

LEADERSHIP &
DEVELOPMENT
LIZWAN AND
EMMAUS ROAD FOUNDATION



2011



ANNUAL REPORT



*Committed to the construction
of a dignified, just and
compassionate Colombia*

20th Anniversary
Special Edition



OUR MISSION

The Emmaus Road Foundation:

Promotes holistic leadership thinking and training as a vital for social development.

Contributes to the education and training of Christian leaders who are joyfully committed to the well-being of their own communities.

Foster community, self-sustainability and celebration of God as the source of all well-being.

OUR VISION

The Emmaus Road Foundation will be known as a Christian organization that is joyfully committed to the construction of a dignified, just and compassionate Colombia.

OUR PRINCIPLES

Love: Love your neighbors as yourself. (Luke 10:27)

Service: For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve. (Mark 10:45)

Transparency: You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. (2 Corinthians 3:2)

Integrity: Showing yourself to be an example of good works in every way. (Titus 2:7-8)

Loyalty: No servant can serve two masters. (Luke 16:13)

Excellence: Whatever you are doing, work at it with enthusiasm, as to the Lord and not for people. (Colossians 3:23) Well done, good and faithful slave! You have been faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things. (Matthew 25:23)

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear friends in Christ's mission:



Aura Stella Lizarazo

It is with great joy we share our 2011 Annual Report for Leadership & Development LIZWAN and its sister organization in Colombia, the Emmaus Road Foundation. Despite the adversities and financial challenges our world continues to face, we thank God for His amazing grace, provision and faithfulness to our shared ministry up to this day. As you can see by the scope of this our special 20th Anniversary Annual Report, God has been actively at work in our midst during this year 2011!

Thanks to the spiritual support and ongoing generosity of individuals, Lutheran churches, Lutheran organizations and non-profit organizations in the United States, the LIZWAN/Emmaus Road Ministry was able to serve different individuals, churches and communities through the Lutheran Church of Colombia–IELCO. Our Scholarship Program benefited Lutheran churches and missions in Colombia and supported leadership development events. As we

did in previous years, in 2011 we focused our energy on strengthening mission relations between the Lutheran Church of Colombia–IELCO and LIZWAN/Emmaus Road with Lutheran churches and organizations overseas. 2011 has proven to be a truly fruitful year in this regard!

Along with the Lutheran Church of Colombia, the LIZWAN/Emmaus Road Foundation Ministry continues to explore the feasibility of having a House of Hospitality to host our visitors as well as to serve mission needs of the national church. As integral part of the projects we jointly share, we have also spent significant discernment during 2011 as to the possibility that the Emmaus Road Foundation may be administered directly by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia beginning in 2012. This possibility will not only make possible to continue with our current mission but also to expand its scope by serving the greater mission possibilities of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia. We ask your prayers as we move forward with this process!

On behalf of our Lutheran Churches in Colombia, Lutheran individuals and friends who continue to receive blessings through the prayerful and financial support you so faithfully share with us, we express our most heart-felt gratitude. Your love for mission and your love for others continue to make a difference in the lives of all those we serve. As we look in faith and hope to the New Year, we pray you will continue to bless us with your prayers, your financial support, your trust and your visits. May the peace and joy of our Lord be with you during this Advent Season! From our homes in Colombia to yours in the United States, Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year in 2012!

Aura Stella Lizarazo,
Executive Director Emmaus Road Foundation

Your love for mission and your love for others continue to make a difference in the lives of all those we serve.

FROM THE BISHOP OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF COLOMBIA

Progress of the Mission Plan of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia in cooperation with the Emmaus Road Foundation and Leadership & Development LIZWAN—November 2011

One of the greatest strengths which the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia has is the network of “companions” with whom we share and implement our mission work. Our brothers and sisters in the Lutheran churches of North America and Finland, among others, demonstrate in many ways their commitment to our mission work here in Colombia. Permanent prayers, personal visits, and support to mission projects and initiatives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia are concrete ways in which this commitment is expressed.



