

**Joyful and missionary greetings from Bogota, Colombia! This is our LIZWAN/Emmaus Road Foundation update for the month of March 2010.**

Since facilitating mission relationships is the center of everything we do, this month we share with



you the impact of another visit we received from Messiah Lutheran Church in Marquette, Michigan. We will also share with you the passion and joy of the Dorcas Circle of Christ Lutheran Church in Preston MN, faithful supporter of the LIZWAN/Emmaus Road Foundation ministry since 1995. Last but not least, we will share with you the ongoing plans of our ministry in Colombia.

*In the photo, Emily, one of Messiah Lutheran Church visitors talking to the children of Caracoli Lutheran Mission*

**Messiah Lutheran Church visits Colombia for the second time:** As previously shared with you, from February 26 – March 5, 2010 the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia-IELCO and the Emmaus Road Foundation were blessed with the second visit of Messiah Lutheran Church in Marquette, Michigan. A group of eight people, including Pastor – Dave Van Kley who has been in Colombia in four different occasions – spent a week with us sharing experiences and exploring mission possibilities for the sake of shared mission and transformation. The main objective of Messiah’s visit was to have official conversations with the Lutheran Church of Colombia in regards to establishing a mission relationship with the Lutheran mission in Caracoli.

*In the photo (right to left), Bill and Pastor Dave from Messiah Lutheran Church presenting a gift to Caracoli through Martha, Director of the Mission and Development Department of IELCO*



Caracolí is a poor neighborhood of Ciudad Bolívar inhabited by displaced people, single mothers



and people living under extreme poverty conditions. The Lutheran Church of Colombia has been present in Caracolí for several years carrying out activities such as crafts, micro-enterprises, sewing, psychological accompaniment, English classes, spiritual accompaniment and workshops in subjects such as prevention of violence, moral values and social solidarity.

*In the photo, a view of a regular home in Caracolí neighborhood. Extreme poverty conditions are indeed evident.*

The mutual agreements reached during this visit include praying for each other, writing back and forth, personal visits to each other and engaging in mutual activities to strengthen the relationship and the self-sustainability of the ministry in Caracolí. At the end of this visit there were expressions of joy, excitement and gratitude to God for making possible these new possibilities for mission.

As LIZWAN/Emmaus Road Foundation we are delighted to facilitate these mission relationships and to accompany this ongoing process at Caracolí, a process we have supported from the very beginning. As a matter of fact, the land where the Lutheran mission stands today was initially purchased with funding from LIZWAN. According to recent conversations with Bishop Eduardo Martínez and with the Department of Mission & Development of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia, we are now inviting supporting organizations to join forces and resources so that the development process which the Lutheran Church of Colombia has implemented in Caracolí and in Ciudad Bolívar in general, officially gives place to the establishment of a Lutheran congregation of the poor and among the poor. To this effect we are joining forces to secure that a lay evangelist will be hired to move forward the official development of such Lutheran congregation. Such evangelist will be further supported by San Pablo Lutheran Church under the pastoral leadership of its new pastor, the Rev. Jairo Suarez. This new congregation will include the people of Caracolí and the elderly community who gathers at the Good Samaritan Center and Soup Kitchen in Soacha! These two places are geographically close to each other.

The community of Caracolí, the Lutheran Church of Colombia and the Emmaus Road Foundation/LIZWAN ministry take this opportunity to thank Messiah Lutheran Church for embracing the mission work we do in our country. Your presence among us is a precious gift!

**Dorcas Circle a faithful supporter of Emmaus Road Foundation/LIZWAN ministry:** The Dorcas Circle of Christ Lutheran Church in Preston, MN is made up missionary women who support God's mission in Colombia not only spiritually but financially. Dorcas Circle has faithfully blessed our LIZWAN ministry for many years. Their contributions continue to change the lives of those we serve and provide the resources for many poor students to attend university and to become committed Christian leaders. Christ Lutheran Church is also the sister Church of St. Peter Lutheran Church in Colombia. This mission relationship is an additional blessing to the mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia.

***In the photo, faithful women of the Dorcas Circle at Christ Lutheran Church in Preston, MN***



Marilyn Bunge, a member of the Dorcas Circles and faithful advocate of God's mission in Colombia for many years, describes in her own words how they have supported our ministry since its very beginning. Marilyn has been personally in Colombia on two different occasions.

"15 years ago the Dorcas Circle at Christ Lutheran, Preston, MN started the "Penny Project" which began their support of the Colombian Scholarship Fund (now a part of Leadership and Development LIZWAN) which has continued through the years. The year 2000 saw a change when the Dorcas and Esther Circles combined to form the Ruth Circle which continued to support the project. It all started with the enthusiasm of Katie Hareldson, a granddaughter of member Shirley Krogstad. Katie, then a high school student had been on the 1993 SE MN Synod Mission Trip to Colombia and shared her experience with the Circle. Since 1995 just over \$11,000 has been contributed by the Ruth Circle and other members of Christ Lutheran. Ruth Circle meets for Bible Study and Fellowship most months of the year and always has the jar for the "Penny Project" on the table".

