



“Yachuyaj Wo” (The Gardener) report October 2021

Possibly, this 2021 has been when we at the Siwok Foundation have had more responsibilities. Three big areas of work:

1. ACCESS TO WATER

Early in the year we were able to get support from the Czech Embassy to drill 3 wells. Two of them to be done with the machine (50mts each in Misión La Paz and Dragones) and one with hand tools (28mts in Misión Salim). These three wells were successful although we still have a problem connecting the pumps to the electric grid in La Paz.



We took all the team and equipment up to the Pilcomayo river where work is difficult, you can appreciate the sandstorm here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s3uEpExLaug>

We have also been blessed with a very generous donor from the US that has funded 8 perforations this year. 4 shallow wells done by hand and 4 deep wells with the mechanical drill. The 3 perforations done in Misión La Paz produced very good water. We have done 3 more away from La Paz, 2 of them salty (San Ignacio and Santa María) and one we have just finished in with good water in San Luis/Arenal. People very happy that they have the needed water:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wGEnYddqogE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cwGGGrfkm2k>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cVnVKO7uqlo>



Today, 18th October, we have got to this good aquifer in San Luis community. They had an enclosed area with very good fence but had lost their last harvest due to lack of rain. Our offer of this pump was Heaven sent for them. We will be shortly sending our Wichi teacher to set up the drip irrigation network. These last six perforations have put a stress on our mechanical drill and we will be doing an overhaul in Tartagal (nearest big city) these next 3 weeks.



Here is Betty with her 2 sons and pepper plants on the left and just sown maize up above. All plants are irrigated with water from her new pump. Having water has given the extended family huge possibilities to generate good food and genuine income.

Below, water flowing from the well we drilled in the future education center in Misión Chaqueña.

Below you can see this 2021 has been the "water year". We have done 5 hand dug and 10 deep wells with our machine since January. Over 90.000 liters an hour, not bad.



Below are concrete fruits that have to convince authorities of our commitment and then give us a place around the table where decisions are taken. That's what I'm aiming at.

| ACCESS TO WATER SIWOK FOUNDATION 2021 | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| HAND DUG PERFORATIONS 26-28MTS | | |
| COMMUNITY | BENEFICIARY | L/HOUR |
| Misión Salim | Gallardo Flores | 6000 |
| Misión Chaqueña | Betty Argamaza | 6000 |
| Misión Chaqueña | Wichi Education Centre. | 6000 |
| Misión Carboncito | Amadeo Ferreyra | 6000 |
| Misión La Paloma Hickmann | Jaime Roca | 6000 |
| DEEP PERFORATIONS 50-80MTS. MECHANICAL DRILL | | |
| BERMEJO RIVER ZONE | | |
| Pluma de Pato km2 | Valentino Acera | 7000 |
| Pluma de Pato solar | Celestino Amado | 1000 |
| Pluma de Pato Siwok | Venancio Luna | 7000 |
| Palo Blanco (Between Hickmann & Dragones) | Mario Molina | 7000 |
| Cardonal (Between Hickmann & Dragones) | Humberto Talero | 7000 |
| PILCOMAYO RIVER ZONE | | |
| Misión La Paz Watas | Eulogio Romero | 7000 |
| Misión La Paz Cacique Victor | Victor Gonzalez | 7000 |
| Misión La Paz Chulupí | Ignacio Perez | 7000 |
| San Ignacio (Salty water but solved with filter)) | Osvaldo Sanchez | 100 |
| San Luis Arenal | Tito Constantino | 7000 |
| TOTAL LITERS/HOUR | | 87100 |

2. FAMILY GARDENS

Water projects are connected directly with food production and this has been the rule here also. The visits from the Wichi teachers that know the culture and language produce results specially where one tried the year before. Basic rule is drip irrigation, a great invention! Our team of teachers has been taken on by the government, this is a new situation where we're risking not being payed but on the other hand it could mean stable future work.





Craft production, that was the main income generator before Covid, has been destroyed by the pandemic. No tourism, no demand for wichi products. That is where the family gardens come into play but there still is much to do in this area as the government constantly is giving free handouts that compete with the good garden initiative. We have 7 Wichi teachers and they attend to around 80 families. We are often asked by the government to attend to far away communities and this puts the numbers up. Here you see Valentino's

productive garden: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x5t1VUvQ2io>

As I mentioned before water, gardens and education combine well and our team of teachers is involved in all three.

3. EDUCATION

There are two main areas of work in this theme. A) The Wichi Agriculture Training Center that we are putting together, thanks to have won a voting prize for our project plus having presented a project to Bayer Fund this year. We have recycled the old mission store and



we have mixed our painters project with this initiative. The result has been very good and it shows up in the community. There will be 2 rooms with 2 good bathrooms. These will be able to accommodate 8 students from afar. It could also be used as a hostel in future.