Rev. Eduardo Martínez

Thanks to the support of Leadership & Development LIZWAN, I recently had the opportunity to travel to Sioux Falls, S.D. and Rochester, Minn. with the goal of furthering some dialogues related to the progress and challenges of the mission plan of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia. Represented in these conversations were our companions in the ELCA Global Mission Unit, The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society, the Southeastern Minnesota Synod–ELCA, First Lutheran Church of Sioux Falls and Leadership & Development LIZWAN.

Defining and clarifying priorities, being in dialogue, facilitating the exchange of experiences and resources are integral aspects of this dynamic now being addressed in this network of relationships as companions who are committed to walking together for the sake of God’s mission here in Colombia! As part of this mission dynamic it is also critically important that different groups of people and organizations may have the opportunity to come to Colombia and know first-hand the mission work of the church as well as the unique mission opportunities and challenges which our complex Colombian reality offers.

Regarding the Mission Project of the House of Hospitality to host groups who will be visiting Colombia, we are considering using physical space in the headquarters of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia. In order to free space in our headquarters, we are implementing an adjacent construction project. The delay in obtaining the recently updated legal permits is what has prevented the full implementation of our House of Hospitality Project. We hope that in the course of the year of 2012 this project could be a reality.

In a different yet related front, we continue moving forward in the dialogue and necessary analysis regarding the possibility that the Emmaus Road Foundation be administered directly by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia. A proposal in this regard will be presented to the National Council in February of 2012. With the approval of this instance of governance, the Emmaus Road Foundation will continue with its program of formal education and Christian leadership development under the orientation of the governing instances and leadership of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia. I take this opportunity and space to thank brothers and sisters who identify with the mission work here in Colombia and support it in different ways. We are part of the body of Christ who works united to proclaim to the world that Jesus Christ lives and is the way of salvation and the source of hope for humankind.

The Rev. Eduardo Martínez, Bishop Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia

FORMAL EDUCATION SERVICES PROVIDED IN 2011

Scholarship Program: Altogether, a total of 37 children, youth and adults were blessed with educational opportunities in 2011. We congratulate the families of the students that graduated this year. One student graduated from elementary school; five students graduated from high school and two received their technical degrees as Social and Community Work Assistant and Nursing, respectively.

Lutheran churches and missions benefit from scholarship programs

NAME OF THE CHURCH/MISSION	ELEMENTARY	SECONDARY	UNIVERSITY	TOTAL
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church	0	2	2	4
Divine Redeemer Lutheran Church	0	2	2	4
The Redeemer Lutheran Church	0	3	3	6
The Savior Lutheran Church	0	2	0	2
Las Delicias Lutheran Mission	0	1	2	3
The Comforter Lutheran Church	1	0	2	3
Only by Faith Lutheran Church	0	3	0	3
Mighty Fortress Lutheran Mission	0	1	0	1
St. Luke Lutheran Church	0	1	0	1
St. Paul Lutheran Church	0	3	4	7
St. Mathew Lutheran Church	1	1	1	3
TOTAL	2	19	16	37



Christian Leadership development

seminars: Holistic Christian leadership is an integral part of our scholarship program and of our overall mission as LIZWAN/Emmaus Road Foundation Ministry. Through seminars, workshops and events we provide our students the opportunity to learn about other subjects that are also part, and as important as education in the life of any human being.

LIZWAN students attending a Christian leadership development seminar!

Throughout 2011 scholarship beneficiaries in all the eleven Lutheran churches and missions had the opportunity, along with their families, to participate, share and improve their knowledge in subjects such as:



Johanna was a joyful participant of the National Retreat for the Lutheran Women of Colombia!

how, where and when to talk at home; conflict resolution within the family; human rights; following parents advice— benefits, consequences; loving yourself, your body and mind; being a child of God, etc. These seminars and events were offered three times a year in each church and mission. For many families that benefit from our scholarship program these events and spaces were unique opportunities to get to know each other better as family, to strengthen their love as family and to set goals that will allow them to have a better life and future.

