

Enabling communities to improve spiritual and physical health through Life-Giving Water



CLEAN WATER FOR GUARATICO

As soon as Ecuador lifted the COVID emergency restrictions, the *Life Giving Water International* (LGWI) team began working with 87 Guaratico families to build their community water system. Guaratico is nestled at 11,250 feet elevation in the rugged Andes Mountains towering above the city of Ambato. Work began in September helping the community carefully protect their spring and then industriously build the distribution system. Motivated to enjoy clean water flowing 24/7 to each home, the community anticipates completion in early December.

Many Ecuadorians left urban areas during the lockdown, returning to their rural communities. Guaratico was no exception to this dynamic. With the additional manpower, they seized the opportunity to rebuild their failed water system. The excitement and anticipation of having clean water at each home is palpable. They now better understand that their God-given skills and knowhow can solve basic needs. But success goes beyond this; improving physical health goes hand in hand with spiritual health.

Twelve Quichua young people from a Riobamba church traveled to the community in November for three days of effective ministry. The team served in similar ways as U.S. groups that serve with LGWI—helping with the work on the water system and providing Bible stories, crafts, and games for the children. They also held a



Guaratico completely mobilized to build their water system, transporting tons of sand and stone needed for construction and providing months of hard manual labor.

community worship service and spent time with people.

Of course, traveling from Riobamba simplifies team logistics. They also had the advantage of being from the same culture and speaking the same languages (Spanish and Quichua), enabling them to better connect with the community.

At a time when US teams cannot travel to Ecuador, we are blessed and encouraged that Quichua people are growing their vision for missions; they have taken this additional level of responsibility and ownership of the ministry. Ecuadorian initiative is key to long-term ministry.



The Ecuadorian missions team prepared with Zoom workshops on missions prior to the weekend mission trip.

Colombian Team Member



Leidy Marin, a Colombian water professional, began serving in Ecuador with *Life Giving Water International* July 2019, making strong contributions in evangelism, health teaching, and chlorine disinfection. In addition to further developing her skills in Christ-centered water ministry, she envisions starting a similar ministry in Colombia or another country. Leidy worked in government and as an environmental consultant, as well as church ministry prior to volunteer service with *Life Giving Water International*.

She is supported through *Action International* <https://www.actioninternational.org/missionary/marin>

Leidy enjoys expanding her skill set to include topographic survey and water system design to complement her background in water system management. She builds good relationships with communities while helping them to improve water quality. Chris Visscher (standing behind Leidy) helps Leidy acquire valuable technical skills in addition to his engineering design work and oversight of the Ecuador LGWI ministry.



TRAINING WORKSHOP

An outdoor, two-day workshop in November, helped 10 community boards better manage their water systems. The event (held in a tent canopy to reduce virus transmission concerns) was taught by Efrain Morocho (*left*) and Martin Henrich (*right*). Martin, a German Engineer, prepared extensive training manuals. He and his family have served with LGWI in Ecuador since 2013.



CURRENT & FUTURE HAPPENINGS

- We welcome applicants with engineering skills or visual media communication skills to apply for a summer internship planned for 2021, health restrictions permitting.
- Richard Blair joined the LGWI Board as treasurer in October. He is finance director and comptroller for the *American Osteopathic Foundation* and lives with his wife and daughter in Des Plaines IL. Richard has served as a missionary in Ecuador and brings valuable skills and experience to this ministry.
- Martin & Julia Henrich and Chris & Samantha Visscher home school their children due to pandemic education challenges.
- The LGWI team actively works on numerous community topographic surveys and water system designs planned for 2021.
- Cesar Cortez will lead a workshop for the LGWI team on Biblical Based Community Development in January 2021. In November, he and his wife, Nancy, led a workshop entitled ***Educación Activa e Interactiva*** (Active and Interactive Education) to help churches improve Bible teaching for adults and children.
- In addition to directing LGWI's ministry, Bruce Rydbeck provided a virtual technical presentation of the LGWI water ministry with Mark De Haan and Colin McCorkle for the *American Water Works Association—Michigan Section* annual conference in September.
- LGWI's health and hygiene classes in communities have been suspended since the beginning of the COVID pandemic.



DONATIONS

\$500 per home needed for **La Modelo** community water system to serve 80 families.

Volunteers and interns are needed to help implement projects and prepare media communications.

Donations can be sent to:
Life Giving Water International
154 Temple Road
Waltham, MA 02452-7809

Or donate online:
www.lgwi.org

Donations are tax deductible
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