



Life  
Giving  
Water  
International

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

# NEWSLETTER

Summer 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)*



## ENGINEERING INTERNS JOIN LGWI TEAM

Life Giving Water International aims to prepare others for ministry. Three summer interns served with the LGWI staff during June and July, to learn hands-on skills in rural water ministry. Their training included protecting the muddy Azama spring to provide 45 gallons per minute of crystal-clear water, more than enough for the four Azama communities

The interns worked together with the communities and the Life Giving Water team to improve the water quality and adequately protect the spring area from frequent mudslides. The spring, nestled in the hills of a neighboring community three miles from Azama, is located high enough to supply water for each of the 310 homes at an adequate pressure.

The water distribution system for the four Azama communities of Esperanza, Libertad, Pigulca, and Gualapuro, is being designed by the LGWI team so that construction can begin later this year.



*Each family in Azama worked one week to protect the spring from 8 AM until late afternoon, stopping only for lunch.*



*The communities formed long bucket brigade lines, moving tons of sand, stone, and concrete to collect the subterranean spring water and protect the spring area.*



*While in the community, the interns and the LGWI team completed a topographical survey to ensure proper operation of the three-mile feed line to Azama.*



In addition to spring protection, the summer interns assisted with design work, water quality monitoring, design implementation, and took Spanish lessons. Leidy and Samantha led the interns in providing vacation Bible school events in two communities.

The interns also spent time learning the Biblical basis for community development water ministry and the importance of building trust relationships with communities, which are foundational distinctives of this ministry.



*In between office work and community visits, the interns enjoyed some of the beautiful scenery of Ecuador. Bruce accompanied them climbing Chimborazo to 16,740 ft. elevation. The Chimborazo peak, 20,900 ft. elev., is the world's tallest mountain as measured from the center of the earth.*

**Michael**, a civil engineering student at George Fox University remarks on his experiences in Ecuador: *I have most enjoyed learning from the Quichua communities through the way they live their lives. They are extremely generous, happy, and hard working people. They care for those in their community and extend that grace to others as well. The most difficult thing has been my struggle to understand the language. This is a hindrance in my ability to relate to community members; however, it is a huge inspiration to learn faster!*



**Jacob**, a biomedical engineering student at Messiah University reflects: *My time in Ecuador so far has really opened my eyes to new ideas and confirmed God's call for me to enter the mission field. I really enjoyed my time working in the hospital in Shell and on the spring protection in Azama, seeing the process of protecting water sources. The exchanges with the people in the communities are always filled with curiosity and joy for me. I enjoy getting to know them and learning things about them as we work together to provide their community with clean water.*

**Mary**, a civil engineering student at George Fox University comments on her experiences working in communities: *The people we have had the pleasure of working with have been so incredibly thankful and enthusiastic. Everyone is so willing to help out wherever they can, and they are always quick to serve us with whatever we need. When they serve us meals, my plate has been full enough for three people! Especially as an intern, this type of treatment has been humbling and has given me a better picture of how truly significant this work is.*



## ONGOING PROJECTS AND MINISTRY

- Water system improvements, serving the community of Chacapamba Quishuar (45 families), were completed in July.
- The community of Achullay again has problems with low water levels in their well water source. The summer interns helped pump test the well and verify pumping capacity to plan needed improvements for that community.
- We plan to collaborate with the *New Jersey Institute of Technology—Engineers without Borders* chapter in protecting the Maca Grande community spring water source. Dr. William Pennock, who served as a summer intern in 2010, is one of the *NJIT Engineers without Borders* faculty advisors. Bruce and Chris provided virtual training sessions for the *NJIT - EWB* chapter to help them prepare for designing the water system.
- Design work progresses for Azama, near Otavalo (310 families), Santacruz (120 families) and San Isidro de Chipio (70 families).
- *The Clean Water Institute of Calvin University* sent a team of three professors and three students to Ecuador in July to continue their research and studies of rural water systems and to participate in spring protection work for San Isidro de Chipio.
- The LGWI team plans to begin the water system for 83 families in Tambillo and Milacruz in August.

## OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE

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

For further information write to Bruce Rydbeck, LGWI Director [bruce@rydbeck.com](mailto:bruce@rydbeck.com) or Chris Visscher, Ecuador Field Representative [cvissscher81@gmail.com](mailto:cvissscher81@gmail.com)

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

**Send Donations to:**

Life Giving Water International  
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