

Joyful and thankful greetings from Bogota, Colombia! This is our Emmaus Road-LIZWAN update for the months of January and February 2009.

As previously shared in our Annual Newsletter, we have been prayerfully and strategically discerning our mission possibilities as Emmaus Road Foundation and as Leadership & Development LIZWAN. An integral component of such possibilities include securing the land



where our much needed facilities can be built in Bogota. We realize that without such facilities, our vision and mission to serve holistic human needs among the poor of Colombia will always be limited and shortsighted.

In the photo, front view of the land where our facilities will be built.

We have truly exciting news to share with all of you our faithful friends and supporters! As of January 16, 2009, God has led us to purchase a piece of land in Bogota. It is centrally and strategically located near Bogota's international center and well accessed through Bogota's massive transportation system. Right now it is an empty piece of land but already in our mission planning we envision a welcoming and joy-filled five-story facility to nurture mission relationships, experience mutuality in mission, address sustainability issues and house both our existing and future ministries.



In the photo, inner view of the land where our facilities will be built.

As of the writing of this update, Pastor Natanael Lizarazo is here in Bogota facilitating two mission trips. The first group is from the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society and the second from Messiah Lutheran Church in Marquette, Michigan. While here in Bogota, Pastor Natanael will join The Emmaus Road Foundation Board of Directors in official conversations with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia. The purpose of such conversations is to find mutual ways to strengthen our institutional relationships and to move forward in mission in a cooperative rather than competitive way.

Prior to arriving in Bogota, Pastor Natanael also facilitated the visit of Jorge to Sioux Falls to receive training in electronic communications and to personally share his leadership story. Jorge was invited by the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society and by LIZWAN to expand his communications skills so that once he returns to Bogota he will be better equipped to serve the communication needs of the Lutheran Church of Colombia and of the Emmaus Road Foundation- LIZWAN. Jorge is a LIZWAN scholarship recipient through elementary, high school and university education currently working for the Lutheran Church of Colombia in the Communications Department. Jorge is a tangible example of what your prayers and gifts accomplish in Colombia for the sake of Christian leadership!

Despite a busy agenda, Pastor Natanael and Jorge made personal visits with individuals and churches in the Southeastern Minnesota Synod. Such visits included Katie Livingood and Kathie



Bolin from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod Office, St. John's Lutheran Church in Northfield, Jeremy Wahlstrom in Faith Lutheran Church in Dodge Center, and Oakland Lutheran Church in Albert Lea. In the South Dakota Synod, a personal visit was also made with people from Woyatan Lutheran Church and Trinity Lutheran Church in Rapid City and with Mary Stutz from the Camping ministry of Outlaw Ranch.

In the photo, Pastor Natanael Lizarazo, Architect Ildze and Jorge at St. John's Lutheran Church

A very significant conversation in which Pastor Natanael and Jorge participated while visiting Southeastern Minnesota was with Mr. Steve Edwins, owner of SMSQ Architects in Northfield. Pepe Kryzda was also present in this meeting. In the serendipity of God's leading Spirit, it

happens that Ildze, a native Lutheran leader from Colombia, currently works in SMSQ Architects. Ildze has been our excited ambassador in opening these exciting doors with Mr. Steve Edwins and his SMSQ Architectural Firm. Thanks to the generosity and mission interest of Mr. Edwins and his SMSQ Architectural Firm, Ildze has begun working on an architectural draft concept for our facilities in Bogota. Currently our Emmaus Road Foundation Board of Directors is working in gathering all legal requirements and codes for construction projects in Bogota. We take this opportunity to express our most sincere and profound gratitude to Steve and his Architectural Firm for their willingness to volunteer their services toward this exciting mission project. As plans unfold, we will keep you updated.



In the photo, Architect Ildze, Mr. Steve Edwins and Pastor Natanael Lizarazo at SMSQ Architect

The main components envisioned for the facilities of the Emmaus Road Foundation – LIZWAN include the following: (1) parking space in the underground level (2) our own offices plus other offices to be rented to other organizations (3) classrooms and a library for training purposes (4) language school (Spanish-English) and computer training center (5) an office of written translation (6) house of hospitality with a capacity for groups of 15 people (7) three apartments to be rented. Integral to our ongoing planning process is our intentionality to address the critical



issue of self-sustainability. Toward this end, with the exception of our scholarship program and the support of small projects, all other programs plus the renting of parking, offices and apartments are envisioned and planned with gradual sustainability in mind.

In the photo, beginning of exciting conversations about our facilities in Colombia

Though many challenges lie ahead, we are so excited about these unfolding mission-driven possibilities! Without neglecting our existing services, from now on we will intentionally focus on developing a well-researched and sustainable proposal and to start fundraising in Colombia, the United States and other parts of God's world to accomplish this mission goal. We will also focus in launching the electronic communication infrastructure to constantly and effectively communicate with our supporters. Already we have some promising connections with some Foundations and other organizations who have expressed real interest in learning more about mission in Colombia. We kindly ask that besides your financial gifts, you also bless us with the gifts of your prayers. We need them! We appreciate them!

We invite your ongoing prayers for:

- The launching of our national and international fundraising efforts!
- The safety and fruitful experience of our two mission groups from the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society and Messiah Lutheran Church from Markette, Michigan. These two mission trips are currently in place at the writing of this update.

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.

In Christ's love,

Stella Lizarazo

Executive Director Emmaus Road Foundation - Colombia