



“YACHUYAJ WO” END OF YEAR REPORT 2014



We have have been blessed with a fruitful year with regards to the winter tomato and pepper harvest. 17 family greenhouses were set up showing the way for income generating options for the future. Some examples in the links below:

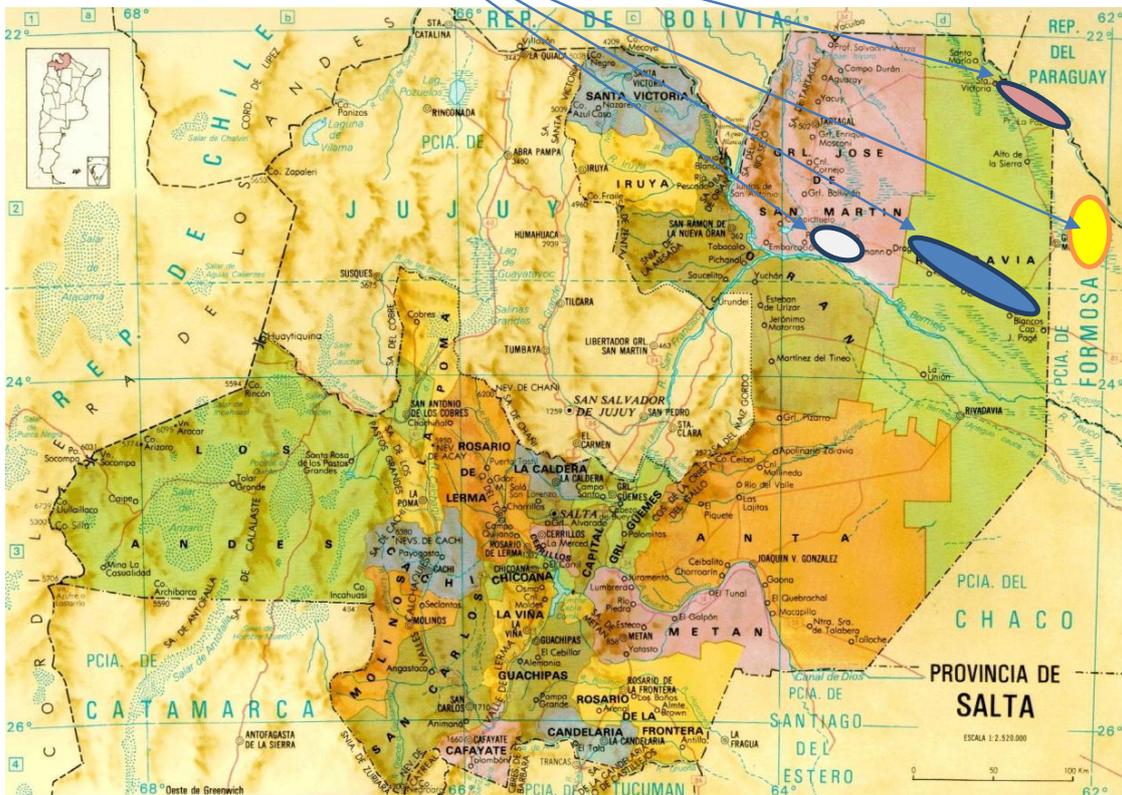
Regino:<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=580624822063275&set=vb.100003472876345&type=3&theater>

AnaLia:<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=580602852065472&set=vb.100003472876345&type=3&theater>

Pascual:<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=580556198736804&set=vb.100003472876345&type=3&theater>

THESE ARE THE AREAS WHERE WE ARE NOW WORKING:

1. Ruta Provincial 53, Salta. (Misión Salim to Misión Chaqueña)
2. Ruta 81 Pcia de Salta (Misión San Ignacio a Capitán Page)
3. Potrillo zone (Formosa Province)
4. Pilcomayo, Salta. (Santa María to Pozo Tigre)



As you see the work is stretched out in a very large area. The only way to do the job is to articulate with other NGOs and use our Wichi team. We have given a cell phone to each extension worker and they are all connected together. Having a new truck (generous donation that came from JMD and friends in the USA) has also been strategic to fulfill this objective of working in a very large space. We are very grateful for this support.