Ongoing Leadership Development among congregations:

The development and improvement of leadership within the different Lutheran churches and missions we serve was also one of the areas we supported this year. Resources were provided to Johanna, a female young leader at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, to attend the National Retreat of Lutheran Women in Colombia. This retreat took place from August 13–15, 2011. In this instance, Johanna along with other 130 women from different Lutheran churches and missions in Colombia were blessed to participate in this retreat where a new council was elected and where each one of them was given the opportunity to strengthen their faith and goals as God’s servants. The central theme of this retreat was “Leadership and Growth of the Church”.

A second event which the LIZWAN/Emmaus Road Ministry funded individual participation was the Lutheran Teenagers National Retreat that



Liset Aurora (second from right) and Deisy Gonzales (fourth from right) are LIZWAN scholarship participants.

took place October 8–10, 2011. Liset Aurora, a scholarship beneficiary, a church leader and also a member of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church was able to attend this special event which takes place once per year. Liset Aurora attended the retreat along with six other teenager girls from her church. The theme of the retreat was “My Life, My Responsibility” based on the Bible verse from I Corinthians 6:12. “I learned that I am responsible for the things I do. Not everything is good for me and I must learn to say no when appropriate. God loves us and protects us; however, I must know what is right or not right to do. God will ask me for all I did so I must choose to do the right things”, says Liset. She and the other girls that attended this retreat commit to take to their church what they learned and also commit to continue exercising their leadership in the different ministries, as for Liset in the Sunday School Ministry.



Here at Good Samaritan Center the joy is always real as God provides daily bread.

Financial support to the Elders Ministry in Soacha: Leadership and Development LIZWAN provides financial assistance to three seniors—Bertilda, Dioscelina and Belarmina. Financial resources were given to provide lunch Monday through Friday for these three seniors and also to cover some administrative expenses during the year. We thank those individuals who donated through LIZWAN for this specific purpose and are happy to contribute to this pilot project of the Lutheran Church in Colombia. Additionally, LIZWAN/Emmaus Road Foundation is also providing funding to the spiritual component of this Project by joining the Lutheran Church

of Colombia and the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society in supporting a lay Evangelist for this project. Bilingual communication among companions sponsoring this project is part of our support!



Wool hats made by Good Samaritan Village resident in Hot Springs, AR for elders in the Good Samaritan Center in Bogotá Colombia! Thank you mission Friends at Good Samaritan Village!

SERVICES PROVIDED IN SUPPORT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF COLOMBIA–IELCO

Integral to our mission is facilitating people to people relationships. In 2011 we dedicated a great portion of our time to facilitate such relationships between the Lutheran Church of Colombia–IELCO and different Lutheran churches, individuals and organizations outside Colombia that support one way or another the mission of the Lutheran church here in our country!

In 2011, we were given the privilege and responsibility of planning and implementing the logistics of accompanying and facilitating communication (translation and interpretation) for five different groups that visited the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia–IELCO.

Visit Good Samaritan

Society: From Feb. 26 to March 5, a group of 17 folks from the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society in the USA blessed IELCO with their personal visit. As consultant for the Society's Project Outreach in Colombia, Pastor Natanael Lizarazo was fully involved in traveling with the Good Samaritan Group. Concrete experiences included spending two days at the Good Samaritan Center for the Elderly in Southern Bogotá (Soacha), being

involved in two hands on projects of home improvements in the same area, and visiting the newest Good Samaritan Project among the elderly at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Tunja, a city about three hours away from Bogotá. Both projects are currently implemented by IELCO and financially supported by the Good Samaritan Society. The elderly project in Soacha provides lunch Monday through Friday, pastoral and psychological assistance, worship, recreation, handicrafts and physical

activities to its 40 beneficiaries who live in extreme poverty and visibly represent the human face of the armed conflict of Colombia as internally displaced families. The Project in Tunja provides spiritual and psychological accompaniment, recreation activities, home gardens and particular training and awareness in areas directly related to their daily lives.



Michelle, Mark and Dee, members of Good Samaritan Group celebrating improvements made to homes of these elderly women, Conchita and Maria!



Messiah Lutheran Church visiting Caracoli.

Visit Messiah Lutheran

Church: The second visit was from Messiah Lutheran Church in Marquette, Michigan, USA. Messiah is the sister



Ascension Lutheran Church from Edmonton visiting during their visit to the Good Samaritan Center for the Elderly in Southern Bogotá!

