



Azul Wasi Newsletter Winter 2017

We hope that you will enjoy reading our Winter Newsletter with news of Azul Wasi and the children who live there

The money we send each month from St Andrew's Church has continued to provide food for the children for who live at Azul Wasi. Being well-nourished is really important for their educational progress as well as their general well-being.

News from Azul Wasi

We were really pleased to hear news first-hand from our daughter, Fran, who visited Azul Wasi in July. It was an emotional visit for her as she had been working with Alcides when the project first started, and a few years later when she worked for LAFF as their project manager. It has certainly developed a great deal since then.

Currently there are 19 children living at Azul Wasi from the age of 8 to 18. It is good to hear was that they all share the same aspiration to study hard at primary and secondary school. Many have the ambition to go on to university in



Cusco and find a job. A lot of the young ones are very interested in studying sciences. Dante is already studying physics at Cusco State University and is a good role-model for the younger children. Epifanio has finished his gastronomy course and is now looking for work as a chef at a restaurant in Cusco. The children all have various hobbies, but they especially enjoy playing football, playing outside with and looking after the animals, helping with cooking, and studying.

Staff at Azul Wasi

Alcides is the children's father-figure and he spends a lot of his time there, making sure that the children are happy, well-nourished and engaged in their academic studies. The other members of staff are the live-in tutor, David, and Anastasia the cook. David and Anastasia have been working and living at Azul Wasi for quite a number of years which has given the children stability and a real family atmosphere. Recently another tutor, Marcio, has been appointed to work from Thursday to Monday while David works there from Monday to Thursday so that there is always a tutor on-site. The children benefit a lot from the visits of volunteers and a new system of visitors signing-in has been put in place to help increase security at the home.



A psychologist is employed to be at Azul Wasi every Tuesday afternoon and she spends four hours in the home. During this time she speaks to the boys that Alcides and the tutors have identified as having issues, either behaving violently, arguing, or have shown to have learning difficulties. She began this in September and has already identified several issues in particular boys that arise from their traumatic experiences. It is good to have someone who the boys can talk with if they are worried about something.

The buildings at Azul Wasi

Azul Wasi is now made up of dormitories, a kitchen and dining room, a library, classrooms, bedrooms, a bathroom and shower block, and an IT suite with donated computers. In the greenhouse they are growing tomatoes, celery, peas, beans and herbs. They have also recently constructed a large potato patch which has recently been sown and are expecting their first harvest in four months. All of this agricultural produce is tended by the boys and is for their personal consumption at Azul Wasi. In caring for the crops and the many animals, the children are learning skills that will be useful to them in later life.

LAFF

This year has been very challenging for Alcides but with the support of LAFF things are moving forward in a positive way. LAFF are currently assisting Azul Wasi to increase its online presence through redesigning its website, which will hopefully be helpful in securing more funding. LAFF continues to support Azul Wasi in various ways, as well as providing financial support. One of their volunteers, Miles, goes to Azul Wasi once a week for the afternoon to talk with Alcides, help the boys with homework (especially English and maths) and play games with them.



LAFF are also helping to instigate better systems for keeping records of spending and donations and other data, as well as helping to create profiles for each child. A new and clearer system of accounting has been put in place with the help of a retired local accountant who has been a supporter of Azul Wasi. It is always good to know that LAFF are on hand to give general support with anything that may arise.



Fundraising

We continue to raise funds to keep the fund topped up so that we can be sure of being able to send our regular donation. With the increase in prices of food over the past few years, and of course the drop in the value of the pound against the dollar, our contribution is now only about half of the cost of the food. We would ask you to pray that Azul Wasi will be successful in finding more supporters to pay towards the food costs.

Christmas at Azul Wasi

To celebrate Christmas everyone at Azul Wasi will enjoy a big meal together with alcohol-free punch, eat panettone and go on a walk to one of the surrounding mountains. We will send them a card to wish them all a very happy and blessed Christmas.

Could you spare £5 or £10 a month? Thanks to the fantastic support of the people of St Andrew's we are able to continue to send a monthly contribution of £725 towards the food costs (which amounts to £8,700 a year). If you feel that you could support Azul Wasi by setting aside an amount each month, however small, please do get in touch. LAFF pays the bank charges for sending our money, so absolutely every penny goes directly to the project.

Thank you to everyone who supports Azul Wasi, whether by making a donation or through prayer.

Mary + Chris

Mary and Chris Pountain

For more information or to make a donation please contact Mary Pountain
Tel: 01223 311055 or 07732 839574 Email: mary.pountain@gmail.com
To see more photos and read about St Andrew's connection with Azul Wasi visit <http://www.standrews-chesterton.org/church-life/mission-and-giving/azul-wasi/>

