

**INTERINSTITUTIONAL COVENANT BETWEEN
THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF COLOMBIA-IELCO
AND THE EMMAUS ROAD FOUNDATION-LEADERSHIP & DEVELOPMENT
LIZWAN Inc.**

BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL BASIS

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters dwell in unity! It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life for evermore (Psalm 133).

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, thankful for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:3-6).

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all (Ephesians 4:1-6).

JUSTIFICATION

We have many reasons to be thankful to God and many shared accomplishments to celebrate! Our partnership is very fruitful and real. The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia-IELCO has facilitated our ongoing mission in Colombia and we as Emmaus Road Foundation-Leadership & Development LIZWAN continue to joyfully serve different missions needs of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia-IELCO, its members, congregations, missions and organizations. As Emmaus Road Foundation – Leadership & Development LIZWAN, we are forever thankful to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia-IELCO for giving us the unique privilege and honor to serve its mission needs and possibilities. From now on and whenever mentioned, we shall refer to IELCO and to EMMAUS-LIZWAN as the abbreviated names of the organizations which are entering into this Covenant.

BACKGROUND

A historic look to our mutual participation in the Gospel and our mutual commitment to serving holistic needs of our Colombian people allow us to celebrate real actions and concrete missionary projects and cooperation. Already, our mutual cooperation is very rich.

Our institutional contributions as EMMAUS-LIZWAN include, among others, the following:

- Facilitators of communication and missionary relations with IELCO's Companion Synod, the Southeastern Minnesota Synod-ELCA, and with other individuals and organizations interested in God's mission in Colombia.
- Service to IELCO by Pastors Natanael Lizarazo and Barbara Wangsness as missionaries of the Companion Synod, the Southeastern Minnesota Synod-ELCA.
- Contributions of both leadership and financial resources to the "Missionary Leadership XXI Century Project", supported by the Southeastern Minnesota Synod-ELCA.
- Visionary and financial support for the Lutheran Missionary Society of Colombia-SOLMICOL
- Ongoing support with scholarships for formal education to members of twelve (12) congregations and missions and further support through our holistic Christian leadership training model.
- Financial support to Lutheran Schools at Prince of Peace, Spirit of Life and The Savior Lutheran congregations.
- Support for evangelism and other projects in congregations and missions – St. Paul, St. Mathew, The Savior, The Divine Redeemer, St. John, Only by Faith and Las Delicias.
- Financial support for IELCO's first Programmatic Assembly.
- Financial support for the publishing of IELCO's first history book.
- Logistic and bilingual support for IELCO's mission needs and possibilities.
- Facilitators of other missionary relations such as the current relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society.
- Ambassadors of IELCO before the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, IELCO's sister Churches and other organizations and individuals interested in God's mission in Colombia.

IELCO's institutional contributions to Emmaus-LIZWAN include, among others, the following:

- IELCO acts as guarantor entity before organizations to sign inter-institutional covenants.
- Served as legal entity before banks and governmental institutions until the year 2007 when Emmaus was legally established in Colombia.
- Provides training to leaders with financial resources received, in most cases, from sister Churches in the USA.
- Opened its doors to missionaries from the ELCA's Companion Synods and from other entities committed to work in Colombia.
- Coordinates visits together with the ELCA's Companion Synods and the Emmaus Road Foundation.
- Provides spiritual, administrative and logistics support to Emmaus-LIZWAN through its Departments and offices.
- Facilitates conversations between Bishops of each ELCA-Companion Synods.
- Makes available in rent the office where the operations of the Emmaus Road Foundation take place.
- Shares courier service, cleaning and security staff.
- Shares with the Emmaus Road Foundation its mission experiences of mission work, Christian service and witness in Colombia.

COVENANT OBJECTIVES

1. **Mutual cooperation**

- α) Celebrate the common opportunity God gives us to participate in shared mission work in our country.
- β) Share clear, transparent and ongoing communication.

2. **Missionary cooperation**

- α) Meet, facilitate and participate in shared missionary needs and possibilities which are available in Colombia and overseas.
- β) Work together to provide effective, timely and committed management to shared missionary projects.

3. **Inter-institutional cooperation**

- α) Provide specific criteria to guide our inter-institutional relationship.
- β) Share and maximize human and logistic resources to mutually support each other.

In this evangelic spirit of mutual celebration and cooperation, we commit to honor and respect the following aspects:

1. **Communications**

- α) Communicate honestly and timely the possibilities and challenges of our missionary cooperation.
- β) Speak truth in the love of Christ and in an environment of missionary humility and honesty.
- χ) Celebrate and highlight constantly our mission relation through our media communications.
- δ) Exchange information about the places where projects are being supported.

2. **Institutional**

- α) Solve any potential disagreement or conflict in a timely and responsible way (Mathew 18:15-18).
- β) Honor and respect the regular channels in our institutional decision-making processes.
- χ) Honor and respect our institutional independence.
- δ) Serve following the manner of Christ and thus avoiding any anti-evangelic, competitive and dividing behavior, language, action or position that may harm our inter-institutional

relation.

- ε) Advocate for the good reputation of our organizations both nationally and internationally.
- φ) Evaluate our inter-institutional relations each time either of the two organizations might consider it necessary, at least once per year.

3. Mutual responsibilities

- α) Coordinate in a proactive way the possibilities of mutual cooperation sharing generously our gifts, talents and resources.
- β) Avoid allocating resources in just one place. In particular situations, both organizations can work in meeting a special need in a shared and coordinated way in order to maximize resources and avoid duplicating efforts. The implementation of any project, obviously, will always depend on the availability of financial resources.
- χ) Evaluate periodically our shared work, at least once per year.

CONCLUSION AND BIBLICAL INSPIRATION

Therefore my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Once this Covenant be mutually agreed and signed, it will act as the guiding instrument of our inter-institutional relations. This agreement will be valid for a period of two years.

Bogota, October 31, 2009

By The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia

By The Emmaus Road Foundation – Leadership & development LIZWAN Inc.