

# Fishers of Men Well Drilling Project

## Detailed Introduction

If you want a more concise summary, visit [520life.org/wellproject](http://520life.org/wellproject).  
To see a few clips of the well rig, watch [this YouTube video](#).

**H**undreds of villages, many of which have little or no access to the gospel, make up our indigenous region of Mexico. Families here are being torn apart by the high number of men moving to the United States for years at a time to work. Many men start new families there and never return. Indigenous leaders of small churches in villages often struggle to provide for their families. A number of churches have fallen apart after their leaders moved out of the state or out of the country to find better work.

### BUT WHAT IF...

...we could start a business to provide jobs for men so their families wouldn't be torn apart by them going to the U.S. to work?

**And what if** the profits from that first business could be used to start other businesses that start other businesses and employ more and more men?

**Then what if** we discipled all the men who were working with us, training them in obedience to Christ and imparting good family skills?

**What if** we took those disciples from the work program who are truly committing themselves to Christ and trained them to be church planters?

**Could we** end up with a multiplying army of newly equipped church planters who have businesses with which to support themselves?

**We believe** the answer is YES! That's the vision behind our well drilling project.

### Let's answer some questions you may have:

#### Who is Fishers of Men?

Fishers of Men is a Mexican nonprofit organization run by [our cross-cultural church planting team](#). Through FOM, we are creating a work program for life transformation in our indigenous region of Mexico. The vision for the program is to give men (and maybe women) steady employment, teach them skills they can use to support themselves financially, and train them to make reproducing disciples.

#### What's the purpose of your cross-cultural team?

Church planting. Our indigenous region of Mexico has hundreds of villages, many with little or no Christian witness. Seeing the gospel put within easy reach of every person in the region is the reason we're here. Starting businesses is not an end in itself.

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### **If your purpose is church planting, why start a well drilling business?**

We're increasingly seeing a [connection](#) between economics and the spread of the gospel here. Many village churches in the region end up falling apart when their leaders move out of the state to try and earn more money for their families. Thousands and thousands of men have left the region hoping to find better work. This is destroying families and having a serious impact on the current generation of young people.

In the short term, the well drilling business will give us a way to employ a couple of local Mexican leaders who are engaged in fruitful ministry but need a good way to support their families.

### **And in the long run?**

We want our work program to be financially self-sufficient. Profits from the well drilling business will become startup capital for other similar projects. These projects will employ more men (and maybe women) who aren't necessarily believers yet. We'll put them through a fairly intensive discipleship as we employ them, training them in obedience to Christ and helping them develop good family skills. Those who have made a firm commitment to Christ we will then equip to be church planters. They will be able to carry out church planting ministry having a business with which to support their families.

### **Of all the businesses you could pick to start with, why well drilling?**

Our region really needs water. We get a lot of water during the 6-month rainy season, but from November to May things are really dry. Many families and communities receive no water several days a week. Doing village medical outreaches the past several years, we've seen numerous people in their 70s and 80s come in with their entire bodies hurting. One reason is that during dry season many are walking a mile or more to bring water back to their houses. Furthermore, our region is dependent on agriculture, but the agriculture is struggling. Many new possibilities would be realized if more crops could be irrigated.

### **So where are you right now in the process?**

Our well rig is almost completely ready, and we are poised in the next several months to hire one and then two local men and begin drilling wells. The first guy we have lined up to work for us is a great local pastor who is planting house churches. He has an incredible ministry vision, but he needs an effective way to support his family.

In order to start drilling, we need to raise a little more startup capital. This is so we can bring on employees with the confidence we can pay them for the first few months. We also need to buy a truck strong enough to pull the rig around our mountainous region.

### **If you want this work program to be financially self-sufficient, why are you raising funds?**

We do fully intend for Fishers of Men to be self-sufficient. We project this will happen in a matter of months once we start drilling wells full time. Like any business, though, we have to cover our startup expenses in order to start generating income. Once we are turning a profit, the money we earn will go towards starting new projects and businesses, keeping us from having to rely on outside funding. Not relying on outside funding will allow the program to be easily multiplied by local Mexicans.

Would you be willing to donate towards our startup expenses and help this vision become reality?

