

Missionary greetings from Bogota, Colombia! This is our LIZWAN-Emmaus Road Foundation update for April 2009! Since mission relationships are always at the center of everything we do, this month we share the transformational impact our mission trips to Colombia have had in its participants. We also share the passion and joy that Trinity Lutheran Church in Miller South Dakota - a small congregation nested in the beautiful prairie landscape of South Dakota - continue to experience in supporting the LIZWAN Ministry. The reflections from Emma and Helen are from the recent mission trips to Colombia which took place in February-March, 2009. Finally we update you about the unfolding dream to have our own facilities in Bogota Colombia.

Article by Emma Hancock – reprinted from the Neville’s News March 26, 2009: Hola amigos! I’m so glad to be back and able to tell about Colombia. There is one thing that made my trip different than any other experience. I am only 14 (soon to be 15) and feel privileged to be in Colombia at my age.



The trip was very long. Probably even worse for me because I am not very fond of planes! We stayed in a convent where nuns lived. It was beautiful and historical looking. We stayed there for a week. We were on a different time zone (3 hours difference from PST to EST). The noise from the city and incoming planes was unsettling for two small town girls. When we woke up we were served very delicious food. I will not dwell on food because the people there could cook a meal out of almost nothing. And man, did it taste good!

In the photo, Emma painting the patio at the Elder’s Center in Soacha

Our first full day was on a Sunday so all 16 of us attended a very small church. It was not big like the churches we attend in the US, although they had many of those available. This church was a small home donated for the sole purpose of being able to worship and fellowship with God. The entire building was around the size of one room story house. The worship was the same as we have in the U.S. The only difference there was not a designated time to arrive and the service was all in Spanish. Sometimes the people would stay there for hours instead of one or two we spend each week.



In the photo, Emma (youngest) and other members from Good Samaritan taking a well deserved break!

Monday we went to small part of Bogota called Soacha. We (Good Samaritan) send money to support the elders there. While in Soacha, we had a

miniature service with the people then we were put to work to help with things they needed. There were four groups. 1. Painting the patio; 2. Finishing the installation of a ceiling; 3. Making curtains for the windows and 4. Taking the blood pressure of elders who requested it, which turned out to be all of them. My mother helped with blood pressures and I was sent to the task of painting. We got the job done, but I don't know if they'll ever ask us to paint again.

Tuesday we went to a different part of Bogota called Caracoli. Here we support a center for women and children. We also did painting there, put windows in and played games with the children. We taught them songs in English and sang in Spanish.



In the photo, Emma and children at Caracoli

Parents, as I said, I am 14 and going on this trip made me realize how spoiled American children and people are. Please do not take offense, but almost all of those people had next to nothing and always so happy. I always want something new, but these people were content with what they had. Another example is when we went to see some of their homes. It was very hard to see some of their living conditions. The house that I saw housed nine people in four rooms. One of the rooms was the kitchen and another room was for an injured man. It was very hard to see goodbye to these people, but we left them with gifts and lots of love.

The next few days were spent shopping and seeing more of Colombia. We had a bus ride to a small community called Villa de Leyva. Much to our delight, we learned this were where they filmed some of the "Zorro" movies. Friday we spent our time traveling back to Bogota so we could get ready to catch our rides back to our beloved United States of America. We were sad to leave, but also glad to be going home. We arrived home safely to a big poster saying, Welcome Home Emma and Mom! It was nice to be back, but I wouldn't trade my time in Colombia for anything. I learned many valuable things and gained new friends.

From Helen Koski, Messiah Lutheran Church in Markette Michigan:

Dearest Pastor Nate: I miss you so! It was a disappointment to find out that you would not be at the airport on Friday morning after all! But I understand. It is very easy to get confused about travel arrangements - especially with the very intense schedule you have been on the last couple of weeks! We made it home safe and sound without incident.

In the photo, Helen in Caracoli witnessing the smile of the boy that receives the pencils from Pr. Nate



It was such a real joy to be with you the last week. The visit to your beloved Columbia was an experience I will never forget. It was a life-changing experience to say the least. There are so many things that stand out in my mind that I cannot yet process which would be at the top. All of the experiences were special in so many different ways. However, when I think of all the events that happened during the week, my thoughts always come back to Soacha and Caracoli. Those are experiences that will never ever be forgotten.

