



# *the* CHALLENGE

MOVING EARTH TO SHARE HEAVEN JUNE 2026

**Faithful Through Every  
Depth: Pioneering  
Wells for the Gospel**

**WEST AFRICA**

**It Takes More  
Than a Drill**

**Seven Years  
Later: Returning  
to the Rama**

**Twenty Years of  
Dorcas House:  
A Steady Light**

**2026 Trip  
Opportunities**

**The Prayer  
Collective**





# It Takes More Than a Drill

A MESSAGE FROM ANDY BACHERT, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER (COO)

**H**ave you ever considered what happens between the time you turn on the faucet and the moment water flows? For most of us in North America, the answer is, *not much*. We reach, we turn, it flows. We don't think twice about what made that possible. We just expect it to be there. And it is.

For a village in Vanuatu, West Africa, or Central America, the answer looks completely different. Before a single drop of clean water reaches that community, a lot has to happen.

Field leaders have to survey the site, boots on the ground, long before the drill ever arrives. Someone has to coordinate the team, manage the schedule, and make sure the right people are on the right plane. And then, someone has to actually go, to leave comforts, to travel far, and get boots on the ground.

*Different people. Different roles. One well.*

**In 2026, Friends in Action International is drilling wells in all three of those regions.** Three sets of logistics. Three communities waiting. And behind every one of those wells is the same truth: it takes more than a drill.

It takes the field partner who spent years earning trust in a village long before the equipment arrived. It takes the coordinator who manages the team schedule and never sets foot on the plane. It takes the donor who gave before they knew exactly where the money was going. It takes the volunteer to leave his family and do life in a bush location. It takes the prayer warrior who lifted up a community they've never seen.

Every single one of those roles matters. Remove any one of them, and the water doesn't flow.

But here's where I'm going when thinking about this year's water initiatives. As significant as clean water is, and it is genuinely, life-alteringly significant, it could still run out.

The well we drill this year will need maintenance. It will age. The community will grow, the demand will increase, and someday someone will have to come back and drill again. Physical water, no matter how clean, no matter how deep, no matter how hard-won, is temporary. It satisfies for a season. And then thirst returns.

Jesus said something about this once—to a woman who had come to draw water in the heat of the day, alone, at a well in Samaria.

*"Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life'" (John 4:13-14, ESV).*

She came for water. She left with something she didn't know how to ask for.

That's the story underneath every well we drill. The community knows they need clean water. They've walked miles for it. They've watched children get sick without it. The need is real, and it is urgent, and we take it seriously. But when our teams show up, work alongside local people, when they eat together and sweat together and pray together, something else becomes available. Something that doesn't rust, doesn't run dry, doesn't need a maintenance visit in five years.

**The physical well creates the relationship. The relationship creates an open door. The open door is where the gospel enters.**

So when you gave to FIA, when you wrote that check or showed up at the banquet and decided you were in, you didn't just support a drilling project. You supported the coordinator in keeping the schedule. You funded the volunteer's plane ticket. You invested months of relationship-building that earned the village's trust and let us in. You funded the moment when someone in Vanuatu, or West Africa, or Central America sat across from one of our team members and heard, maybe for the first time, that there is water that never runs out.

**You were part of drilling for both physical and spiritual life.**

That's what it means to be part of the body of Christ doing kingdom work. Not every part goes to the field. Not every part holds the drill. But every part is essential, and every part is present in the water that comes up, physical and living.

So the next time you turn on that faucet and water flows without a second thought, remember. Remember the communities in Vanuatu, West Africa, and Central America who are waiting for that moment. Pray for the teams, the field partners, the coordinators, and the volunteers who are making it possible. And give because the well doesn't get drilled without you, and the Living Water doesn't reach that village without the physical well.

*Different people. Different roles. One mission.* ■

# FAITHFUL THROUGH EVERY DEPTH: PIONEERING WELLS FOR THE GOSPEL

JEREMY EFFLER, WEST AFRICA FIELD LEADER

The drill bit hit water at 280 feet, but it was not enough. We pushed deeper, and the community gathered around the pipe, watching the flow rise foot by foot. It is a suspenseful thing: water coming up, but no one yet knowing if the aquifer below will give enough.

At 350 feet, the flow finally came in strong and clean. The women of the village began to sing and dance. They had been waiting and praying for that water for years, and



they knew the sight of an answered prayer. It was the deepest well we drilled in West Africa this year, and standing with the community elders, hands and arms covered in dust, I knew every foot had been worth the work.

## From the Pulpit to the Drill Rig

I pastored in the United States for fourteen years before God called my family to the field. After a short-term mission trip in 2011, we fasted and prayed, and we had every confidence the Lord was sending us to West Africa. We arrived in 2017 with no idea how to drill a well, only the conviction that water opens hearts that a sermon alone sometimes cannot. Since 2020, I have served as FIA's West Africa Field Leader. I have preached the gospel from the platform of the drill rig many times to Muslim villagers who would never set foot in a church. When we drill, we are literally moving earth to share heaven.