On behalf of all those who have been blessed through your faithful generosity we want to thank the Dorcas Circle and Christ Lutheran Church for being instrumental in building our capacity to serve holistic human needs in Colombia. With profound gratitude we acknowledge the leadership of Katie Hareldson and other members of the Dorcas Circle throughout these years. Your support makes possible the ongoing growth of what is today Leadership & Development LIZWAN Inc (USA) and the Emmaus Road Foundation in Colombia! Katie, we look forward to your upcoming second visit to Colombia! Thank you in the name of Christ!

**Ongoing plans for our LIZWAN/Emmaus Road Foundation Facilities in Bogota:** In our Annual Report we had shared the possibility of purchasing a house to be used as a place of hospitality and cross-cultural global relationships. At that time we also mentioned that if such possibility would not materialize for any reason, still we would explore other avenues. Though such house project did not materialize, we are extremely thankful, pleased and delighted that God had something much better in place. Officially we are sharing with you that in conversations and negotiations with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia, we as LIZWAN/Emmaus Road Foundation are



going to be integral part of the construction of a four-story building which the Lutheran Church of Colombia will start building immediately next to its headquarters in Bogota. LIZWAN/Emmaus Road Foundation will purchase an entire floor in this brand new building. Construction is anticipated to start within the next four weeks. This new arrangement significantly strengthens our inter-institutional relationships with the Lutheran Church of Colombia and maximizes our shared mission relationships and possibilities! Nothing could be better! Thanks to God!

*In the photo, Pastor Larry Peterson talks to Poul Bertelsen right in front of the land owned by LIZWAN in Bogotá.*

We do take this opportunity to thank Mr. Poul Bertelsen, of Msaada Architects in Minneapolis and Pastor Larry Peterson, a Founding and Board Member of the LIZWAN Ministry, for their short but very fruitful visit to Colombia last month. Your passion for mission, your wisdom and leadership greatly expanded the horizons of our mission possibilities here in Colombia. Thank you indeed!

Now that we have concrete plans for our LIZWAN/Emmaus Road Foundation facilities, we will be moving forward with concrete fundraising plans, both in Colombia and here in the United States. We do thank those of you who have already responded to our ministry appeal for this particular project which will help us to gradually move toward greater self-sustainability. **The estimated cost of purchasing one floor is about \$110,000.00 (one hundred and ten thousand dollars).** If the Good Lord so places in your heart the willingness and joy of being part of this significant mission project, we whole-heartedly invite you to do it. **We still need to raise about 60% of these funds.** If you know of interested individuals or if your Sunday School, Women Group, Youth Group, or congregation is interested in supporting this tangible project, feel free to share this information or if you need additional info, we will be happy to send it to you. Now that Pastor Natanael has 20% of

his pastoral call for Colombia, he is available to personally come to your congregation. Feel free to invite him and share what is happening with God's ongoing mission in Colombia!

Checks can be made to First Lutheran Church and sent to the following address: First Lutheran Church, attn: Pastor Natanael Lizarazo, 327 S. Dakota Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57104. **It is extremely important that on the memo line you earmark it for LIZWAN House of Hospitality. This way we can issue you a tax-deductible receipt.** Once received, your gifts will be channeled through the Southeastern MN Synod which is one of the official Companion Synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia and manages our LIZWAN/Emmaus Road Foundation funds. You can also write checks to the Southeastern MN Synod clearly earmarked for LIZWAN/House of Hospitality and send it directly to the Synod Office in Rochester. The address is this: Southeastern MN Synod, 1001 14<sup>th</sup> Street NW Suite 300, Rochester, MN 55901.

*In the photo, a view of how the new four-story building (blue and white building left side) will look like once built next to the Lutheran Church of Colombia's headquarters.*



We invite your ongoing prayers for:

- Four young leaders of the Lutheran Church of Colombia who are currently applying for their USA visas to serve as volunteers at the Bible Camps of Outlaw & Atlantic Mountain Ranches in South Dakota.
- New elected Bishop President of the Lutheran Church of Colombia, Pastor Eduardo Martínez, his family, and his ministry. Congratulations Bishop Eduardo!
- Ongoing mission plans of the Emmaus Road Foundation.

Feel free to communicate with us! We like to hear from you! Our e-mail addresses are the following: [ldlizwan@ielco.org](mailto:ldlizwan@ielco.org) (Colombia) [lizwan@alliancecom.net](mailto:lizwan@alliancecom.net) and [4290@flcsf.org](mailto: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! Our English and Spanish webpage is now in place. We invite you to communicate with us that way too. You can find us at <http://www.emmausroadfoundation.org>.

In Christ's love,

**Stella Lizarazo**

Executive Director Emmaus Road Foundation – Colombia