

Mission Volunteer update #1
16 October 2019
Los Chiles, Alajuela, Costa Rica

What could be more fitting following Sunday's blessing of the animals than to have this sighting within the first few hours of arriving in Costa Rica on the 9th of October? The jabiru, largest resident bird, that our friend spotted in a rice field as we were leaving the Liberia airport in Guanacaste. According to this website it is one of three storks in Costa Rica and is the largest flying bird in Central and South America. We hear that pairs of jabiru, that mate for life, are in Los Chiles, top — just need to know where to look! <https://www.birdwatchingcostarica.com/ave/jabiru/>



This week has been a re-orientation to Los Chiles and northern Costa Rica: noting changes in the built environment, learning of transitions in people's lives, hearing about changes in governmental systems, observing economic and environmental impacts. Fascinating how life changes can be viewed anew when we step away for a period of time and re-focus our perspectives!

Key sightings:

- There's a brand new community water system for Medio Queso for 135 homes. Agua Viva Serves (AVS) has drilled 3 small wells, the last was 5 years ago (well #50). More families built houses in the area and the government bought the land for subsistence agriculture and new houses, so community leaders requested a full water system. (Asentamiento de INDER)
- Building security fencing around well sites and towers to keep these areas clean of debris, impede those who would climb, and meet Ministry of Health regulations.
- Quarterly tank cleaning (see photo)
- Digging the trench to extend a system to a new water meter (see photo)
- New team members for AVS (see photo)



St Francis of Assisi became free of material possessions and their influence over his life (we learned from SPUMC's Oct 6th service)...this volunteer journey began with parring down the things we think are necessary and that will fit into a suitcase. We realize how much we have, how little we really need, and how to trust that the Divine provides plenty to nourish our bodies, hearts and souls.

Peace and blessings to you! Jorge y n