impact? That comes from supporting those training future missionaries who will carry the Gospel to unreached people groups. That's what truly matters.

Lord willing, Ethnos360 will continue engaging in projects that require skilled trades, and I hope FIA will have many more opportunities to serve alongside them. Ethnos360 has built a strong presence in Chihuahua, but when you consider the 260 different dialects scattered throughout Mexico, the mission field is immense.

Pray that God will challenge more people to go to the mission field in Mexico. Pray for missionary safety as they venture out to harder-to-reach people groups. And pray that the electrical infrastructure we helped establish will continue serving Ethnos360's mission of equipping workers to take the Gospel to every tribe and tongue. ■



### Romans 10:14-15 (NKJV)

“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? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!’”

# 2026 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.

## INTERNATIONAL

### WEST AFRICA |

**House Construction/Steel Fabrication: May 6 – 16**

- Welding project and electrical, plumbing, and painting on an intern house.
- Need welders, plumbers, painters, and electricians

### NICARAGUA |

**Well Drilling: April 11 – 25**

- Need a laborer to assist with well drilling

**Community Dev. Construction Teams: May 9 – 23**

- Working on doors/windows and plumbing in the community kitchen
- Need carpenters, general laborers, and plumbers

### VANUATU |

**Mechanic Teams: Sept.**

- Mechanical maintenance
- Need mechanics

**2 Water Dev. Construction Teams: Aug. & Sept.**

- Clearing for pipelines and drilling
- Needed Operators and general laborers

### MEXICO |

**Well Drilling Team & Mechanic Team: April & Nov.**

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

### UGANDA |

**General Construction & Welding for a Greenhouse: May 15 – 29**

- Working on renovations to the medical clinic and upgrading a greenhouse
- Needed welders, general laborers

## DOMESTIC

### MISSOURI |

**Ethnos360: May 10 – 16 & Nov. 7 – 14**

- Interior remodel/renovation work of residential dwellings at Ethnos360 mission training center in Camdenton, MO
- Need general laborers, interior finishing, plumbing, and electrical workers.



**SCAN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TRIPS:**  
[FIAintl.org/get-involved](https://fiaintl.org/get-involved)



Step into The Prayer Collective and help carry FIA's global ministry through faithful prayer. Each month, you'll receive specific prayer requests for mission workers, key projects, emerging opportunities, and unreached communities.

**Contact us at [FIA-usa@fiaintl.org](mailto:FIA-usa@fiaintl.org)** to join us in what God is doing around the world—shaping Kingdom impact through prayer.



**SCAN TO JOIN US IN PRAYER**



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