



## **Azul Wasi Newsletter      Autumn 2024**

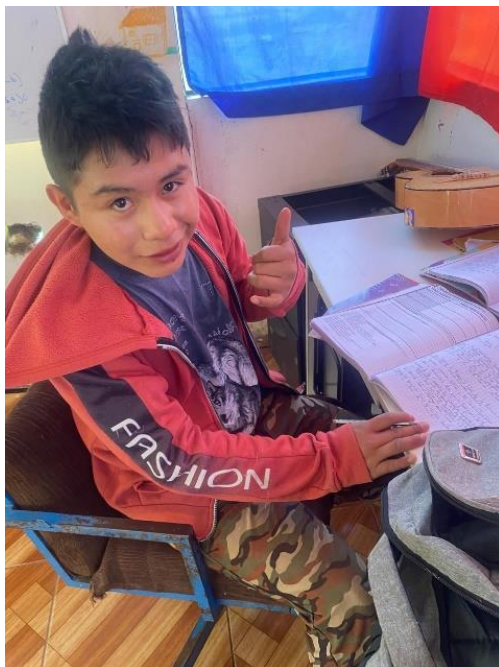
### ***Important news about the future of Azul Wasi***

We are sorry to report that Azul Wasi is going through a difficult time, and that its long-term future seems rather uncertain. Alcides's sight problems continue, and he has not been able to obtain treatment. He finds it difficult to read and can no longer drive.

We have been in close touch with Alcides over the last few weeks and we are grateful that he has felt able to be frank with us about the future of the project and its financial position. It was fortunate that our daughter Fran was able to meet with him on a recent trip to Peru. Fran was our original contact with Azul Wasi 18 years ago when she worked with Alcides at the very beginning of the project, and subsequently when she worked in Cusco for several years for LAFF, and so it was very good to have her perception of how things stand.



The good news is that the twelve children (10 boys and 2 girls) now in residence are well and flourishing as they approach the end of another school year (which in Peru is the same as the calendar year). However, the start of the new academic year is always an expensive time with school fees, uniforms, books etc. to be paid for, which causes an additional pressure on the budget.



Despite all this, Alcides remains completely committed and determined to see the present cohort of 12 children through until they can be independent but has told us that he is no longer accepting any new children. Overall, our impression is that once he has seen them through, Azul Wasi is quite likely to close – but that may take some time, and meanwhile, we want to continue to be able to support these children as best we can. They have all had significant trauma in their young lives and the importance of being part of a caring and loving family and having a good education is paramount to their happiness and success in the future. You, as supporters and donors, have played a major part in this.

The meeting between Fran and Alcides was an emotional one as their connection goes back to the very beginning when Alcides' dream began to take form. It was moving to hear from Fran how nearly all of the many children who have been part of this family over the past 17 years have gone on to find work and stability in their lives. This wouldn't have been possible without the significant financial support and interest from our supporters and St Andrew's Church. We thank you for this.

### ***The current financial situation...***

As you know, for some time now we have been sending Alcides a significant contribution (currently £925 per month) towards food costs, with occasional additional payments when there has been some special need. This amount hasn't fully covered the monthly food costs and our understanding was that there were other donors helping with this. But for various reasons (first Covid, then the uncertain economic and political situation in Peru) the supply of volunteers

which was so important in raising awareness of Azul Wasi, and hence funds, has dried up and it is also proving more difficult for Alcides to find sponsors. As a result, the project is facing financial challenges with ever-rising costs.

### ***So how do we see the future...***

For the past 2 years Dante and his wife, Victoria, have been living at Azul Wasi with their young daughter – Dante took on the role of tutor and Victoria is the cook. Dante grew up as part of the Azul Wasi family from the age of 11 and was always, even as a teenager, recognised as an excellent role model for the other boys. You may recall that he worked extremely hard to pass the exams to enter the university. He is now 28 and appears to be totally committed to the future of the project and so Alcides is gradually giving him more responsibility.



Our practice has always been to keep a reserve of at least six months' payments in our funds so that we can guarantee continuity, and Alcides has greatly appreciated the regularity of our contributions. As a result of the generosity of our supporters this reserve has built up substantially and we have more in the reserve than we need. We therefore feel that we should reduce the reserve by passing this on to Alcides over the coming months to help him with the school expenses and the food costs.

### ***Our immediate action...***

We are therefore going to send an extra £1000 for the months of December, January and February. We will obviously be keeping the situation under review and will use the surplus in the fund to try and help Alcides through the immediate future, while maintaining enough to be able to continue our regular contribution to the food costs. We ask you please to pray for Alcides, for his own family (who have sacrificed so much over the years), for Dante and Victoria and their family, and above all for the children who are being given a loving and stable home when they might otherwise be at risk on the streets. It is clear to us that it is Alcides's trust in God that has enabled him to carry his vision forward, and in every message he sends he prays for God's blessing on us and thanks St Andrew's for our faithful support.



Alcides is a remarkable Christian who has given so much for these children. We are proud to have been part of the amazing work that he has done, and is continuing to do, to give these vulnerable



children the hope, education, skills and resilience for a brighter future. We hope that you will feel able to continue to support the children. If you have any questions please do get in touch. We will of course keep you informed as things develop over the coming months.



***Thank you for your support***

*Mary + Chris*

***For more information please contact us***

Mary and Chris Pountain

Tel: 01223 311055 or 07732 839574

Email: [azulwasista@gmail.com](mailto:azulwasista@gmail.com)

***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>