

Missionary greetings from Bogota, Colombia! This is our July 2011 update for Leadership & Development LIZWAN and its sister organization in Colombia, the Emmaus Road Foundation.

We share on this update the ongoing developments on our long-envisioned House of Hospitality, a brief message from Pastor Natanael who is here in Colombia at this time and the ongoing visit to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia of Ascension Lutheran Church from Edmonton, Canada.

Despite ongoing time challenges for its implementation, the mission project of the House of



Hospitality continues to move forward as a shared mission project between the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia and the LIZWAN/Emmaus Road Foundation. At this time, we excitedly announce our mutually agreed official name as “Lutheran House of Encounters Emmaus”. We have asked Bishop Eduardo Martinez of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia – IELCO to officially share with our network of supporters exactly what is happening. Bishop Martinez shares the following:

“Report on the Progress of the Lutheran House of Encounters Emmaus: At the beginning of 2010 we decided to use a house owned by IELCO in the neighborhood of Niza, as the place for the House of Hospitality. However,

when consulting the legal and zoning uses for this particular house, we discovered that it was not possible to use for this purpose as its use is exclusively as a family residence. Thus we started to explore different alternatives for this project. After analyzing the different alternatives, we agreed to use three apartments located at the administrative headquarters of IELCO plus one additional apartment in the construction soon to start next to IELCO’s headquarters. The advantages we see in this alternative are among others:

- The investments are much lower than if we were to buy a piece of land somewhere else and built according to the norms that regulate this kind of projects.

In the photo, Stella Director of Emmaus Road Foundation and Wilson a Scholarship beneficiary, in front of IELCO’s headquarters, place where the house of hospitality will be located.



- Using these apartments of IELCO does not present any problem with zoning norms since the activities to be realized are already in agreement with the mission of the church.
- Functioning at the administrative headquarters of IELCO is much easier to address any eventuality that may emerge regarding the people that will be using the services provided by the Lutheran House of Encounters Emmaus.
- The space in these apartments is ample and comfortable enough to offer a good service.
- The adaptations that are needed are not that expensive thus we can guarantee the best possible service to all our guests from inside and outside Colombia.
- The location of this geographical area in the city offers diverse services such as restaurants, banks and commercial centers.

It is estimated that our Lutheran House of Encounters Emmaus will be functioning by June 2012. This date will depend on finalizing the adjacent new construction. We already have done and registered the necessary construction papers before the respective authorities and once we get their green light it is estimated the construction will take eight (8) months. We have advanced in the studies of economic feasibility for the project and in the definition of our mission and vision as Lutheran House of Encounters Emmaus. To move forward with all the necessary details involved in this project we have a ministry team in place representing both IELCO and the LIZWAN/Emmaus Road foundation.

We give glory to God for His faithfulness which assures us that this project will continue moving forward and will be of great blessing for the relationships between the Lutheran Churches of Colombia, The United States and Canada among others. Furthermore, we thank the different individuals, congregations and organizations that have contributed prayers and financial resources so that this mission dream may be a reality.

Faternally,

The Rev. Eduardo Martinez Diaz,
Bishop – President Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia – IELCO



A brief message from Pastor Natanael Lizarazo: I greet you from Bogota in the glorious name of our Savior and Lord, Jesus the Christ! I am in Colombia taking a few days of vacation, attending important meetings and preparing to receive our First Lutheran Mission Group which will arrive here on July 29th.

Echoing Bishop Martinez and our Emmaus Road Foundation Board, I too give glory to God for this mission project

which has such a promise and potential to facilitate people-to-people relationships among all those who accompany God's mission here in Colombia. To those of you who have provided encouragement, prayers and financial resources toward this envisioned project, our sincere and profound evangelical gratitude.

In particular, I take this opportunity to acknowledge the mission generosity of First Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, South Dakota and their faithful accompaniment of the ministry of LIZWAN/Emmaus Road Foundation throughout the years. To First Lutheran Church Women, First Lutheran Outreach Board, First Lutheran individual members and to First Lutheran Church in general, our heart-felt thankfulness for your generous mission gifts. Your most recent gift through our "God's Gifts, our Responsibility" Capital Campaign significantly enable us to have resources for the adaptations and furnishings of this long-term sustainable mission project. To God be the glory and to you our heart-felt gratitude!

Visit of Ascension Lutheran Church to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia: As we write this update, we are blessed to have among us here in Colombia 25 sisters and brothers from Ascension Lutheran Church in Edmonton, Canada. Some of them are returning for the second time. For others, this is their first time in Colombia. It is a truly intergenerational group and entire families are participating in this visit for which The Emmaus Road foundation has been providing planning and all necessary logistics.

In the photo, young girls from Ascension Lutheran Church



Visits already made include the Mission of Caracoli in Southern Bogota where the Lutheran Church of Colombia is present among a group of poor people made up predominantly of single mothers and people displaced by the armed conflict of Colombia. Near Caracoli and still in the same economically challenged sector of Ciudad Bolivar, the group also visited the Elderly Good Samaritan Holistic Center and interacted with 40 elders who are part of this pilot Lutheran project in Colombia. Here at the Good Samaritan Center these elders experience the reality of a Lutheran Community of Care marked by a warm welcome, prayer support, counseling, home visits, worship, training in hand-crafts, dancing and a nutritional lunch Monday through Friday. Though the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society in the United States generously supports this project, opportunities to adapt one particular elder do exist. The total cost to support one elder in the Good Samaritan Center is \$400 per year. As a matter of fact, LIZWAN is currently supporting

three elders in this pilot project. If interested, please contact Pastor Natanael Lizarazo, Mission Consultant for this Project of the Good Samaritan Society. He can provide you with a brief life story and photo of each elder.



In the photo, two members of Ascension Lutheran Church participating in one of the activities held in Caracoli.

After visiting Caracoli and the Good Samaritan Holistic Center for the Elderly in Southern Bogota, the group from Ascension Lutheran

Church also visited the Lutheran Mission in Villavicencio, the Lutheran Congregation of Emmanuel in Paz de Ariporo and the Lutheran congregation and K-12 Lutheran School in Sogamoso. Before returning to Canada on August 2nd, they will further visit the Lutheran Congregation of San Lucas and its K-12 Lutheran School, the Lutheran Congregation of Only by Faith and its social project as well as learning first-hand the overall socio-economic and political situation of Colombia at this time.

Thank you brothers and sisters from Canada for your visit and for accompanying God's mission in Colombia! Your presence among us is a tangible blessing and a great encouragement!



In the photo, Ascension Lutheran Church at Good Samaritan Holistic Center for the Elderly in Soacha. As always, visits to this place are full of joy!

We invite your ongoing prayers for:

- ✚ Visit of First Lutheran Church to IELCO and LIZWAN/Emmaus from July 29 through August 5.
- ✚ Ongoing healing for Pastor Natanael who suffered a fall a week ago and has been challenged with his mobility.

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 e-mail 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>. Follow us on [Facebook](#) by searching for Leadership & Development LIZWAN.

In Christ's love,

Stella Lizarazo
Executive Director Emmaus Road Foundation – Colombia