I want to tell you that you are an excellent tour guide. I learned so much from you about Colombia and the mission of Christ's followers there. It is all presented so well! Thank you again for a wonderful week of learning, devotion, relationships and hospitality. I will always remember. And know that I keep you and your ministries of LIZWAN / Emmaus Road in my constant prayers.



I was very moved by your closing devotional on the bus when you talked about Jesus - when he wanted to teach his disciples about something new, he took them away from their comfort zone to a very different place - and I know that is what happened last week to me when I came to Columbia. Thank you so much, Pastor Nate. God bless you richly in your various ministries. **Helen Koski**

In the photo, Helen and Ross walking up one of the hills in Caracoli

On the occasion of Pastor Nate's preaching visit to Trinity Lutheran Church, Miller South Dakota on April 26, 2009. The Sunday school at Trinity Lutheran Church holds the record of most faithful supporters in our LIZWAN history with over 15 years of uninterrupted support.

Greetings Pastor Nate! Thank you so much for your visit to our congregation today--we thoroughly enjoyed having you with us. The message you brought to us was so meaningful and I feel that our mission has taken on a new dimension, especially to our children. You certainly brought stories that they'll long remember--you gave them a "hands on" experience. It was good to hear YOUR story and that we CAN make a difference. Yes, we agree that you ARE a miracle and we thank God for you. May you continue doing God's work with such enthusiasm! Most Sincerely, Kathryn Meier

Sunday school Children at Trinity Lutheran Church, Miller SD.





In this photo, Pr. Barbara Wangsness Lizarazo holds a plaque presented by LIZWAN to Trinity Lutheran Church

Ongoing plans for our LIZWAN/Emmaus Road Foundation Facilities in Bogota: As we have shared before, we have embarked upon the exciting and challenging process to secure facilities that will allow us to fulfill our mission, nurture empowering mission relationships and better support and serve the mission possibilities of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia. A first step in this process has been the purchase of a piece of land whose final transaction took place on March 16, 2009.

We have also secured all the legal documents related to the land and the permitted usage of such land. Now we

know we will be allowed to build a four-story facility to accommodate our administrative offices, a year-round Retreat Center and parking facilities. This step has been a foundational step and we now move to produce an architectural concept to help us market this exciting project. We take this opportunity to thank Steve Edwins and Ildze from SMQS Architectural Firm in Northfield, MN. Their enthusiastic support in helping us produce a beginning architectural concept and in making architectural recommendations is truly appreciated and priceless.



In the photo, Messiah Lutheran Church's group at the Emmaus land

We will continue to keep you posted regarding these exciting developments. Should you happen to know of any individuals or organizations willing to invest in mission relationships among the people of Colombia and through this particular project, please feel free to share this information or refer people to:

- Pastor Natanael Lizarazo 605-261-7450 - email lizwan@alliancecom.net
- Pastor Larry Peterson 605-430-0860 - email larryp@gwtc.net
- Pastor Barbara Wangsness 605-261-1374 – norge@alliancecom.net

We will then follow up with any possible interest! Our firm commitment, fervent prayer and compelling hope in moving forward are none other than establishing and sustaining mutual mission relationships as well as securing increasing self-sustainability for the long haul of God's mission in Colombia. Certainly the range of supporting possibilities will include small, medium and large gifts. By our own history and experience, we do value and treasure every single penny offered in joyful support.

We invite your ongoing prayers for:

- Unfolding plans for architectural plans
- Fundraising plans

Feel free to communicate with us! We like to hear from you! Our e-mail addresses are the following: ldlizwan@ielco.org (Colombia) lizwan@alliancecom.net and 4290@flcsf.org (USA). If for any reason you change your email address, we greatly appreciate letting us know so that we can keep you in our e-mailing list. If you know of anyone interested in our ministry, feel free to share this information!

In Christ's love,

Stella Lizarazo

Executive Director Emmaus Road Foundation – Colombia