Here left Patricio from Potrillo and pumpkin.

In the forgotten communities of the lower Pilcomayo people are very enthusiastic about sowing and food has never been scarce because it never froze this year. It's interesting that in the poorer communities we are pushed by the people to provide drip irrigation and seed equipment but in the more affluent ones of Misión Chaqueña we have to push them to sow.



<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=604791082979982&set=vb.100003472876345&type=3&theater>



This is in the San Martín community where the gardens have spread like wild fire. We have over 50 irrigation kits (approx 12 furrow wide and 15 meters long). Below working till dark giving the irrigation kits.



New truck in Potrillo.
I couldn't do this far away work without this vehicle.





Left: showing good maize in the rain.

He starts clapping, very happy with the support:

<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=630342743758149&set=vb.100003472876345&type=2&theater>



Here left the old truck at work. Below the new truck learning about Chaco roads. WE ARE MAKING GOOD USE OF THE 4X4 DRIVE AS IT'S ESENTIAL FOR THESE TYPES OF ROADS.



Articulating with NGO Alimentaris



Since September we are working with Alimentaris, trying to set up a system of agriculture extension that can be redone in other communities. They finance a Wichi extension worker that goes to live in the new community where this type of agriculture is not done. He does his own garden and shows the example. Then others follow. We have set an objective to have 15 gardens in each of 3 communities

(Dragones, Morillo and Page). By now at the middle of the project we have 4 in Dragones, 22 in Morillo and 5 in Page.



Lovely green gardens where the “know how” is slowly being transferred just by looking over the fence.



Drip irrigation hose being distributed in Page. We decided to put Carlos Campos, pastor of Misión Chaqueña, as the extension worker. He has his daughter living in Pagé and the son in law has a good fenced garden. The big limitation still is water. This is why we are working on drilling more wells and pushing authorities to do the job they are paid to do.

WATER



We have drilled 10 water perforations and are finishing 2 more at this moment. There are another 2 waiting to start. One in Hickmann failed and we had to do it twice. If we carry on getting support we will be able to solve the water shortage in this whole area near the Bermejo river with these hand dug wells. When communities go farther away from the river water gets impossible to reach or is salty.

Doing the perforation by hand the costs are much lower (U\$1100). If we contract a commercial driller for a 27 meter perforation he would charge U\$5100.

Here 2 recent finished pumps

<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=609262355866188&set=vb.100003472876345&type=3&theater>

<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=630477463744677&set=vb.100003472876345&type=2&theater>



Pumps in Carboncito and Hickmann. This second one is 18km from the river and was difficult to dig. We got the first one wrong but we risked it and on the second try we succeeded.

Left: Recently finished well in La Reserva community. Somebody very happy with the situation...



Water Prize sponsored by Coca Cola and World Wildlife Fund

We presented a project to dig 12 wells as part of a national competition and we were one of the 7 finalists. Sadly we were not in the 3 that got the prize but at least we put the Wichí's water problem on the table. We will try again next year. This same project (but for 20 wells) had been presented in June to the Agriculture Ministry and they are still evaluating it. Bureaucracy goes slow...



Wichi Marathon 2014



We organized the 8th Wichi Marathon. The young people's group of San Andres Church came to lend a hand and we had over 300 runners. All was a success till drunks started fighting before the prize giving! Once that started families from one community started fighting with the other community and everything exploded. Ambulance and police were available so we were able to calm down the troops and send everybody home. Prizes were given later in the week. Conclusion: alcohol affects all the communities and there should be institutions (the Church also) that work preventing this problem that is rampant. We don't know if we will do the Marathon next year.

CRAFTS

The need to generate work opportunities and our interest in providing the service to get the crafts to the UK has not dwindled but the government, trying to stop the movement of Dollars, has put regulations that close the possibilities of sending the crafts by courier

door to door. As from April we stopped production and had 120kg of crafts waiting to send. We have succeeded in sending part of this, but still over 20 kg are sitting in our front hall.



