



Newsletter

Reaching out to remote communities



Meeting the Asháninka community in Sipani

Last August, I traveled to Peru with André Franche to visit the projects that *Wings of Hope* supports. This mission had a double purpose for me. First, I would discover remote communities – even very remote – and second, I would also reunite with friends and places that I had known during my years in Peru from 1991 to 1994. At the time, I was volunteering for a religious congregation and I got involved in CIMA, a project founded by Jean-Louis Lebel that helps street children.

The thought of leaving was making me both happy and anxious. Being away from my young children worried me, but I was really enthusiastic at the thought of visiting communities, meeting Elizabeth and spending time with Darinka. So I decided to go on this adventure. I must say that, with André Franche at the helm, I



Visiting CIMA: Jean-Louis Lebel and Annick Delestre

felt reassured because he is used to these missions and organizes them each year.

It's very important for me to get out in the field. It allows me to better understand the reality of life in these remote communities and to spend time with them. It's also a way to verify the hard work these very courageous people accomplish.

As soon as I arrived in Lima, I noticed big changes that are a testimony to the

improving economic situation of the country. The city seemed more humane, safer and more modern. I must say that in the 90s, Lima struggled against a cholera epidemic and terrorism. Today, it took on a new face, but poverty still exists. Great steps have been taken in the right direction, but much remains to be done.



The four of us in Lima: Darinka Pacaya, André Franche, Annick Delestre and Elizabeth Arias



The peke-peke coming to shore in Sipani: in the center of the canoa, Darinka and Annick

Then, we left for the Amazon. After a long overnight bus ride to Satipo and a long drive by car on windy dirt roads, we arrived in Puerto Prado where Luis Felipe was waiting for us in a little boat. This marked the beginning of our journey to the Amazon villages of Cheni, Shirintiari, Sipani, San Pedro de Lagarto and Montevideo. To get to some of those villages, we had to walk uphill for some time in the jungle. The heat was truly excruciating; luckily we were able to find shade to catch our breath. I really liked navigating the Tambo and Ucayali rivers with our captain, Luis Felipe. My eyes didn't know where to look. I didn't want to miss anything of the beautiful scenery I was discovering for the first time. I was looking at Luis Felipe watching attentively the motion of the waves to steer the boat properly as the current was carrying many logs and the water level was sometimes low with stones surfacing. He was in total control.

Finally, it was time to meet the community. It was an astonishing, surprising and moving moment to find myself

in a native community so far removed, so isolated, in the middle of this lush vegetation. The population had been waiting for us to share stories and a typical meal.

The natives were very proud to show us their facilities, the showers and the faucets, and they were saying how grateful they were to all the donors who made it possible for them to participate in the project. Some were talking about the source of life (*fuentes de vida*). It was amazing.

People were happy and had several projects to show us. It made me realize how much the drinking water project had sparked their desire to develop the community. Such projects allow populations to unite to improve their lives while maintaining their traditions. They feel stronger and are ready to

find solutions together to get organized.

Back in Lima, I met long-time friends. Emotions and memories were tangled in my head and reminded me that Peru occupies an important place in my heart. The next day, we took an overnight bus to Ayacucho. The four of us knew that the week in the Andes would be difficult. There were great changes in store. Indeed, the cold replaced the heat despite the shining sun. In addition, we travelled a lot on dirt roads lined with sheer drops across mysterious mountains. Many thanks to Fredy, our cautious driver. For me, the experience was trying because I suffer from vertigo and I fear cliffs! But with the support of my travelling companions, Darinka and Elizabeth, I held on. We made a great team with our chef, André - who isn't afraid of anything.



Annick Delestre visiting an Asháninka family in Chení on the Tambo River

The meetings with the remote subsistence farming communities began. The people were warm, welcoming and very happy to see us. They took an active part in the meetings and paid attention to our explanations. We have a lot to learn from them. They are enthusiastic and ready to work hard for the success of the project. We guide them and support their efforts thanks to your loyalty and generosity for which they are very grateful. **Your gift touches them sincerely.** They can't believe that people living so far from away care about their drinking water shortage issue.

Because they are actively involved in the projects, people develop self-confidence and motivation to pursue the development of their community. They learn to work together, women, men, young and not so young, to realize their dream to have access to drinking water for the good of all. But nothing comes easy.



Visiting the Huayracaca community in the Andes (project inaugurated in 2013)



"For the past two and a half years, since we've had drinking water, no child has died in the village", says Chapiama Siticonatzi, President of the Santa Rosita de Shirintiari community.