Church of Light and Life Lutheran Mission in Caracoli, a Mission of IELCO made up of single and displaced mothers and their children.

Messiah has accompanied and supported this Lutheran Mission for a period of three years through prayers, personal visits, financial and material gifts. This visit took place from April 29 to May 6. Pastor David Van Kley's commitment to these ongoing mission relationships is well known and dates back to the time he served Custer Lutheran Fellowship in South Dakota, a sister congregation to San Pablo Lutheran Church in Bogotá. Pastor David is already planning to spend part of his 2012 sabbatical in Colombia.

Ascension Lutheran Church Edmonton, Canada: A group of 25 people from Ascension Lutheran Church in Edmonton, Canada visited Colombia from July 18 to Aug. 2. Activities included visits to projects of IELCO in Bogotá such as the Elders Ministry in Soacha, True Vine Project of Only by Faith Lutheran Church and Light and Life Lutheran Mission in Caracoli. This group also visited La Victoria Lutheran Mission in Villavicencio, the Congregation of Emmanuel in Paz de Aripuro, St. Luke Lutheran Church in Bogotá and its kindergarten through 12th-grade school and the Lutheran congregation and kindergarten through 12th-grade Lutheran School in Sogamoso.

Visit First Lutheran

Church: A group of eight people from First Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, USA, also visited Colombia from July 29 to Aug. 5. Activities of this mission trip included a worship service at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Bogotá; visit to the Elders in Soacha, a retreat with single mothers, youth and families from Caracoli; visit to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Tunja and visits to places in and outside Bogotá.

Thanks to support from First Lutheran Outreach Board, the group spent a day with families from Caracoli and presented practical gifts to the families of Caracoli and to the 40 elders at the Good Samaritan Center in Soacha. Pr. Natanael was part of the group.



First Lutheran received with great Joy at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Tunja!

Visit South Carolina Synod–ELCA: The fifth group hosted came from the South Carolina Synod, who is the newest Companion Synod of the Lutheran Church of Colombia. This visit took place from Oct. 26 to Nov. 1. Learning about the overall political and social situation of Colombia, worshipping at a Lutheran Church in Bogotá, visit to the kindergarten through 12th-grade



South Carolina Synod delegation sharing a devotional at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Tunja!

school in Sogamoso, visit to Prince of Peace in Tunja, visit to the Elders Ministry and visit to the single mothers and children in Caracoli were some of the activities that took place during their visit.

On behalf of the Lutheran Church of Colombia–IELCO and of the LIZWAN/ Emmaus Road Foundation we express our heart-felt gratitude to all the groups that visited our Church and country this year. We celebrate these growing people-to-people mission relationships and thank you for supporting God's ongoing mission in our country Colombia.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH— 75 YEARS OF PRESENCE IN COLOMBIA

During October 2011 the Lutheran Church of Colombia celebrated its 75th Anniversary. Special commemorative activities took place honoring and remembering missionaries who came from the USA and Canada 75 years ago to bring the Gospel. Special recognition was also given to retired Colombian pastors who were crucial in the continuity of the Church after the missionaries left. Representatives of organizations such as the ELCA, South Carolina Synod, Southeastern Minnesota Synod, the Lutheran World Federation and its Department for World Service, as well as representatives of local organizations such as The Emmaus Road Foundation, the Presbyterian and Mennonite Churches, Rosario University and CEPAL (Economic Commission for Latin America in English), were present



Celebration Dinner offered in glory to God for 75 years of mission work in Colombia! Different Companions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia were present!

during a special dinner offered by IELCO in gratitude for the accompaniment given to the Lutheran Church throughout these 75 years of existence and ministry in Colombia. A special concert on Reformation music took place at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Bogotá and also round tables where everyone from the Church had the opportunity to participate and tell the story about the role of the Lutheran Church in Colombia's history. The celebration of IELCO's 75th anniversary ended with a

national worship service held at the Lutheran Retreat Center on Sunday, Oct. 23. Reformation Day was also celebrated during this worship service. Retired pastors, women, youth, pastors, children, lay people and leaders of the Church joyfully celebrated IELCO's 75th Anniversary.

