

Strength in Scripture: Resourcing Wichí Churches

Many of the world's poorest people are indigenous, living in remote and often forgotten rural regions. Among them are the Wichí, who dwell chiefly between the Bermejo and Pilcomayo rivers, the latter marking the natural boundary of Argentina, Bolivia, and Paraguay. Serving faithfully alongside them, Chris Wallis and Revd. Marcos Humacata provide accessible biblical training resources, enabling Anglican communities to be rooted in Scripture and to grow in mature faith and godly leadership.

A Course for Life

A significant area of ministry is *Vida Abundante* (Abundant Life), an eighteen-session discipleship course developed by SEAN International and translated into Wichí (workbooks cost £6). The course follows a dual approach to learning: participants study independently and also gather in small groups led by a trained Wichí tutor. This pattern deepens personal understanding while nurturing shared learning and discipleship. By teaching in the people's first language rather than Spanish, Scripture is heard as their own, speaking directly into daily life so that faith may take root both in heart and in culture.

Training the Next Generation

As Chris looks to the future, he is intentionally equipping Marcos to carry forward this vital work of resourcing and strengthening Wichí church communities. Born in 1989 as the second of ten children, Marcos grew up in a family shaped by faith, community, and shared responsibility. After studying biochemistry, he felt a call to theological formation and traveled to Chile to study at the Centro de Estudios Pastorales (CEP), an Anglican seminary. There, three years of training deepened both his knowledge and his understanding of mission, community, and service.

A Transformative Encounter

Marcos' involvement with the Wichí was not planned. It emerged gradually, as God revealed each step along the way. A turning point came when Chris invited him to a Vida Abundante training workshop in a Wichí community. While Marcos had taught the course in Spanish to his church youth group, experiencing it in an indigenous context was transformative. Meeting Wichí brothers and sisters, listening to their life stories, and witnessing their faith firsthand stirred in him a desire to understand their culture more deeply. He began studying the Wichí language and gradually took on a leadership role, becoming coordinator of the Vida Abundante course.

Building Sustainable Discipleship

In his current role, Marcos travels to various regions to accompany and support Wichí tutors, ensuring they have the resources and training needed to facilitate courses. He organises workshops for both new and current tutors, mentoring local leaders to sustain discipleship within their communities. For him, ministry is no longer just teaching, it is about relationships, mentorship, and seeing communities transformed through Scripture. By equipping local leaders and fostering ownership, Chris is confident that biblical learning will continue, creating a sustainable model of faith and growth.

A Journey of Faith

The story of Chris and Marcos reflects how God's calling often unfolds gradually, blending education, cultural sensitivity, and personal commitment to Christ. Their ministry among the Wichí shows that contextualised, language-appropriate discipleship can strengthen faith, and transform lives; one tutor, one group, and one community at a time.