## The Work and the Partnership

In 2026, our team completed eight wells. Local pastors and church partners send requests, and Matt Walsh (FIA Associate) and I visit each site to walk the land, examine the geology, and pray.

### The terms are simple:

- 1 The water must serve the **gospel**.
- 2 The **community** must have access to the water from the well.
- 3 The people themselves must **own a share of the work**, often paying for the pump and water lines, so the project takes root in their hands, not ours.

Every site is different. I have never drilled two holes that are the same. Each one is its own conversation with the soil and the Lord of the harvest.

## A Pastor's Servant Heart

The deepest well of the year arrived by surprise. A local pastor was guiding us from one well to the next when, instead of his own church, he turned the truck toward a brother's. His friend, the pastor of that second village, was handicapped and could not have come to meet us himself. The guiding pastor's own community was waiting up to five days for water, and by any measure, his well should have come first. He chose otherwise. His brother's village, he told me, needed it more.

We drilled in that village for many days. The community came out, and we shared the gospel and prayed with the leaders. You could feel God moving in their welcome. When the water came at 350 feet, the women lifted their voices, and we lifted our hands together in praise.

## What God Has Taught Me

For every well we celebrate, there are losses I do not write home about. We once drilled for three months at our own mission station, the hardest well I have ever attempted. At one point, 320 feet of drill rods sat stuck in the hole, and we had exhausted every trick we knew. After a sleepless night, I returned to the rig at sunrise and poured out my heart aloud to the Lord. An onlooker would have thought me crazy. Just me, God, and the drill rig. I cannot explain what happened next, only that I prayed, and the rods came free. It was only God!

We kept drilling past 500 feet. In the end, a seal in the upper casing failed, and salt water contaminated the well. The most painful moments are often where God is teaching you the most. He showed me I had not surrendered the outcomes to Him. In the Western world, we measure success by the result. In Scripture, success is faithfulness to the God who saves.

## The Long View

If you meet a believer here who is over thirty, almost certainly he or she is the first in their family. Even most of our pastors are first-generation. We are still in the years of removing stones and trees, plowing a field that has never been farmed. The harvest will come, but it will take time. Pray for us that God would raise a new generation of missionaries and that He would keep us faithful through the wins and the losses. He is the same in both. He is the treasure in the field, the pearl of great price, and every well we drill invites another soul to taste and see that He is good. ■



# Seven Years Later: Returning to the Rama

BETTY NISSLEY, TEAM COORDINATOR, FIA USA



NICARAGUA

Seven years ago, I stood on Rama Cay teaching a children's VBS program, surrounded by little ones learning songs and Bible stories for the very first time. Back then, services were led by outsiders, and lessons were delivered to passive listeners who rarely engaged. We were simply showing up, trusting God to do what only He can do.

This year, when I returned to Nicaragua with FIA, I walked into a transformation I never could have imagined.



## A Church Reborn

The biggest change was in the church itself, Group 122, named after James 1:22. They now meet in the community center FIA helped build, and the difference is breathtaking. Church leaders arrive early to clean and set up, taking pride in what God has given them.

Before the service begins, people gather in small groups of two to six

and pray together. Then worship begins in Rama Creole, with no song list and no official song leader. Two of the men turn to the congregation and ask, "What song do you want to sing?" And the people respond. The Rama are gentle, quiet, and non-confrontational by nature; speaking up is uncomfortable, and praying out loud is even harder. But God is stretching them, and I have watched it happen with my own eyes.

### The services that outsiders once taught are now entirely Rama-led.

The Rama are discipling the Rama. For years, we asked God to raise leaders from within, and now I sit in the back and watch Him answer. For the first time, the church is also taking an offering, using those funds to help people in need. Transforming from a body that receives to a body that gives abundantly.

## A Community Transformed

The physical changes are just as striking. Seven years ago, only a few people lived on the mainland. Today, there is a thriving community of over ten homes. Once a week, the people gather at 4 a.m. to pray together. They make decisions through what they call "the Commission," and take pride in their homes and land. The bathhouse

FIA helped build is always in use, with women doing laundry together and doing life shoulder to shoulder. This is a big change for the Rama people. They tend to be a culture that turns inward, but here God is turning hearts outward.

While we drilled another well, two Rama men chose to leave their own home projects to join the work, quietly putting their neighbors before themselves. One man, not even part of the church, stayed with us through an entire prayer session as we waited for guidance from Matt Durkee who was in Vanuatu. He stood with us until we said, "Amen."



## The Spring of Living Water

How I saw God at work has stayed with me since I came home. Seven years ago, I taught children's VBS and wondered what seeds were being planted. Today, I see a church that prays together, learns together, sacrifices for one another, and leads itself. I see the Rama discipling the Rama. I see a community that was once a jungle now flourishing with homes, families, and faith.

