



**Life
Giving
Water**
International

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

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2021

"If you are thirsty, come to me and drink! ... and you will have life-giving water flowing from deep inside you."

Jesus—Gospel of John 7:37-38 (CEV)



HOMES IN PRODUCCIÓN AGRÍCOLA RECEIVE CLEAN WATER!

In January 2020, the community of *Producción Agrícola* requested help with their water system serving 78 families (about 350 people). Although the community had a water system, pressure was extremely low, and some homes did not receive any water. In addition, their water pumping had numerous deficiencies.

Producción Agrícola, located in Guayas Province on Ecuador's Pacific coast, is a three-hour drive through the mountains from the Riobamba ministry office. The design was completed during the lockdown last year, enabling construction of the distribution system to begin in January this year.

Follow-up and training in water system administration ensures optimal water system operation. Hygiene workshops based on Scripture help the community understand the Lord's design for improved health. Our prayer is that in addition to receiving clean, accessible water, the people come to know God who is their Provider.



The community industriously dug five miles of pipe trench, placed pipe, and installed metered water connections for each home. The whole community contributed more than a month of work bee days or mingas.



Team engineers, César Cortez and Braulio Morochó, meet with community leaders who orchestrated the community labor and financial contributions. The strong community commitment demonstrates their willingness to maintain the water system for decades to come.



The local municipality agreed to reconstruct the community water tower two meters higher and to triple the water storage to 30m³ (7,200 gallons), which further improves water system performance.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS TO BUILD/IMPROVE A COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEM?

I Community Request



The community water board presents a written request asking for help. We respond to communities which recognize their need for clean water and take initiative to improve health.

2 Community Evaluation



The Life Giving Water International team visits the community to verify the need, obtain basic data, investigate project feasibility, and confirm the willingness of the community to do their part.

3 Topographic Survey & Design



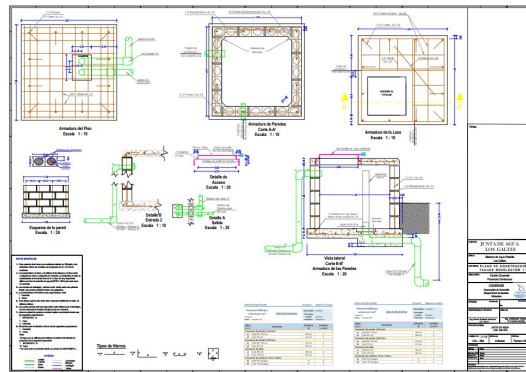
When the community is ready, a topographic survey is done, and the water system is designed. The community covers some of the survey & design costs.

4 Spring Protection



The community obtains legal water rights and elects a Water Board prior to any work. Spring protection work and/or well construction is often done during the design phase to verify the quality and quantity of the water available.

5 Design Approval



The plans and the design report are presented to the community for review. If the community requests government funding, a much more extensive design report and lengthy review process are required.

6 Donated Pipe & Materials



Life Giving Water donors cover the cost of pipe and construction materials. The community agrees to provide manual labor, meals, and pay for Ecuadorian field technicians and supervision.

7 Construction of the Water System



Construction begins when the community mobilizes. Normally, 30 to 60 days of hard manual labor are required to build the water system.

8 Each Home Receives Clean Water

A spigot or house connection with a water meter is installed at each home so that each participating family receives clean water 24/7.



9 Training Workshops



Workshops for community leaders help them in administration, accounting, and operation of the water system so that it can be maintained, properly operated, and operational costs financed long-term.

IO Spiritual Health is Important



We pray that each community experience *Life Giving Water*, the Holy Spirit, our Lord's wonderful Presence, as we work together to design and build a water system. Children are invited to participate in a Vacation Bible School event.

II Health & Hygiene



Workshops and community discussions on health & hygiene help the community receive the full benefits of clean water to improve health. Each family commits to building its own latrine or toilet.

I2 Celebration!



Communities joyfully celebrate their accomplishment and the LORD's Providence when each home enjoys crystal clear spring water available 24/7.

Henrich Family Returns to Germany

Martin & Julia Henrich have served as valuable members of the **Life Giving Water** team in Ecuador since 2014. Previously, they served two years with **Desarrollo Comunitario Vozandes** in Shell, Ecuador, before moving to Riobamba to join the Life Giving Water team. Martin, an engineer, designed a significant number of water systems and prepared manuals to train community water boards in administrative skills. Martin also initiated a program helping communities protect their watershed by planting trees.

Julia, a trained nutritionist, led community health & hygiene workshops in addition to advising the student Christian fellowship (IFES) at a Riobamba technical university. Julia lived in Ecuador during her teenage years, and her parents continue serving as missionary medical doctors in Shell. Martin & Julia are quite active in their local church and enjoy weekend family outings in the mountains.



Martin & Julia and their three children, Jael Anouk, Phil Joas, and Finn Yannik return to Germany in July. They will be greatly missed. We pray that new staff will join the team.



Martin explains the benefits of protecting the fragile topsoil on steep Andean mountainsides in Galtes.



The community of Sanancahuan Grande interactively learns concepts of disease transmission and the effectiveness of hygiene measures to protect health in a workshop led by Julia.

CURRENT & FUTURE HAPPENINGS

- In January, César Cortez led a workshop on holistic theology for Ecuador staff to uphold a Biblical focus in all ministry facets.
- In February, CODEINSE provided a workshop on maintenance and administration of water systems for community leaders. After nearly a year of COVID restrictions, it was a blessing to re-connect with community leaders, pray together, study the Word of God, and eat together.
- Construction of community water systems serving Chacabamba Quishuar (45 families), Suscal (84 families), and San Antonio de Quito (250 families) moves ahead. We also plan to collaborate with *Engineers without Borders* in protecting a number of community spring water sources.
- Design work progresses for the communities of Azama, near Otavalo (310 families), Santacruz (120 families) and San Isidro de Chipo. Implementation may be initiated this year in some of these communities.
- Bruce and Efrain invited a Riobamba university professor and his students to conduct a study of rural water system chlorination with the *Life Giving Water International* team.

DONATIONS

\$400 per home needed for **Santacruz** community water system to serve 120 families.

Life Giving Water International has opportunities for interns and long-term volunteers to serve in Ecuador:

- Engineers to design community water systems and manage projects.
- Communications director for written and visual media communications.

Donations can be sent to:

Life Giving Water International
154 Temple Road • Waltham, MA 02452-7809

Or donate online: www.lgwi.org/donate

Donations are tax deductible
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