



**HONDURAS**  
*Santa Maria Community*  
**CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

# SANTA MARIA COMMUNITY

ARIZONA, HONDURAS

LATITUDE: 15.7743242, LONGITUDE: -86.8072316

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## ABOUT THE COMMUNITY

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Without safe water in their community, the 350 residents of Santa Maria lived in a constant state of anxiety. They relied on a nearby spring that would often dry up in the summer when water was most needed. They also tried to collect water in a tank, but these stores quickly dissipated in the summertime. When the stream and the tank dried up, residents had no choice but to walk to a river to collect water. Even the river tended to shrink during the summer.

Because of this, there never seemed to be enough water to see to the residents most basic needs. As a result, community members had to strictly ration their water. This meant that they often did not have enough water to bathe or to wash their clothes.

The small amount of water they were able to access was not fit for drinking. However, the residents had no choice but to do so. Upon consuming the water, residents often suffered from waterborne illnesses. These illnesses made it difficult for the community members to attend work. This made it hard for them to provide for their families. The illnesses were even more virulent in the children's younger immune system. They therefore often missed school which put their futures in jeopardy.

The residents felt trapped in a constant state of fear, worried that they would run out of water or that the water they consumed would make them sick. Something had to change. Yet the residents knew that they did not have the resources to make this change happen on their own. They began to look outward for help.

Leaders in the community heard about the work that Living Water International was doing in Honduras. They began to believe that the



This river is contaminated.

solution they needed might be forthcoming. They reached out to Living Water Honduras for help.

The Living Water staff was eager to find out how they might be of assistance. They traveled to Santa Marta to assess the situation. Living Water Honduras found that the community was in dire need of a safe water source and that the residents were ready to act as good stewards of a well. The Living Water staff announced that a new well would be built in the community because of you gift, Calvary Baptist Church.

You made it possible for the Living Water staff

WATER USERS	<b>350</b>
MAIN WATER COLLECTORS	<b>women and children</b>
LOCATION	<b>rural</b>

to return to the community with a drilling rig and a Living Water Trips team. The Living Water team drilled 24 meters into the earth to access an aquifer of safe water. They flushed the borehole of sedimentary debris before installing a PVC pipe, gravel pack, and sanitary seal. They treated the well with a shock chlorination and then tested the water's quality, which proved to be safe for drinking. The team capped the well with a hand pump and laid a concrete base. Finally, the well was complete, and the community members rejoiced!



The Living Water Trips team is hard at work.

## CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

ALTITUDE **49 m**

DEPTH DRILLED **24 m**

STATIC LEVEL **10 m**

CASING MATERIAL **PVC**

CASING DIAMETER **100 mm**

PUMP TYPE **HAND PUMP**

SANITARY SEAL DEPTH **18 m**

GRAVEL PACK DEPTH **18 m**

SHOCK CHLORINATION **YES**

PLATFORM MATERIAL **CONCRETE**

## WATER QUALITY TESTS

TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS **188 ppm**

PH **7**

HARDNESS **50 ppm**

COLIFORM BACTERIA **ABSENT**



Safe water now flows in San Maria!

## SUSTAINABILITY

Living Water Honduras guided the residents in creating a water committee to oversee the well. The committee was selected by the community and trained by the Living Water staff in methods of sustainability. The Living Water staff showed the committee how to care for the well on a day-to-day basis. They also helped the committee set up a maintenance schedule and an operating budget. The committee was entrusted by the community to collect small, agreed-upon fees for water usage. These fees will be used to cover any repairs or replacement parts the well might need in the future. The Living Water staff will stay in contact with the water committee to monitor the functionality of the well.



The water committee will oversee the well.

“Our community had no [safe] water. The little bit of water we did have [was not available for long]. We had a water tank, but it [would dry up] during the summertime. Some of the people in the community would go to the river and get water. Thanks to the water project, we now have water 24 hours a day. This water source has already helped the life of the people in the community. People are so grateful and thankful for the water project because they will longer have to worry about [accessing] water to drink [or] to have at their homes.”

— *Jenry Murillo, 28-year-old handyman*



Jenry is grateful to have safe water.

## **SANITATION & HYGIENE**

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Living Water Honduras held a sanitation and hygiene promotion activity in the community to help the residents understand how they could use their new well to improve their health. This activity was led by the Living Water Trips team and attended by 51 people. It was made up of a series of interactive lessons presented through visual aids, demonstrations, and conversations.

The Living Water team explained how water becomes contaminated and how germs spread. The residents learned it was possible to block contaminants and contagions from entering the human body through simple habits. The team emphasized the importance of handwashing in this regard and demonstrated correct handwashing methods. The residents then had the chance to hone the skill during a handwashing practice session.

Community members learned the importance of good oral hygiene. They were also shown how to prevent dehydration and diarrhea with an oral rehydration solution made out of safe water, salt, and sugar. Finally, the Living Water team demonstrated how to properly care for the well to ensure its longevity and safety.

## IN JESUS' NAME

Your gift facilitated a fresh outpouring of the *living water* of Christ in the community. This occurred during an evangelism session that was attended by 51 people. The Living Water Trips team shared several stories from the Bible with the community members that encouraged the participants' faith. These stories included, "The Parable of the Good Samaritan," "Jesus Washes the Disciples Feet," "The Miraculous Catch of Fish," and "The Samaritan Woman at the Well."

Living Water Honduras also held a well dedication ceremony at the well site. Forty-five community members gathered to celebrate the great things that God had done in their community through your generosity. During the ceremony, the Living Water staff presented the gospel and prayed for the community's needs. Together, everyone blessed the well, praying that it would be used for God's Kingdom purposes.

## YOUR IMPACT

Thank you for giving safe water to the San Maria community, Calvary Baptist Church! The residents no longer need to live in the anxiety and fear associated with the water crisis. They are free from having to depend on unreliable sources. No longer do they need to consume contaminated water that will make them sick. Instead, they can gather safe water in their community whenever they have need of it.

With the training you provided, the residents will be able to act as good stewards of their new water source. They will also be able to improve their health which will allow them to attend work and school more frequently. Furthermore, your gift went beyond the temporal to impact the eternal through the sharing of the gospel of Jesus Christ. All of this was possible because of your support, Calvary Baptist Church.

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



This residents will never forget your generosity!