Due to the “artistic” look that we have given this old storehouse and even if it’s not finished, we have had visits from high up ministers and politicians. Obviously they like to be seen in the photo but they don’t want to put their hand in their pocket to pay!



Our government involvement has meant that our 7 Wichi teachers now have a little salary from the Education Ministry. This is strategic for the future and my view is that if we have results they would be ME employees in future, which is what we want. We are attending 14 schools now where we lay down what we call the “Maize Module”. There are 10 furrows with things done right and things done wrong. Eg: we sow too much seed (typical of the Wichi) , then the right seed, we don’t use manure and we do use manure, we use seed with no protection for caterpillars and beside it seed with protection, etc etc.



Here is what's happening at the Education Centre we are setting up:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1uUTxbsTT9Y>

The "Maize Module" is working very well and now we have 14 schools involved.



Getting involved with the government is a risky option, but I have confidence that as they have no results they will need us. Also after 42 years of continuous work with the Wichi it's about time that I get involved and use experience and contacts for the better of the people. I have mentioned before this idea of being "salt and light" and pushing to get involved where decisions are taken. Well this is what's happening as never before.

BULL HEAD ON: Coming back from Misión La Paz 10 days ago after a good day's work (10.30pm) I hit a bull head on. I had not a second to swerve, I saw his head and then Bang!! Everything exploded, bull and airbags all in one. I have never received such a blow. I was with Juan, one of our Wichi teachers and **nothing happened to us**. The bull flew 6 meters to the ditch and at first we couldn't find him as the blow had sent him far away. Next day before the sun was up his hind quarters were cut away, so you could not see his owner's mark.



Here you can see us towing it back to the nearest town:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Ag8g6tV_dI

The truck had only 3rd party insurance so we're in a problem. I don't have the actual number now of what it will cost to repair but I'm sure it will be a high price. I'm having it done at Toyota because I want it done well, and not regret in the future.



I have just received the cost of fixing the truck. Without negotiating with Toyota the cost is U\$D21365. With 10% more I could buy a new truck!! I'm a bit confused as to the road to take. Monday I'm having a meeting

with the top people in Toyota here in Salta and see if they can give us a better price.

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Cant.Items 155 | SubTotal | 3.952.576,05 |
| Cant.Articulos 234 | Descuento . . 0,00% | 0,00 |
| Válido por 7 días. | TOTAL | 3.952.576,05 |

NOTA: ESTE PRESUPUESTO ESTA SUJETO A LA COTIZACION DEL DOLAR.
ESTE PRESUPUESTO PUEDE VARIAR UNA VEZ DESARMADO EL VEHICULO.

Observaciones: solicito cruz

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|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Inspeccionó | Confeccionó | Firma del Cliente |
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Fecha y Hora de Emisión: 22/10/2021 9:14 Página: 4/4

CONCLUSIONS

1. Work has never been so large and so varied. I have taken on 3 extra personnel to help with the load and the decision is correct. Prayer is needed so that I can manage the bigger team and decisions.
2. This government has 2 more years in office and possibly will be around for another 4 years so I hope to have influence in public policy decisions.
3. We also have 7 Wichí teachers that are an addition to the team. We need prayer so as to get them depending on the government and not us.
4. We have done 15 perforations this year. This is a good number and we hope to do another 8 at least in the next 8 months God willing.
5. We have a plan to buy a bigger drill so that we can get to deeper aquifers where the good water lies. This is a bold move, let's hope it works out and that our donor keeps interested in what we are doing.
6. We are going ahead to restoring the old house where missionaries used to live but we don't have a budget for this. We are depending on faith... Here you can see the need and problems and me doing some fund raising:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=85MhECmxkxM&t=7s>

I would appreciate if SAMS Ireland (see www.samsireland.com) could share this with ex missionaries and see if we can round up 4000 GBP needed. I have already secured 500 GBP that will arrive to SAMS Ireland shortly.

7. Crashing the bull has put us back economically but also it's an alarm sounding that I have to be more careful and not take as many risks. It's been a ticking off for me. I will be contacting our friends and brothers to see if little by little we can try and round up the U\$D21365 (although it may be less after presenting my case to Toyota Salta).
8. Many thanks for your continued support and prayers. God Bless you all!!

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PS: I would like to mention that although the craft project was hit directly by the Covid pandemic we are slowly commencing to produce again as tourism is starting to move. It has been a very positive income generator for so many years (see www.siwok.org.uk), and we expect it to carry on.

Also our painting project has carried on generating income, at the beginning focusing on the Education centre but also looking for outlets (we have sent 50 paintings to Germany which should open markets there) for the classic paintings as the one below.