*Note: We the American members of our team are not receiving any pay from the businesses we start. All business income will go towards paying Mexican employees, keeping Fishers of Men running, and starting new projects.*

### **Why is donating towards this project a good investment?**

Because your money can have a very far-reaching impact. What you donate now will help get the well drilling business started. That business (not you), will fund others that can fund others that can fund others...you get the idea. Members of the program who learn businesses through their involvement with Fishers of Men will be equipped to start new projects, recruiting new program members in the process. More people in the program means more disciples made, more church planters released into ministry, and fewer families torn apart by men leaving to find work. *We believe your investment will make a lasting impact on the lives of hundreds or even thousands of indigenous Mexicans.*

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**That sounds great! Share some more details of the financial situation – how much have you raised, and how much more do you need?**

Thanks to some generous donors, [Global Frontier Missions](#) was able to give our team US\$36,000 to start the well drilling project. We could have [bought a well drilling rig](#) for about \$35,000 (price has since gone up considerably), but our teammate Dave Catherina saved us \$15k by building the rig himself. Here's a breakdown of how the original \$36k has been allocated:

<b>\$36,000</b>	<b>Amount we started with</b>
- \$20,000	Building the rig
- \$4,000	Setting up a well drilling storage place and workshop
- \$3,000	Drilling three free practice wells (one for GFM, one for a church, one for our biggest promoter here)
- \$1,000	Tools and Supplies
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<b>= \$8,000</b>	<b>Remaining in hand</b>

So of the original \$36k, we have \$8k remaining. Here's a breakdown of our remaining startup costs:

\$20,000	Truck (purchase, taxes, licensing, insurance, etc.)
+ \$13,000	Full-time pay for 2 Mexican employees for 25 weeks
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<b>= \$33,000</b>	<b>Remaining expenses</b>

We take our remaining expenses of \$33,000, subtract the \$8,000 we have in hand, and that leaves us with a total of

**US\$25,000 still to be raised in order to be fully operational.**

We hope to raise \$14,000 of that amount by May 10, 2010 in order to buy a pickup truck and continue the startup process without interruption.

Would you be willing to contribute \$100, \$1,000, or even \$10,000 towards this \$25,000 in order to help us employ and disciple Mexicans and unleash them as self-supporting church planters in this needy region?

**If you would like to donate, here's how:**

Our covering organization, [Commission To Every Nation](#), receives all funds donated to Fishers of Men. CTEN issues tax receipts to donors and then distributes the funds to FOM at the end of each month. CTEN is a member of the [Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability](#) (ECFA) and has received six consecutive [4-star ratings \(highest possible\)](#) from Charity Navigator.

**Important Note:** *There is a difference between donating to Fishers of Men and donating to one of the individual missionaries on our church planting team (Chris and Erin Leake, Dave and Rhonda Catherina, Nick and Sarah Anderson, or Sarah Stehno). Gifts given through CTEN and designated 'Fishers of Men' go towards projects such as the one described in this document and do not help the individual missionaries personally in any way. Gifts given through CTEN and designated to one of the individuals/couples named above support that missionary's personal food, housing, and general living expenses and do not help Fishers of Men as an organization in any way. Both types of donations are important and are very appreciated. We wanted to make sure you know the difference before you give.*

### To Donate Online

The simplest way to give to Fishers of Men is online. To do it that way, click [here](#) and scroll to the bottom of the page to make a one-time gift or to set up recurring donations.

### To Send a Check

Make your check out to 'Commission To Every Nation', include a *separate note* designating your gift for 'Fishers of Men', and mail it to the following address:

Commission To Every Nation  
P.O. Box 291307  
Kerrville, TX 78029-1307  
USA

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If you would like to give regularly, CTEN can set you up for automatic contributions. Questions? Call CTEN toll-free at 1-800-872-5404.

### Financial FAQs:

#### How will I know when you've reached your goal of \$25,000?

You can track our progress by checking out the thermometer on [this page](#).

#### How is Fishers of Men accountable for the use of funds donated?

In order to be an organizational partner of CTEN, FOM is required to send CTEN a regular accounting of all funds donated to us through them. This allows CTEN to ensure the funds are being used for their intended purpose.

#### Does Fishers of Men receive all funds donated to you through CTEN?

If we were to receive the funds directly ourselves, we would invest a lot of time and money setting up a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization in the U.S. and doing the accounting. Instead, we let CTEN invest their time and resources to do this for us so we can focus on the ministry at hand. In return, we allow CTEN to retain a reasonable percentage of what is donated in order to cover their accounting overhead.

### How can I help?

If you believe in what we're doing, you can help us raise funds to get the well drilling project off the ground by spreading the word to others you think could be interested. Pass them this document and the link to our well drilling project page: <http://520life.org/wellproject>.

### Contact Us:

We want to receive your feedback and help answer any questions you have! Here are some ways you can contact us about this project or simply keep up with our team's work:

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