



Azul Wasi Newsletter Spring 2024

We hope you will enjoy reading the latest news from Azul Wasi

In our previous newsletter we reported that life at Azul Wasi has been challenging. Sadly this has continued to be the case, in particular for Alcides, who has experienced a number of major health issues. We hear from him regularly and are pleased to hear that the children there are happy and doing well at school and college.

Alcides

Alcides has over the past few months had serious problems with his eyesight. This, as you can imagine, has a major impact on him and on the daily life at Azul Wasi. He has been hoping that treatment might be possible either in Cusco or in Lima, but it seems that this is not going to be possible. He is looking now into travelling further afield to try to find the right treatment – possibly in Colombia or even Brazil where his son, Kevin, lives.



This of course adds to the practical tasks and level of responsibility of Dante and his wife Victoria, who are the tutor and cook respectively. They have a young child themselves. You may recall that Dante grew up at Azul Wasi from the age of 11. He was always a good role model for the others and, having grown up there, he knows Alcides well and understands the way that Azul Wasi works.

Earthquakes

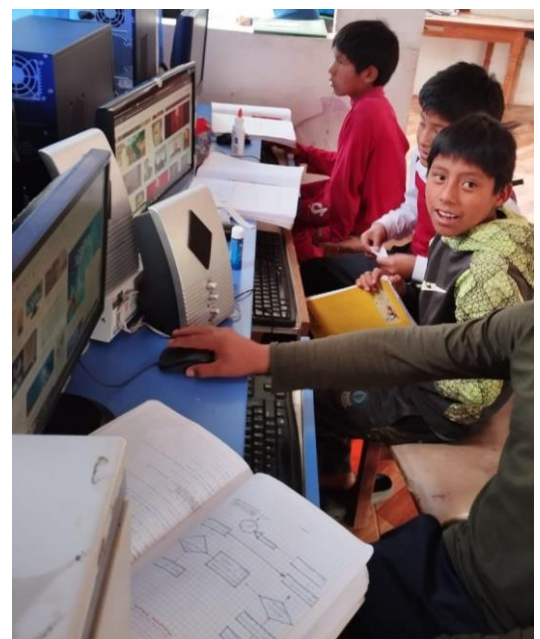
Alcides told us that over the past 30 days there have been quite a lot of earthquakes in Peru. Although some buildings in their village of Oropesa were damaged, they haven't been affected so far at Azul Wasi. He says he hasn't ever known there to be so many in the Cusco region.

The Azul Wasi family

The most recent arrivals are 2 girls. They have never been to school so they have a lot to catch up on, but they are settling in as part of the family and are beginning to learn to read and write.

It is now the beginning of their winter. The weather is cold and, as always happens at this time, some of the children off school with colds and flu. In January we heard from Alcides that there had been a problem in the general population with parasites which cause anaemia. The government required all children to have medical checkups to determine their haemoglobin levels before being allowed back at school. They had to de-worm the children and provide food that would help with the problem of anaemia, which made things quite challenging for them.

Three of the older boys have now left school and have been studying or training, one to work in tourism, one to work with heavy machinery and the other has joined the army. Alcides is keen to support them as they prepare for their future. He keeps in touch with the many children who have been part of the Azul Wasi family over the years.



They are the Champions!

The children at Azul Wasi love football and other outdoor sports. A few months ago Azul Wasi enjoyed participating in a sports championship for about 20 homes and shelters around Cusco. It was great to hear that Azul Wasi were the champions and are now the proud owners of a trophy. Alcides's son Kevin, who now lives in Brazil, was there to enjoy the day. These events are great fun and really positive for the children's self-esteem – especially when they win!



The economic situation in Peru

One of the problems that Alcides continually faces is the instability in the socioeconomic situation. Prices are always changing which makes budgeting difficult. The political situation is also lacking in stability, but they keep positive and make the best of things.

St Andrew's support of Azul Wasi

It is quite a time since we raised the amount we send towards the food costs and as we have had a number of generous donations in the past year, we feel able to raise the sum now by £50 per month to £925. This will obviously help Alcides to cover the ever-increasing costs of the food and for paying the tutor and cook. In February we also sent an extra donation to cover the costs of uniforms and books and for registration for the new school year.

We have now put in place a system for making our payments every month as we have found a way that only costs £1.99 to make the transfer. We are in regular contact with Alcides via WhatsApp. Each month he sends us his receipts for food which we check before making the transfer. It is always good to hear about the daily lives of the children there and also to be aware of any problems they are experiencing.

How you can help to feed the children

Your support and donations enable us to continue our commitment to send £925 each month (£11,100 a year) to Azul Wasi. If you would like to become a regular donor, or make a one-off donation, you can do this via the St Andrew's website <https://www.standrews-chesterton.org/azulwasi> or by contacting us.

Thank you

Alcides is extremely grateful to 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 gives him much-needed security. We add our own thanks to everyone who supports Azul Wasi.

Mary + Chris

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To sign up to our mailing list, make a donation, and read about St Andrew's connection with Azul Wasi visit

<https://www.standrews-chesterton.org/azulwasi>