Clarifications are necessary both in the general population and with the drinking water committee. Orientation and training are necessary so that people are well prepared to use the water system and to ensure it'll last. We shouldn't forget that having access to drinking water is new to them. So they have some learning to do.

In certain villages, farmers were very proud to show us their garden. They're happy to live in the Andes, where they have all the basics: something to eat every day and drinking water. So they can stay and live in their milieu, away from the city. Providing running potable water brings new hope to communities and smiles on dozens of faces. I can testify that these visits are important to them. They enjoy

sharing their views, discussing problems they encounter and proposing solutions.

It's also quite comforting to hear people tell us that no child has been sick or that there hasn't been any child mortality since the drinking water system has been installed. Hearing such words we can all rejoice and understand that **our actions and your actions make a difference.** Sincere thanks to everyone.

Annick Delestre



Celebrating your birthday in a different way

Over time, giving and receiving a gift becomes, for many, somewhat of a meaningless gesture. Why not suggest to your friends and relatives to make a donation to a charity organization instead of bringing you a gift? That's the option two of our patrons chose. They asked their loved ones to make a gift to *Wings of Hope* for their birthday. For them, to display such generosity is the most precious gift.

The amount *Wings of Hope* received from one of its benefactors was \$1,070 while the other collected \$421. This year, celebrate your birthday by supporting a cause that's important to you.

André Franche

André Franche and Leopolda Palacios, Treasurer of the Drinking Water Committee of Runcua, Independencia (project inaugurated in 2007).

2013-2014 Annual Report

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014, our income totaled **\$1,215,141**. This amount includes the interests earned from various funds (\$99,768), deposits in endowment funds (\$54,419) and the capital to constitute life annuities (\$118,500).

On the other hand,

- \$776,577 were transferred to Peru to support projects.
- 8,44% was the percentage used for fundraising and administration.

Once again, we thank you sincerely for your continued support.

P. S.: a more detailed financial report is available in French on our website under *L'Organisme*.



Annick Delestre and Carmen Reina Paucar, Vice-Mayor of Vilcashuamán, unveiling the commemorative plaque during the inauguration of the irrigation system in San José de Tía

Water for everyone

In Pillucho, province of Vilcashuamán



Pillucho subsistence farmers participating in a meeting about the drinking water project

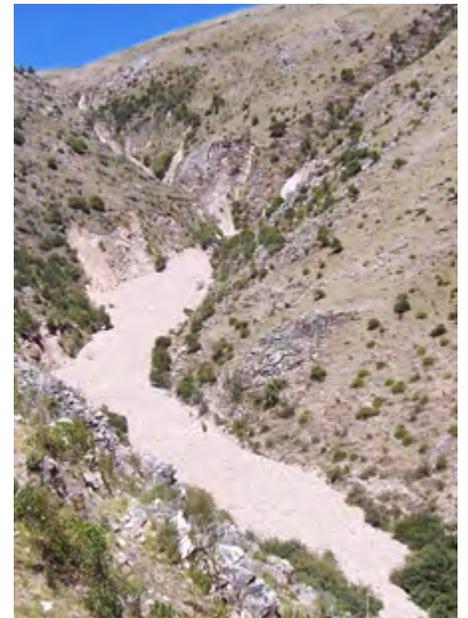


Hernan Gutierrez, President of the drinking water project

How can you draw water from a mountain, more precisely from Mount - or Cerro - Anahuarccc? Some years ago, the local government installed a potable water system but it was left unprotected and the design was obviously flawed at the outset. Torrential rains over the past two years have caused enormous landslides that destroyed these facilities. The **only** source of water at the present time is located at the top of the mountain and is buried under five meters of rock. In the proposed project, the water flowing through the rocks will be captured several meters below, in the ravine. However, we will need to build a structure to filter the water and separate it from sand and mud.

It is difficult and dangerous to access this site. To prevent future landslides, the structure of the captation system will be consolidated. Pillucho is a very isolated community that's been hard hit by natural disaster and the socio-economic conditions of the region.

Last August 13, we reached out to this community. We agreed to take up the enormous challenge of installing, with our Peruvian partners, a reliable and permanent drinking water supply system for the eighty-two families of Pillucho. The members of this community have already begun work and are digging the 4 km of trenches where the pipes will be installed. **Don't they deserve our support? Thank you for your help.**



The only water source is buried under 5 meters of rock in the quebrada

YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT THE WINGS OF HOPE'S PROJECTS

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