Next we share part of the historical message shared by Reverend Eduardo Martinez, current Bishop-President of the Lutheran Church of Colombia, on the occasion of IELCO's 75th Anniversary:

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, we must get rid of every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and run with endurance the race set out for us, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy set out for him he endured the cross,



Celebrating 75 years of mission work.



Beautiful Good Samaritan National Campus where the Colombian Mission Consultation (*more information on next page*) took place! Thanks Good Samaritan friends for such amazing generosity and hospitality!

disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.' Hebrews 12:1–2.

Historic memory has a vital place in the experience of the Christian faith. In the quoted text, the Bible author presents to its readers those men and women that preceded him in the faith. The cloud of witnesses that the author refers to, were women and men that either lived their faith in God in adverse situations, or carried out titanic tasks which could not be achieved without Divine support.

We might as well add up the cloud of witnesses around us, the names of brothers and sisters that were good

witnesses of their faith in an adverse context in Colombia characterized by the intolerance and religious persecution. Imprisonment, destruction of homes and worship places, and even death, were some of the struggles faced by those who preceded us in the faith, just few decades ago. Thanks to God the social, political and religious context in Colombia has changed. Today the Colombian society is aware and values ethnic, cultural, ideological and religious diversity. Based on this acknowledgment, the country's political constitution vests to its citizens the right to freedom of conscience and worship. This new environment has made possible a greater coming together and dialogue between the Protestant Churches and the Catholic Church, even there is a peaceful and positive relationship between different religious traditions in the country.

I go back here to the words of the Bible author who invites us to place our eyes in the race set out for us: 'we must get rid of every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and run with endurance the race set out for us, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.'

The text states two conditions to run the race set out for us freely and peacefully: 'we must get rid of

every weight and the sin that clings so closely and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.' To talk about our shared history, undertake it and heal it is going to get us free from this weight. We will then be more willing to build together the present and future history of a Christian country reconciled and working for a better living for this nation.

To keep our eyes fixed on Jesus is to have in mind the bond that makes us one, Christ, the center of our faith and life. We do not have to renounce to the peculiarity of our Catholic or Protestant traditions to become brothers and sisters. We simply must know and accept that there is only one way to salvation, Christ our Redeemer. Let's pray our Lord to help us and bless us so that all of us together may start to give a different course to our history, the history of our Colombian people."

—Bishop Eduardo



Colombia Mission Consultation—left to right: Pastor Greg Wilcox, Bishop Harold Usgaard, Mary Campbell, Bishop Eduardo Martinez, Pastor Barbara Wangness, David Horazdovsky.

Colombian Mission Consultation Sioux Falls: Thanks to the financial and logistical support of LIZWAN and the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society, we were blessed to have Bishop Eduardo Martinez of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia in Sioux Falls and in Minnesota from Nov. 7–13, 2011. It was a busy week for Bishop Eduardo but also a fruitful week for all of us who are mission companions of the Lutheran Church of Colombia.



◀ Left to right: Bishop Usgaard, Bishop David Zellmer, Bishop Martinez and Mary Campbell!

► Celebration of the Latin American Lutheran Mission! Pr. Natanael was invited to speak. Bishop Eduardo had opportunity to speak too. Pictured Pr. Byron, Mary Ann Holman, niece of Myrtle Nordin, and Bishop Eduardo!



Bishop Eduardo Martinez participated in conversations, official greetings and forums celebrating the connections of First Lutheran with LIZWAN and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia. Furthermore, Bishop Eduardo was in charge of our Colombian Mission Consultation at the beautiful facilities of the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society in Sioux Falls. Present for this Consultation was Mary Campbell of the ELCA Global Mission Unit and Bishop Harold Usgaard of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod. Representing the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan were Pastor Greg Wilcox, Vice-president for Mission Effectiveness and David Horazdovsky, President and Chief Executive Officer. Pastors Barbara Wangsness and Natanael Lizarazo represented Leadership & Development LIZWAN. Thank you Pastor Greg and David for hosting us, inviting Bishop Eduardo to share a devotional with your staff and for the amazing hospitality with which you received us!

