



Guatemala Report 2020



**Escuela El Suquite,
Parcelamiento Arizona, Parcela #38**

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF WEST LAFAYETTE

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY

For the 80 students and teachers at Escuela El Suquite, the water crisis was a daily reality. The school relied upon piped water stored in an overhead tank. The water from the piped system was unsafe for drinking, as was the water from ten hand-dug wells in other locations throughout the community. The students and teachers had problems collecting sufficient water. Because the water from their system was unsafe, they could only use it for hygiene and sanitation. The school strove to buy water so that the students would have water to drink. But the purified water was difficult for them to afford and not always possible.

Children at the school were often thirsty or ill from drinking unsafe water out of desperation. They suffered from miserable physical symptoms of water-related illnesses but also lost time and energy studying when they were ill at home. The water crisis was weakening the school's mission to provide a safe and effective learning environment. Something needed to change.



THE SCHOOL'S WATER SYSTEM PROVIDED UNSAFE WATER.



THE COMMUNITY IS IN A RURAL AREA.

CONSTRUCTION

Leaders from the community came together to find a resolution to their problem. They heard about the work that Living Water International was doing in the region and decided to request their aid. Living Water Guatemala responded by making a visit, surveying the area, and listening to community stories. It became clear that the community was in desperate need of a safe water source and that the administrators were prepared to collaboratively manage a solution. The project was soon set in motion thanks to you, Calvary Baptist Church of West Lafayette!

The drilling team soon returned to the community along with a Living Water Trips team. They set to work drilling until they reached a safe water aquifer 26 meters deep. They flushed out the borehole to clear it of sedimentary rock debris, cased the borehole with PVC, formed a gravel pack, and treated the water. The well was complete!

COMMUNITY DETAILS

TOTAL WATER USERS:	350
MAIN WATER COLLECTORS:	students
LOCATION:	rural

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

ALTITUDE:	16 m
PUMP TYPE:	hand pump
PROJECT TYPE:	simple: one access point
DEPTH DRILLED:	55 m

WATER QUALITY TESTS

PH:	7
TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS:	165 ppm
HARDNESS:	0 ppm
COLIFORM BACTERIA:	absent



THE TEAM WORKS HARD ON DRILLING A BOREHOLE.



THE WELL IS COMPLETE!

SUSTAINABILITY

While the school ends the water crisis at the school, the whole community of 350 people will benefit from using it. The Living Water Guatemala staff also helped the community establish a plan for sustainable safe water management. They taught the community members how to use the new pump properly to prevent damage and how to store their water in a sanitary way. A local teacher volunteered to serve as the water caretaker. This means he will keep in contact with the Living Water staff about the functionality of the well. He will also collect a small, voluntary fee from each beneficiary household in order to save a fund to cover the cost of future repairs to the well. The community members were proud to begin championing community-driven solutions.



A TEACHER NAMED SAUL SERVES AS THE WATER CARETAKER.

"The key problem was the expense of trying to buy water and the illnesses the students suffered from drinking and using the poor quality water. It came out with mud and was not suitable for drinking. This meant we faced another threat: dehydration. Now this blessing of the new well solves these problems. All the children will drink from it without any problems. We will have peace now, because from now on, water will not make us sick."

—Saul Lopez Cruz, 36-year-old farmer

SANITATION & HYGIENE

The Living Water staff also led a sanitation and hygiene promotional activity for the school. The 80 students benefited from the interactive approach to the topics and the visual aids used in the lessons. They learned how to use their pump correctly and store their water safely. Next, they learned lessons about how they can make improvements in their personal hygiene. The participants learned how correct handwashing was the best way to safeguard themselves against germ spread and disease transmission. In a more prescriptive lesson, the staff explained how to remedy the vicious cycle of dehydration and diarrhea by administering a solution of safe water, salt, and sugar. However, the community members learned that they should see a reduced need for this oral rehydration solution as they begin to drink plenty of safe water. They also learned about preparing balanced meals and taking care of their teeth.



A LIVING WATER STAFF MEMBER TEACHES A HANDWASHING LESSON.

IN JESUS' NAME

The staff held an evangelism session for the community. The 207 residents in attendance learned how the safe water from their new well represents the *living water* of Jesus Christ. The team also distributed 24 Bibles for the community members to keep as gifts.

At the end of their time together, the Living Water staff and community members gathered to give thanks for the new well and commission it to the Kingdom of God. When they draw safe water from their well, the residents will remember how the love of God was shown to them through your generosity.



STUDENTS PRAY TOGETHER AT AN EVANGELISM SESSION.

YOUR IMPACT

By giving the gift of safe water, you gave the gift of life. Thank you, Calvary Baptist Church of West Lafayette! The students are free from the painful patterns associated with the water crisis. They can now focus on what is most important to them: learning, growing, and playing. The community members are confident their water supply from the well at the school will nourish them in the years to come as they continue to maintain their pump and improve hygiene. The future is brighter for the rising generation thanks to your gift of safe water!

By blessing the thirsty, you also blessed the Lord. Jesus said in Matthew 10:42 (NIV), “And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.”

Thank you for giving water, for life, in Jesus' name.