

Greetings from Bogota, Colombia! This is our LIZWAN/Emmaus Road Foundation update for the months of January and February 2010. We take this opportunity to share some of the exciting news we have experienced in these two months as well as many exciting news for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia!

Extended visit to Colombia by Pastor Natanael Lizarazo: As we shared in our 2009 Annual Report, we celebrate that 20% of Pastor Natanael pastoral call to First Lutheran Church is now being given to facilitate mission relationships with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia and to further strengthen the mission of LIZWAN/Emmaus Road Foundation. Right now Pastor Natanael is spending a whole month here in Colombia. It has been an extremely busy time as he came to attend the National Assembly of IELCO, attend Board meetings of the Emmaus Road Foundation and facilitate the visits of three different United States groups who are visiting us here in Colombia. We take this opportunity to thank First Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, South Dakota for their significant contribution to God's mission in Colombia by allowing Pastor Natanael to offer the best of his leadership gifts toward the strengthening of shared mission initiatives with us in Colombia!

Pastor Eduardo Martinez elected new Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia: It is with great joy we share the news that Pastor Eduardo Martinez, who was currently serving Redeemer Lutheran Church in Bogota, has been elected the new Bishop-President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia. Bishop Eduardo takes the place of Bishop Sigifredo Buitrago who already has been called to serve as Pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church. Bishop Eduardo will officially begin on March 1, 2010. On behalf of LIZWAN/Emmaus Road Foundation, we take this opportunity to thank Bishop



Sigifredo for his joyful leadership and for his support to our mission work during these last years. We also offer our prayers, our ongoing support to the mission work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia now that Bishop Eduardo Martinez begins his term as Bishop-President. Congratulations Bishop Eduardo Martinez!

In the photo, from left to right former Bishop Sigifredo Buitrago, new Bishop Eduardo Martínez and Pastor Natanael Lizarazo

Bishop Herman Yoos from South Carolina Synod- ELCA attends IELCO's National Assembly: The National assembly of IELCO was blessed with the presence of Bishop Herman R. Yoos from the South Carolina Synod – ELCA, the newest and second Companion Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia. As a matter of fact, the Companion Synod Covenant with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia was signed during this his first visit to Colombia.

As we always do, as LIZWAN/Emmaus Road Foundation we again provided bilingual translation for Bishop Yoos and for Pastor Marc Cerniglia, who also accompanied Bishop Yoos in his first visit to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia. Thank you Bishop Yoos and Pastor Marc for the gift of your

presence with us here in Colombia. Though your time here in Colombia was brief, your mission joy has left in all of us an indelible friendship and shared hope! Though not physically present, Bishop Harold Usgaard from the Southeastern MN Synod–ELCA and Pastor Greg Wilcox of the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society sent official greetings to IELCO’s Assembly via video. Official greetings from First Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls were equally shared with IELCO’s National Assembly.

In the photo, Bishop Yoos from the South Carolina Synod-ELCA signing the Companion Synod Covenant with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia



Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia approves Participatory Strategic Institutional Plan: After a busy and fruitful year of participatory planning, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia gathered in National Assembly and officially approved its Strategic Mission Plan for the next ten years. The key components of such plan include five main strategies: (1) to be a committed church (2) to be a evangelizing and discipling church (3)to be a church that gives witness of its faith (4) to be a church that works for justice and peace and (5) to be a church who preserves God’s creation. We congratulate all those who so tirelessly worked in this exciting process and fully commit all our resources and leadership to support the exciting news mission chapters already envisioned in this promising initiative.

Fruitful mission Conversations with Poul Bertelsen and Pastor Larry Peterson: Architect Poul Bertelsen is Founder of Msaada Architects, an Architect Firm in Minneapolis that provides counsel, architectural



designs and implementing support to mission projects of churches in many parts of the world. Pastor Larry Peterson is the former Director of the South Dakota Synod Native American Ministries and also a Founder and Board Member of the LIZWAN Ministry in the United States.