Though brief in time, we thankfully acknowledge the kindness of Bishop David Zellmer of the South Dakota Synod to take time of his busy schedule to meet Bishop Eduardo and have mission conversations not only with him but also with Mary Campbell of the ELCA Global Mission Unit and with Bishop Usgaard of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod. Bishop Eduardo and Pastor Natanael also traveled to the Offices of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod in Rochester where Bishop Eduardo had face to face conversations with brothers and sisters who walk in solidarity and mission with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia. The Southeastern Minnesota Synod is a Companion Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia and a supporter of LIZWAN scholarships.

Completing a busy schedule Bishop Eduardo and Pastor Natanael traveled to Minneapolis to meet with Poul Bertelsen of Msaada Architects. Poul has visited Colombia two different times and as Founder of Msaada Architects, has an amazing experience and wisdom with different mission projects of churches around the world. Poul has been providing much needed consulting services to building projects of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia. Thanks Poul for your amazing enthusiasm and valuable contributions!

Finally, Bishop Eduardo and Pastor Natanael participated in the 75th Anniversary of the Latin American Lutheran Mission, a mission organization established by Myrtle Nordin the first Lutheran missionary woman who came to Colombia to share the precious gift of the Gospel with us! What a blessing to have Bishop Eduardo for such celebration and to visibly connect our common missionary tree. Thanks to the first mission work of Myrtle Nordin, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia also celebrated its 75th Anniversary this year!



GRATITUDE MESSAGES FROM SPONSORED STUDENTS IN COLOMBIA

Dear sponsors: I am doing well at school. I am the 2nd best student in my class. My parents are very happy for that and say that I am responsible and achieve my goals with God's help. May God continue to bless you! Merry Christmas and a New Year full of great blessings.

–**Maria Paula, 5th grade,
Comforter Lutheran Church**

I received money to pay for my education in February and in October. The money I received in October came at a very good time because I was able to register at a school closer to my house. The school I was attending this year was very far from home and I had to wake up very early and walk a lot to get to school on time. Thank you so much.

–**Yessica Alejandra, 6th grade,
St. Paul Lutheran Church**

I want to express my gratitude to my sponsors who have made possible my education so far. I am studying International Business, III semester. My father and I have received your support to study and we are blessed to serve the Church, my father as Pastor and I as youth and worship leader. Our lives have been changed by being able to study and by being able and called to serve God. Thank you!

–**Deisy Patricia, University,
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**

I am about to end my second semester of studies in Occupational Health thanks to your support. On October 16th I preached at my Church for the first time. It gives me such joy to know that God through His Holy Spirit uses us as instruments to serve His Church. Hope this winter is not too bad. I would love to see and feel the snow falling on my face! God bless you and also your family. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

–**Yohana, University,
St. Mathew Lutheran Church**

I want to thank my sponsors for supporting my education from 6th to 11th grade. On December 3rd I will graduate from High School. I already passed an admissions exam at a public university to study animal husbandry and will start my studies in February 2012. It is important for me to share my achievements with you to let you know that your support was well received and well used. Thank you!

–**Giraldo Alberto, 11th grade,
Redeemer Lutheran Church**

Right now I am studying publicity at Central University. This is my third semester and my grades are good. I work during the weekends to help paying for my studies and to help my mother with some house expenses. Thank you for helping my family and myself to move forward.

–**Angela P. University,
Redeemer Lutheran Church**

WALKING TOGETHER AS MISSION COMPANIONS —BY PASTOR NATANAEL LIZARAZO

Greetings to all of you dear mission friends and co-workers in God's mission! This is our Special 20th Year Anniversary Edition! It is truly amazing what God has accomplished so far with such humble pennies and with a personal tragedy in our Lizarazo-Wangness! As we celebrate the faithfulness of God and your amazing missionary generosity, we wholeheartedly convey to all of you our heart-felt gratitude for your confidence, trust and inspiration! To God be the glory!

