



Azul Wasi Newsletter

Spring 2020

We hope that you will enjoy reading our Spring Newsletter with news of Azul Wasi and the children who live there, and hope that this finds you safe and well in this challenging time of the Coronavirus.

News from Azul Wasi

Peru, like us, has been in a locked-down state since the middle of March. It was the first of the Latin American countries to respond in this way, but despite this, the spread of the disease has been catastrophic and the underfunded healthcare system has struggled to cope. Azul Wasi has taken the lockdown very seriously and managed to buy in extra supplies of food and necessary items in the days running up to it. The cost of doing this, and the subsequent rise in food prices created a problem for them, so we decided to send an extra donation of £600 from our fund at St Andrew's to help them over these difficult weeks. We are so grateful that the new bathroom block is in use, which has made it easier to manage the extra level of hygiene that is needed. Alcides's wife is a nurse and just before the lock-down she spent time there training the children and staff in ways to keep healthy and safe in this unprecedented situation. She then returned home to continue working as a nurse in Cusco.



A big challenge for Alcides and the staff there has been supporting the education of such a wide range of ages with very limited supplies and facilities. The school and colleges have sent work for their pupils and, as you can see in these photos, they are also using online and televised educational programmes. Playing football is a pastime that they all enjoy and there are always plenty of tasks to be done – cooking, cleaning, washing, and looking after the animals. Alcides is very grateful for our support both financially and in prayer at this time. He has sent us several videos of the children sending thanks to St Andrew's Church.



LAFF

We are very grateful to the UK Charity LAFF (Latin American Foundation for the Future) who, like us, have worked with Azul Wasi since it first started. They have a paid member of staff, Macarena, in Cusco and an excellent team of volunteers. Unfortunately, most of the volunteers had to return home in March, but Macarena is still there and has been working hard to help Azul Wasi and the other projects that they support throughout this challenging time. You can read more about LAFF's work on their website (www.laffcharity.org.uk).

Could you spare £5 or £10 a month? Thanks to our Azul Wasi supporters we are able to continue to send a monthly contribution of £775 towards the food costs (which amounts to £9,300 a year) and £38 (£456 a year) to LAFF in appreciation of their support to us. **If you feel that you could support Azul Wasi by setting aside an amount each month, however small, please do get in touch.** Details and forms are at <http://www.standrews-chesterton.org/church-life/mission-and-giving/azul-wasi/>



David

We want to share an interview that LAFF did with David, who has worked as the tutor at Azul Wasi for over eight years. Here he describes what it means to be not just a tutor but a part of the family and the important link that Azul Wasi has with LAFF.

I am here to teach the boys. I was told to observe everything about them: about their health, studies, their well-being, absolutely everything – like a father with his children. The most important things about Azul Wasi is that we are a family here. Señor Alcides is like a dad to them, his wife is like a mum, and I am – I don't know – like an uncle. Anastasia [the cook], too, like an aunt. We have all been working together for a long time, with love, affection and understanding for the boys. My favourite thing about working here is helping the children.

I didn't plan to work with children! But I've always said that God puts a person in the place they are meant to be, and for me that place is here. These children need as many people as possible who can understand and help them because, although they are just normal kids, they are kids who really need love, because of the loss of one or both of their parents, or because of abandonment, or whatever of the many reasons which bring them here. I believe that the most important thing that we can give to them is affection to try and heal the scars that life has given them in the past.

LAFF gives us so much without asking for anything in return. If it were not for the financial support from LAFF we could not take in many of these children who really need our help: not just with their studies – they really need a person next to them who can help to direct their lives forward. As I said before, we are a family here and LAFF is also an important part of that family – like a pillar or beam that supports us so that we can continue standing.



Fundraising – The Beetle Drive

In February, before the days of lock-down, Ian and Margaret Nimmo-Smith put on another Beetle Drive to raise money for Azul Wasi. It was once again an evening of frantic dice-rolling and laughter, and a great tribute to Cynthia and Nicholas Bull, who supported the project so enthusiastically through their Beetle Drives. The total raised was £535.

Thank you

Alcides thanks St Andrew's for continuing to raise funds to help pay for the food at Azul Wasi – knowing that a regular sum will be coming each month is greatly appreciated. We add our own thanks to everyone who supports Azul Wasi.

Mary + Chris.

For more information or to make a donation please contact us.

Mary and Chris Pountain

Tel: 01223 311055 or 07732 839574 Email: azulwasista@gmail.com

To sign up to our mailing list, 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/>