In the photo, Poul Bertelsen (first left to right) and Pastor Larry Peterson (first right to left) during a meeting held with Emmaus’ Board of Directors.

Through the shared invitation of the LIZWAN/Emmaus Road Foundation and of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia, both Poul and Pastor Larry graciously visited us here in Colombia from February 17 through February 21st.

During this time significant good conversations took place with both the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia and with LIZWAN/Emmaus Road Foundation. As result of such visit, concrete mission building projects were addressed and exciting possibilities were mutually agreed. One of the first building projects to be addressed will be the facilities for St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Bogota. Poul also provided valuable counsel and advice regarding the most immediate building project of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia, a four story building next to the current headquarters. Another building project that received considerable attention was the building project of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Tunja, State of Boyaca. We now entrust these unfolding possibilities to the prayers of our supporters and to the blessing of God. Despite many challenges, we are firmly committed to moving forward with God's mission here in Colombia.

In the photo, Director of Msaada Architects, former Bishop of the Lutheran Church of Colombia and members of the LIZWAN/Emmaus Ministry exploring new possibilities to better serve God's mission in Colombia.



A significant piece of information in the context of our mission as LIZWAN/Emmaus Road Foundation that we must share with you our faithful supporters has to do with the close and ongoing partnership we will be having with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia by purchasing as a minimum, one of the floors in the four-story building next to its headquarters. Ongoing negotiation conversations are taking place in this regard now that both of us have entered into an official Inter-institutional Covenant.

Since the purchasing of the house for Cross-cultural and global relationships we first shared in our Annual Report did not materialize, we are even more excited now that we know we will be in the same building with IELCO and will have space to do exactly what we had previously anticipated. We are very grateful to those of you who in response to our Annual Report have already blessed LIZWAN/Emmaus Road Foundation with your gifts toward this purpose. **To purchase one floor we will need about U\$100.000.00. Though we are selling the piece of land we own, please know we still are looking for generous individuals and congregations who are ready to invest in this mission project. If God so touches your heart and you want to provide a financial gift, please send them in care of Pastor Natanael Lizarazo at 47237 – 257th Street, Renner, SD 57055. All gifts toward this purpose are welcomed and appreciated. If you need additional info please let Pastor Natanael know.**

Other ongoing mission relationships: Besides Architect Poul Bertelsen and Larry Peterson, we are currently hosting 18 brothers and sisters from the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society who have come to deepen mission relationships with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia and with LIZWAN/Emmaus Road Foundation. The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society has been instrumental in inspiring the Lutheran Church of Colombia to have ministry among the elderly population of Colombia, particularly those who have been forcefully displaced from their homes by



Colombia's armed conflict. This is already the fourth visit of the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society to Colombia. Thanks to the support of Good Samaritan Society, a concrete mission project among poor and displaced elderly is already in place!

In the photo, Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society's visit to the Elderly's Care Center in Soacha last February 23, 2010

Upcoming visit of Messiah Lutheran Church from Markette, Michigan: By the time you receive this update, our brothers and sisters from the Good Samaritan Society will be on their way home and our brothers and sisters from Messiah Lutheran Church will be just arriving here in Colombia. Though the hosting logistics have been very intense, we are so excited that God continues to bless us with these mutually empowering relationships. Again, we express our heart-felt thanks to First Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls SD for allowing Pastor Natanael Lizarazo to use 20% of his call time for these bridge-building mission relationships. Pastor Natanael's leadership, amazing energy and joy in facilitating these mutual mission relationships are highly appreciated. In this unique and creative way, you the people of God at First Lutheran Church are indeed making God's mission possible among us! Muchisimas gracias!

In the photo, Maggie from the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society in the USA and Stephanie from Colombia! An encounter of two worlds and two cultures!



We ask your prayers for:

- Our newly elected Bishop-President Eduardo Martinez as he starts this new leadership chapter in his pastoral life.
- The unfolding and implementing stages of IELCO's Strategic Planning
- The soon to start building process for the four-story building where LIZWAN/Emmaus Road Foundation will have its office and hospitality installations.

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