Dr. Maxwell reminds us: "I am convinced a God-given ministry vision is always too large for us to accomplish alone. No individual or organization possesses all the talents and resources necessary to accomplish the task. Honestly, if you can achieve your dream alone, your dream is very likely not from God. God-sized dreams require the help of God and others. Partnership is a crucial part of God's design for us". We couldn't agree more with Dr. Maxwell. In this light, with great joy and thanksgiving we celebrate these significant ongoing mission relationships:



Pr. Natanael presents the "Servant Leadership Cross" to Bishop Eduardo Martinez on the occasion of being elected Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia. This beautiful Cross is made by Elmer Sorensen, member of First Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls!

Ongoing accompaniment with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia—

IELCO: From the beginning, we have joyfully served mission possibilities of the Lutheran Church of Colombia. Besides our

contributions to formal education, Christian leadership development, small evangelism projects, bilingual

communication and facilitation of mission relationships with different mission companions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia, we are currently working in addressing the feasibility of The House of Hospitality as well as exploring the possibility that the Emmaus Road Foundation may be directly administered by the Lutheran Church of Colombia. These ongoing relationships open exciting new possibilities to maximize resources and mission outcomes.

Relationship with Southeastern Minnesota

Synod-ELCA: Our heart-felt thanks to the Southeastern Minnesota-ELCA for their long facilitation of the LIZWAN Ministry. While most of the support of the LIZWAN Ministry comes from individuals, congregations, church groups and organizations outside the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, we continue to be richly blessed by the financial support we receive



Bishop Harold Usgaard pictured here at the 2011 Colombian Mission Consultation in Sioux Falls!

from individuals and congregations within the Synod as well as with the significant contributions the Synod makes by managing our financial resources, by publicizing our monthly updates in the Synod's web page and by uplifting our ministry and relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia in prayer.

Our sincere thanks to Bishop Harold Usgaard, The Colombian Companion Synod Task Force, Deborah A. Norrie, Katie Livingood and all individuals and congregations in the Synod for their valuable contributions to the LIZWAN Ministry!

Relationship with First Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, South Dakota:

First Lutheran Church has supported the LIZWAN Ministry in different ways for the last 10 years. This support includes individual members, First Lutheran Church Women and the Outreach Board. Three different First Lutheran visits to Colombia have taken place already.

More recently, LIZWAN has been blessed with a gift of \$40,000 over a five year term. This funding comes from First Lutheran's Capital Campaign.

These are significant mission contributions for which we are thankful to you the People of God at First Lutheran Church! To celebrate these mutual relationships The LIZWAN Ministry and First Lutheran Church welcomed Bishop Eduardo Martinez to Sioux Falls during the first week of November 2011.



Here the Outreach Board welcomes Bishop Eduardo to First Lutheran!

Relationships with Givology: Our heart-felt thanks to Givology and its committed Leadership Team as well as to all those who through Givology invest in education in the developing world, Colombia included. Thanks to this relationship, 13 students are currently sponsored. We are introducing Givology directly from its own webpage:

“Launched in March 2008 by students at the University of Pennsylvania, we are an Internet online giving marketplace for education that leverages small dollar donations to support grassroots projects and student scholarships in the developing world. Givology partners with NGOs and schools throughout the world and connects internet donors to grassroots causes. We pride ourselves on partnering with highly localized and innovative organizations that do transformational work in the community to assist talented students in need. More than anything, we care about making giving an active act - to actively engage all of you, our supporters, in our online community. What truly distinguishes Givology is our philosophy of building lasting sponsor-student relationships and cross-cultural communication. Through our messaging and blogging system, you can send messages to a student, as well as receive updates on their progress. Givology makes giving easy, transparent, and rewarding”.

Relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society:

We celebrate the ongoing mission engagement of the Good Samaritan Society in Colombia and the honor given to Pr. Natanael as Consultant for the Society's Project Outreach in Colombia.