What an amazing God we serve. ■



# Twenty Years of Dorcas House: A Steady Light

In a part of West Africa where Christian ministry operates under heavy pressure, a quiet building has kept its lights on for nearly twenty years. Inside, around twenty young women between seventeen and twenty-five live and learn together. They are reading and writing, sewing and gardening, cooking and cleaning, studying Scripture and memorizing verses. This building is called Dorcas House.



## A House Named for Dorcas

The name comes from Acts 9:36, where a woman in the early church was known for her acts of service and care for the poor.

**The program named for her lives out that legacy, training young women in four areas at once:**



**VOCATIONAL SKILLS** like sewing, cloth dyeing, soap-making, gardening, and animal husbandry



**LITERACY & BASIC BUSINESS** education for women who often have had little or no formal schooling



**LIFE SKILLS** in hygiene, health, and household management



**BIBLE STUDY**, Scripture memory, and discipleship rooted in identity in Christ.

**After two years, each graduate walks home with two gifts:** a treadle sewing machine, which gives her the means to support herself and her family, and a Bible, which holds the words that can save her soul.

## Twenty Years of Faithful Work

Dorcas House launched in 2008. In the years since, the country around it has been through one of the most difficult chapters in its modern history. A coup reshaped the government. Armed groups have displaced millions of people, attacked churches, and martyred pastors. The government has dissolved more than 100 civil society organizations and expelled international aid agencies. In a place where the door to Christian work has narrowed to a

crack, Dorcas House has stayed open. The local believers who run the program have continued to teach, feed, and disciple women year after year. Even in this hard chapter, the local church has remained resilient, with requests for baptisms continuing to rise.

## Where the Graduates Go

More than 200 young women have now graduated from Dorcas House. Some are seamstresses in their own villages, sewing for their neighbors and mending clothes for children. Some run small home businesses that feed their families. Many live as quiet believers in places where outside missionaries cannot easily go, sharing the love of Christ with whoever sits beside them at the sewing table.

The program teaches its students to be change agents in their communities, but it is the work itself that brings about the change. Each woman who arrives orphaned, abandoned, or marginalized leaves with skills, with a sewing machine, with a Bible, and with the dignity of having been seen by God.

## A Church on the Property

This spring marked something new. On March 9, a fresh cohort of twenty young women began the two-year program. And on the same property where Dorcas House has stood for nearly two decades, a local church has been planted. Earlier this month, pastors from the surrounding region gathered there to celebrate the new congregation and to strengthen one another in gospel work under hard conditions.

The same grounds that have been a safe place for women have become a spiritual home for the surrounding community. The president of the national church recently said that the greatest need is to pray for the terrorists, that they would come to know Jesus.

## The Partnership

FIA serves as a U.S. partner for Dorcas House, helping fund the daily operations of the program. Approximately \$50 per month covers one woman's food, lodging, hygiene, medical care, supplies, and transportation. The total monthly budget runs around \$1,500. It is a small number for the size of what God is doing through it. Monthly donors are quite literally feeding, sheltering, and discipling each woman by name.

For nearly twenty years, in a part of the world the news rarely talks about, Dorcas House has remained a steady light. Its doors are still open. Its lights are still on. And the women who pass through them are carrying that light back to their villages, one stitch and one verse at a time. ■



# 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

### NICARAGUA |

**Community Dev. Construction Teams: Nov.**

- 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
- Team is filled

### MEXICO |

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

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

### MEXICO ETHNOS360 |

**Electrical Team: Oct.**

- Electrical assistance with various buildings on site
- Need electricians

## DOMESTIC

### MISSOURI |

**Ethnos360: Nov. 7 – 14**

- Interior remodel/renovation work of residential dwellings at Ethnos360 mission training center in Camdenton, MO
- Need general laborers

## PARTNER WITH FRIENDS IN ACTION

Every story in these pages is made possible by the Lord's faithfulness and fueled by the incredible partners who share our vision of seeing lives transformed through practical service and the hope of the gospel. *Thank you!*



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



SCAN TO PARTNER WITH FIA:  
[FIAintl.org/give](https://FIAintl.org/give)



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.

Scan the QR code below or email us at

[FIAprayercollective@fiintl.org](mailto:FIAprayercollective@fiintl.org) to join us in what God is doing around the world—shaping Kingdom impact through prayer.



SCAN TO JOIN US IN PRAYER



### United States Headquarters

✉ PO Box 323, Elizabethtown, PA 17022

📍 3950 E Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057

Phone: 717.546.0208

USA Email: [FIA-USA@fiintl.org](mailto:FIA-USA@fiintl.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](mailto:office.fiac@gmail.com)

Charity Number: 818791212RR0001

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