



# HONDURAS

Escuela Jose Trinidad Cabanas  
Agua Blanca Community



*Calvary Baptist Church of West Lafayette*

# EESCUELA JOSE TRINIDAD CABANAS

## AGUA BLANCA COMMUNITY

ATLANDIA, TELA, HONDURAS

LATITUDE: 15 46.423 N, LONGITUDE: 087 29.648 W

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### ABOUT THE COMMUNITY

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The river that ran through Agua Blanca was scenic, but was unsafe to drink from. Sadly, the 35 households in the community had no other option, since this was their only water source. Women and children would walk through the community to the river and stand on the muddy banks, gathering as much water as they could carry at once for their families. This consumed hours of their days and exhausted their energy. Because mosquitoes nested near the river, those who collected water were at risk of contracting malaria.

But this was not the only risk associated with the water. Animals bathed in the river, and other contaminants were washed into it when there was rain. Because the river water was full of contagions, it was unsafe to collect and consume. Community members frequently suffered from bouts of water-related illnesses.

The effects of this water source were insidious in many ways. While it directly affected their physical well-being, the scarcity kept the community trapped in a reactive pattern of thinking. They oriented their daily schedules around the need to go to the river to draw water. In order to ration their water, they would often forgo sanitation and hygiene. This was not only a health issue, but a dignity issue. The community members knew that the water was making them ill, but they had no other option. They were trapped in these patterns.



This river is the community's previous water source.



Edilberta George, the principal of a local school, knew that a safe water source on the grounds of the school would benefit the whole community. She knew that she needed to reach out to Living Water Honduras. When the Living Water Honduras staff received her request, they agreed to visit the community to assess the feasibility of a project. They visited the school, Escuela Jose Trinidad Cabanas, and agreed that this would be the ideal place for a new water well. The staff also discerned that the community members were prepared to care for their new safe water resource to promote sustainability of safe water access.

HOUSEHOLDS	<b>35</b>
MAIN WATER COLLECTORS	<b>women, children</b>
TERRAIN	<b>rural</b>

They were glad to inform the community members that the project could begin soon because of your generosity, Calvary Baptist Church of West Lafayette.

The staff soon returned and set to work on the well project. They drilled until they reached a safe water aquifer at 23 meters deep, then flushed out the borehole to clear it of sedimentary rock debris. To everyone's delight, water gushed from the ground. Once the drilling team cased the borehole with PVC, formed a gravel pack, and mounted an Afridev hand pump, the well was complete!

The well was an answer to the community members' prayers. Yet, as they continued to spend time with the Living Water team, they realized that the safe water would exceed their expectations for an improved way of life.



The Living Water staff case the borehole with PVC.



Once the borehole is cased, the team works on installing the well head.

## CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

ALTITUDE **36 m**

DEPTH DRILLED **24 m**

STATIC LEVEL **5 m**

CASING EXTERNAL DIAMETER **100 mm**

CASING MATERIAL **PVC**

PUMP TYPE **AFRIDEV**

GRAVEL PACK DEPTH **18m**

SHOCK CHLORINATION **YES**

PLATFORM MATERIAL **CONCRETE**

## WATER QUALITY TESTS

TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS **118 ppm**

PH **7**

TOTAL HARDNESS LEVEL **120 ppm**

COLIFORM BACTERIA **NOT DETECTED**



The well is complete, and the community members are able to pump safe water for the first time!



## SUSTAINABILITY

The Living Water staff informed the community members about some next steps they could take to prepare for long-term sustainability of safe water access. Collectively, the residents formed a water committee including three men and three women. They would oversee the correct usage of the well and also collect a small fee per household for water usage in order to save a fund to cover the cost of future repairs to the well. The community members were proud of their potential to manage the water system themselves. This helped them to realize their potential to improve their way of life through community-driven solutions.



This is the community water committee.

"This school and community did not have access to [safe] water every day. We would usually collect water once a day, but sometimes we could not. The water was not suitable for human consumption. Local livestock and wild animals consumed the same water and bathed in it.

Now that we have the new well, we feel secure, and we know our children will have improved health. We can expect that this local school and the entire community may benefit from this project, and we hope that health issues [associated with] water may improve."

—Edilberta George, 45-year-old teacher



Edilberta (right) shares her perspective with a Living Water staff member.

## SANITATION & HYGIENE

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The Living Water staff worked to lead 77 community members in a sanitation and hygiene training held at Escuela Jose Trinidad Cabanas. The lessons were centered around discussion, demonstrations, visual aids, and interactive elements so that they resonated with the participants' everyday experiences.

The first concept they discussed was germ spread and disease transmission. The staff explained that the community members could prevent illness by washing their hands correctly at key times throughout the day. They then led a demonstration on the correct technique. They also gave the participants an opportunity to practice washing their hands correctly. Then, they transitioned into a discussion of salvation by explaining how outer cleaning of the body served as a metaphor for the way Christ purifies our hearts.

Another lesson used a specialized doll to demonstrate how the cyclical pattern of dehydration and diarrhea drains the human body. The staff then explained how they could mix an oral rehydration solution made of safe water, salt, and sugar to help those suffering from these symptoms. They distributed 24 spoons designed to measure out the correct ratios.

The participants also learned the importance of eating a healthy diet and brushing their teeth. The final lesson in the training taught methods of caring for the new water well, including safe storage of water and proper care of the pump.



The Living Water staff lead a sanitation and hygiene training session.

## IN JESUS' NAME

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It was the goal of the Living Water staff that the new safe water well would serve as a representation of the gift of grace Jesus gives—the *living water* that quenches the thirst of our souls. They therefore dedicated time to focusing on the word of God. The community members learned that just as the water from their well cleansed and sustained them, the Lord bathed their hearts with his grace so that they were made pure in his sight. The well project was evidence to the community members that the Lord provides, often through others' generosity.

The Living Water staff taught Scripture using a method called Bible storying. This method was designed to benefit oral-preference learners with narration, audience repetition, question-and-response, and skits. In this way, the community members learned the stories of "The Samaritan Woman at the Well," "The Parable of the Good Samaritan," and "Joshua the Spy."

At the end of their time with the community members, the Living Water staff led a well dedication ceremony. Together, they all gave thanks for the way the Lord had foreseen both the community's need and the generosity of those who would provide a solution. They prayed that the well would continue to nourish the community members' bodies and restore hope to the community of Agua Blanca.



The Living Water staff members also lead a gospel proclamation activity that involves interactive elements.



## YOUR IMPACT

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Thank you for the incredible gift you have given to Agua Blanca, Calvary Baptist Church of West Lafayette. Your church's name is now synonymous with hope, compassion, and generosity in the community. The safe water will have ripple effects. While your gift put an end to thirst, water scarcity, and water-related illness, it also eased the deeper, underlying problem of reactive thinking, fear, and hopelessness.

The residents are no longer constrained by water rationing or the exhausting task of drawing water from the river. Instead of worrying that the water they were drinking would make them ill, they were now confident that the safe water from their well would nourish and cleanse them. You have transformed this community from the ground up.

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



Thank you for your generous gift!