Above right craftman from Misión Salim with letter to the Customs officers asking for a change in the regulations. We have had no answer or interest whatsoever. Left, new design but with no possibility of shipment.

PIKETS IN MISION SALIM

There is a big group of Wichi that have lived by cutting trees and selling under the counter to the local “criollo” saw mills. In theory they need permits but there are no laws that are followed. The police post has no vehicle to control and when it has one there is no petrol to move it! Part of the community wants to protect the resource



and legally stop the distribution of permits so the “cutters” pikets the roads for all. I’m on the side of the group that protect the forest.



They also go to the newspapers that love the idea of criticizing a “gringo” like me. So I’ve been in the local newspaper “El Tribuno”.

To be fair they hit me from one end, but they also print what the other group says about the work opportunities that Siwok Crafts has meant for them.

It's mad that there are markets in Europe that want the crafts and here families need the work and could generate income at the same time protect the forest, as crafts do.

Something that hasn't happened is that Christians (like ADD) get involved in government policy. The Evangelical Association of Argentina has said that 15% of Argentine society is Protestant but there are not 15% of legislators in government. The educated Evangelical are not getting involved so we have no representatives.

Talk on water



Our involvement in creative methods to access water has had an effect on other institutions. I was invited to give a talk last month in Buenos Aires on how we are doing these perforations. I'm also preaching, with no real impact I must say, that all NGOs and government institutions are working in parallel, looking only at their project and not articulating together. The Wichi are the losers...

CONCLUSIONS

1. The strategy of producing food in family gardens is spreading to many more communities and families. This was what we wanted but there is still much to do to promote this trend.
2. The history of the Anglican Church and its missionaries has been strategic to get the confidence of many. I always mention that brothers far away are the ones that support me to support them and this unites us. I'm not a "politico" I say... every giggles! Also our strategy of working with Wichi extension workers and not Criollo has also added to the confidence. We are showing the road as to how all this is done and hope that in the near future other players with bigger shoulders will take over.
3. There are other institutions that are involved in generating a better life for the Indian communities but everybody works in parallel roads without sharing experience and problems. We are trying to articulate with them for the better of the Wichi.
4. The access to water is essential to spread the drip irrigation strategy.

5. The hand drilling (till 30 meters) produces good water. The results show that if done on a broader it could change the water situation of all the communities of the upper Bermejo region.
6. We must involve the authorities in this “water crusade”. We can’t do it alone.
7. The support received (new vehicle) from John M. Deane and friends in the US has been God sent as now I can articulate with other donors that want to get to more families but for this I have to cover a much larger area. There was some money over and this is being used to drill and equip new water wells. We are very grateful for this support.
8. Part of this truck donation (Total U\$D38600) stayed in the US and has also been used to set up a charity in the USA. It will mean that small donations can be done via Pay Pal, with credit card on the internet. Many people have shown interest in paying for a water pump or part of it but didn’t have a way to send the cash. We will have this available in the near future.



9. We received a visit from Bishop Harold Miller (Diocese of Down and Dromore, N. Ireland) and team. It was a pleasure and blessing travelling to Juarez with them. Not a minute of silence in the truck packed with Irishmen, chauffeur included ...

10. We thank God for his provision and the privilege it is to serve Him with our few talents to these forgotten

people.

SOME PRAYER NEEDS

- A) THAT OUR WORK CAN AFFECT DECISION MAKERS IN GOVERNMENT.**
- B) THAT NGOs AND GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS CAN ARTICULATE AND WORK TOGETHER FOR THE BETTER OF THE WICHI PEOPLE.**
- C) THAT THE EXPORT OF CRAFTS CAN BE POSSIBLE SO THAT WORK OPPORTUNITIES CAN BE OPENED FOR THE WICHI.**
- D) THAT WE CAN GET FUNDING FOR MORE WATER PROJECTS AND WINTER AGRICULTURE THAT STARTS IN TWO MONTHS.**

ALEC DEANE alecdeane@yahoo.com

cel: 0054 9 387 5096482

Facebook: fundacion siwok

