



Public Health

In August 2015, Covenant Life Ministries from Alexandria, Ala. visited Quesimpuco. Dr. Ruth Mamani, Dr. Ernest Champion, optometrist and nurse Connie Brooks provided medical attention to more than 200 patients. For two and a half days, they worked with people from Quesimpuco and nearby communities. Our public health program has two main components: medical attention and preventive medicine. In remote places such as the Chaupirana Valley, teaching the general population how to identify diseases and their causes will give these communities a head start to fight back in situations where a doctor may not be available. Despite the government's attempts to supply for the population's medical needs, these remote places do not get the attention they need. That is why we rejoice and are thankful when we have medical teams visiting the area thus complementing Dr Ruth Mamani's effort to provide proper attention and training against health misconceptions that keep the population practicing harmful "health" remedies not based on scientific information.

There is a great need for dental teams and we hope and pray for a dentist to soon be added to our efforts in the area. The population in Quesimpuco is growing, plus many children attend school from various villages around the town. These young people have never seen a dentist in their lives!

As part of her duties Dr. Ruth Mamani designed a comprehensive curriculum to tackle the health challenges common in this area. Being a native of this part of the country and having a good command of the Quechuan language, she is the right person to bridge the gap between old ways and 21st Century medicine. Her leadership with medical teams makes it easier for visiting health workers to understand and provide a culturally sensitive approach to health.



Socioeconomic: Tacana Micro-irrigation System

Since we inaugurated our first micro-irrigation system in Llustacala a few years ago, we now have two additional systems one for the school and another for the Tacana neighborhood. These systems were built by those who need them with help from SIFAT's teams. Once the teams are gone, community members keep working in the expectation that they will have abundant harvests in the near future just as they have seen happening in Llustacala. The pictures on the left show the Tacana farmers and members of the Temple First United Methodist Church working together on laying the pipes that will bring water from mountain springs two miles away to the water tank built last year. Part of the water flow will be relocated to the Tacana watershed with enough water left to not harm the Pajchantiri watershed.

This summer, SIFAT team members built a fence around the Tacana water tank and a safety wall to prevent accidents. In November Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church men's team will come to help lay the pipes for the water distribution system for the plots and the pressure reducing valves and sprinklers, as well as to strategically plant trees in the fields to help prevent erosion. The distribution system was designed by Auburn University's chapter of Engineers Without Borders. This team has been coming to Bolivia for the past six years and their expertise and commitment have prompted development changes that are catching the people's attention as viable solutions to their needs.



Socioeconomic: Food Security

During this year we have been working very hard with some projects related to food security. Food security means that the community should be able to produce all the food it will need to assure everyone is well nourished. To achieve our goal, CENATEC is working on three fronts:

1. Greenhouse
2. Hydroponics
3. Micro-irrigation systems

These photos show the yield we collected from the hydroponic beds we grew in our greenhouse. Some beds were worked by the church under SIFAT's graduate Angel Roman's supervision; others were worked by the third grade class and the elderly. We have planted lettuce, chard and tomatoes. For the elderly we have started the Good Samaritan Project. We are having a meal for them once a month with the produce from our greenhouse and Dr. Ruth Mamani, SIFAT/CENATEC's Public Health Director, provides follow up on the medical needs of the elderly in Quesimpuco. Our fellowship hall is used to house these activities.

The third grade greenhouse project was upgraded to a full micro-irrigation system for the school lands in favor of the students there.

For next year we will work on a guinea pig farm to include animal protein in the local diet. The boarding home students will be in charge of the project in which they will not only learn how to raise guinea pigs, but will also learn how to manage the farm and make it a profitable enterprise.



Missions and Evangelism

Quesimpuco Community Church has been very active this year. We now serve in five communities in the Chaupirana Valley:

1. Chijmu a 20 minute walk from Quesimpuco (QP)
2. Colataca a 2hour walk from QP
3. Ureka a 4 hour walk from QP
4. Pata Cochi, one day walk from QP
5. Quesimpuco

We are having Bible schools for young children. This age group has been neglected in the social and spiritual areas of their development. In the Andean society children are often seen as labor. Since they are very young they will help in the farm and shepherding goats and sheep when they are not in school, if they are in school at all.

With well established Bible schools in the communities mentioned above, these kids have found a new sense of worth because of their relationship with Jesus and the role they play in the church and community. They are bringing their parents to church. These parents are witnesses of their children's progress and their projects, thus seeing a whole new side of the Gospel.

Pastor Pedro Roman and church staff members, Angel Roman and Delfin Cahuaya, not only work with the young ones but also have a continued and felt presence at all levels of the school system in Quesimpuco as well as with students in the boarding home.

SIFAT and CENATEC's training workshops and development projects are major components in the church's outreach to the communities in and around the Chaupirana Valley.



Education and Training

“And you will know the truth and the truth shall set you free”. This verse is at the heart of all we do in Quesimpuco. Our first project there was a high school, the first ever high school in the area. Fifteen years later we are witnesses of the fruits this powerful tool has brought to Quesimpuco and the Chaupirana Valley.

As the population grows a new generation reminds us that education is an ongoing endeavor that brings with it the challenge of accommodating our strategies to the felt needs of those at the forefront. We have engaged in quarterly workshops that have included the following subjects (see pictures):

1. Values
2. Agriculture and Nutrition
3. Dental Hygiene

Our presence in the Quesimpuco school system is as strong as it ever was. With teachers and other support staff we are covering all age groups from elementary school children to the elderly, males and females, local and surrounding villages and across tribal boundaries. As people become witnesses of our achievements and notice our technologies we receive more requests for workshops and seminars that include the following subjects:

1. Vertical agriculture
2. Water purification
3. Solar stoves and ovens
4. Guinea Pig farms
5. Wind power systems...and more

Indeed education and training in Quesimpuco are setting people free!

Be Part of the Quesimpuco Project!

Many receiving this update have supported Quesimpuco by being part of a mission team and serving the people year after year. We thank you for your willingness and dedication to make this community a part of you! However, to continue to have success stories like the ones shared above, we need your financial support.

You can help! The annual budget for our ministry in Quesimpuco and the surrounding Chaupirana Valley is \$50,000. Would you, your Sunday School class or your church take a SHARE in this project by committing to donate \$25, \$50, \$100 or a different amount monthly?

Questions about this project or how to donate? Contact Peggy Walker, international coordinator, at walkerp@sifat.org.

Yes, I want to support Quesimpuco and the Chaupirana Valley

Contact Info

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Your Support

___ I would like to make a one-time donation to the Quesimpuco Project in the amount of \$___
 (Designate your gift Quesimpuco Project)

___ I would like to make a commitment to support the Quesimpuco Project monthly by becoming a member of the SHARE program. (Designate your gift SHARE—Quesimpuco)

___ Level A: \$25 ___ Level B: \$50 ___ Level C: \$100 ___ Level X: \$___

___ I would like to receive information on automatic withdrawal.

___ I would like to be added to the SIFAT e-mail list.

___ I would like more information about SIFAT.



SIFAT
 2944 County Road 113
 Lineville, AL 36266
 256.396.2015
 info@sifat.org

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