Thanks to the pioneer work of the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society, The Lutheran Church of Colombia now implements two mission projects among the elderly population of Colombia

and of the Lutheran Church. The first project takes place in Southern Bogotá, in Soacha and involves 40 elderly brothers and sisters who live in extreme poverty and who know first-hand the painful reality of internal displacement by the armed conflict of Colombia. Here at the Good Samaritan Center for the Elderly, these brothers and sisters receive a nutritional lunch Monday through Friday, participate in worship, prayer, Christian community, led recreational and hand-crafted activities and constantly receive psychological and spiritual accompaniment.



Bishop Eduardo Martinez serves at the Good Samaritan Center in Soacha.

A second project takes place among elders at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Tunja, three hours away from Bogotá. A group of 15-20 elders are receiving psychological and spiritual assistance, participate in home gardens, crafts, recreation activities, as well as different activities related to their self-esteem, and holistic wellness and health. Thank you indeed to you beloved mission friends in the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society for your committed people to people relationships and your financial support of these projects, as well as of the LIZWAN Ministry. Your visits every year to us here in Colombia truly demonstrate an amazing commitment and generosity! Thank you indeed!

Relationship with Msaada Architects in Minneapolis: We also celebrate the relationship between the Lutheran Church of Colombia and Msaada Architects in Minneapolis!



Left to right: Paul Bertelsen, Bishop Eduardo Martinez and Pastor Natanael Lizarazo.

As Founder of Msaada Architects, Poul Bertelsen has been quite patient with the slow dynamics of building projects in Colombia. Poul has amazing practical experience with mission projects of churches around the world and as such, we are truly blessed to have his consulting services in regard to building projects which the Lutheran Church of Colombia is exploring at this time. We are also thankful that through our ongoing LIZWAN/ Emmaus Road Foundation connections and bilingual services, we are playing our small part in facilitating these important mission connections and relationships!

Finally, we truly celebrate the mission relationship we are blessed to have with all of you our individual supporters, supporting Lutheran congregations, Sunday schools and Women Groups in different

parts of the United States. All and each one of you who are receiving this 2011 Annual Report! As we look to God's promised future, we are thankful for you and pray you will continue to bless the people of Colombia with your compassion and mission generosity!

SPECIFIC WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT LIZWAN

We kindly invite your mission gifts! Whether they are small or large, here in Colombia your gifts always go long ways!

- The gift of your prayers and sharing our story with others is a precious gift
- \$300 provides an annual scholarship for one elementary or secondary student
- \$750 provides an annual scholarship for a university student
- \$1,000 provides an annual scholarship for a university students enrolled in the “Excellence in Leadership Initiative”
- \$250 provides 50% of the necessary resources to offer a Christian Leadership Training to our LIZWAN students and their parents
- \$50 provides funding for a LIZWAN high school/university student to attend a National Pre-Youth and Youth Leadership Event
- \$400 provides an annual sponsorship for one elderly participant at the Good Samaritan Center in southern Bogotá
- \$200 provides an annual sponsorship for an elderly participant at the Prince of Peace of Peace Congregation in the city of Tunja
- \$100 provides necessary resources for a community birthday celebration involving all 40 elderly participants at the Good Samaritan Center in southern Bogotá
- \$50 provides necessary resources for a community celebration involving 20 elderly participants at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Tunja
- Gifts larger or small are welcome for furnishings of the House of Hospitality

Where to send your gifts

Our thanks to all of you who already have sent your 2011 mission gifts! For tax purposes, all checks need to be written either to the Southeastern Minnesota Synod or to First Lutheran Church. On the memo line please state which particular LIZWAN program you are supporting. *(Please note changes to physical and email addresses)*

Within the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, please send gifts to:

Southeastern Minnesota Synod
1001 14th Street NW, Suite 300
Rochester, MN 55901

Outside Minnesota, send gifts to:

LIZWAN Ministry
2800 E. Orchard Place Unit 306
Sioux Falls, SD 57103



Communicating with our generous sponsors is always critically important to us! We are currently working on improving our web site of www.emmausroad-foundation.org; hoping that in the New Year it will be upgraded. We also send monthly updates via email about the LIZWAN/Emmaus Road Foundation Ministry. To receive them please send us your email lizwan@midco.net or 4290@flcsf.org. Stella can be reached at ldlizwan@ielco.org.

GRAPHIC DESIGN

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