

FUNDACIÓN CAMINO DE EMAÚS
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF COLOMBIA



2022
Annual
Report



Christian leadership for family,
church, and society!



2022 Mission Outcomes: The following accomplishments in formal education, Christian leadership, mission relationships, bilingual communications, and support to the Lutheran Church of Colombia are the direct outcome of the generosity of our mission companions. **This Annual Report represents our accountability of precious resources entrusted to us.**

230 elementary, secondary and university students received scholarships this year. Of these students, 18 graduated from high school and 1 graduated with a Degree in International Business. We serve in 21 communities where Lutheran congregations are present. 230 scholarship students and their parents were equipped with assertive communication tools to have healthier relationships. The same number of students and parents were trained on the subject of the Child Protection Policy of the Lutheran Church of Colombia which addresses children's rights and routes to report abuse.

SOLMICOL: Fundación Camino de Emaús provided focused leadership and financial support to the new endowment for SOLMICOL (Sociedad Luterana Misionera de Colombia). SOLMICOL inspires generosity and grows evangelistic capacity for the Church of Colombia.

Good Shepherd Center: 40 highly vulnerable seniors in Soacha receive physical and spiritual care thanks to the financial support of the Synod of Alberta & The Territories of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. We facilitate bilingual communication between the Lutheran Church of Colombia and mission companions in the United States and Canada.



Recognition for Pr. Greg Wilcox: Pr. Greg Wilcox provided the instrumental leadership for the former Good Samaritan Center, now The Good Shepherd Center in Soacha. Pr. Greg led mission immersion trips to Colombia for over 12 years. Now that he has retired, Pr. Greg still supports the Good Shepherd Center. In September Pr. Greg returned to Bogota and was recognized by both the Lutheran Church of Colombia and Fundación Camino de Emaús.

PEZCOL is the ministry of Colombian Lutherans living abroad. Fundación Camino de Emaús has been instrumental in the formation of this young ministry. We are passionate about our Lutheran identity and work toward strengthen the evangelizing capacity of the Lutheran Church of Colombia through SOLMICOL and our K-12 Lutheran schools.

Ministry of Education: our scholarship programs are part of the Ministry of Education of the Lutheran Church of Colombia. Along with other ministries and four K-12 Lutheran Schools we work together in order to provide a wider range of services and multiply the impact in the area of formal education. Fundraising and seeking volunteers to teach English in Colombia are two examples of what we aim together.

Children's Protection Policy: Through our Scholarship Program sponsored by Finland and in alliance with National Ministries such as Christian Formation and Justice and Life, the Lutheran Church of Colombia completed the first stage of making known the Children's Protection Policy among all ministries and received feedback to improve this policy.

Outlaw Ranch Bible Camp: Fundación Camino de Emaús has long-established mission relationships in South Dakota. Custer Lutheran Fellowship continues to be our mission companion for the last 31 years.



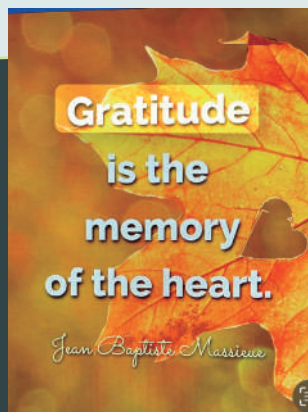
Outlaw Ranch Bible Camp also has a mission relationship with us. Outlaw Ranch invites young Colombian Lutherans to work as International Counselors in their summer programs. From this shared experience we all grow in cultural diversity, bilingual leadership, innovation, and global connectivity. This year Melissa Yepes, Coordinator for National Evangelism was the person selected to serve at Outlaw Ranch.



Communications, alliances and growing sustainability: Fundación Camino de Emaús has launched a brand-new web page in English. We invite you to check it. This webpage celebrates our shared mission, shares inspirational life stories and facilitates secured online giving through the platform of Network For Good. Please visit our web page in English at <https://www.fundacioncaminoemaus.org/en>

“Ora y Colabora Campaign” (Pray and Collaborate) was a fruitful pilot initiative we launched in Colombia in October. Its goal was to make known our mission and to invite generosity toward new scholarships in 2023. Individuals, families, and congregations in Colombia donated resources which will continue to make possible education for children and youth.

We further strengthened our administrative capacity to fulfill legal requirements of the Colombian government and received specific fundraising training to seek additional funding through the Colombian government and other international organizations.



By Melisa Yepes: I confess that I was afraid to live this experience, because it was the first time that I was in a different country with a different language. At the beginning of the summer I went into a small anxiety crisis for this very reason. The food was different, the language was complicated for me, and the cold was getting worse than I was used to resisting. I saw everything badly and I was afraid. Until one day, at the daily tasks inside the camp, a smile approached me, Pastor Larry, or simply Larry came to me and said “I’ll be your cooking partner!”. I saw that he puts on an apron with a print hens and he simply seemed so sweet and happy to wash the dishes with me, that it opened my heart to see God’s love without measure, and I was able to understand one of the principles of the Lutheran Church: there is no hierarchy here, all of us are called to serve, we are all equal.

Being in the camp was not only the opportunity to serve but the opportunity to be impacted by the theme of the last day: “generosity”. To be transformed by the generosity of nature, food and people who served with so much love and effort. A place that shows me a Jesus who constantly walks by our side, who cares about our fears and helps us to face them, a Jesus who welcomes us with cookies because he wants to see us smile, a Jesus who cries when he opens his heart, a Jesus who invites us to go out and is happy to see that we enjoy all that is around us. Who sits with us and listens and embraces us in times of adversity.

I saw a church that cares about building community, that is understanding of the times we are facing, that cares about reparation and reconciliation and explores new methods of being a body of Christ as through the ministry of the camp. I take from this Lutheran Church that we are sisters and brothers from the South to the North. We share struggles, challenges and fears, but we embrace each other in the hope of being bearers of the gospel working in the kingdom of heaven that is here and now.

Bishop ATAHUALPA HERNANDEZ MIRANDA



With deep gratitude to our gracious God, we celebrate the 2022 mission accomplishments made possible by the generosity of you our mission companions. First and foremost, our gratitude to God who multiplies the gifts of each of you; much like Jesus multiply the loaves and fishes to feed a hungry crowd (John 6:1-15), so too your generosity is multiplied to serve children, youth and young adults in Colombia who lack economic resources to accomplish their formal education dreams.

We also thank and celebrate the team that works with Fundación Camino de Emaús. They carry out their work with excellence amidst the prevailing long-term ravages caused by the pandemic. We also recognize the work of volunteers, a growing group who are actively serving the church, the Foundation and Colombian society in general. Their gifts and talents truly are an expression of what Jesus of Nazareth affirmed: "What you received for free, give it freely". And again, our heartfelt gratitude to you our mission

companions who continue to bless us with your prayers, visits, and financial resources. God reward you greatly!

A considerable achievement this year 2022 has been the granting of the first scholarships with resources from the endowment created by the Foundation a few years ago. Thanks to the faithful contribution of organizations such as the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission- FELM, the Companion Synods of Minnesota, South Carolina and Alberta and the Territories (Canada) we see the future with hope and are committed to make the endowment grow so that this sustainability further support formal education in Colombia. We are excited to think of all the possibilities this endowment offers us in terms of mission, good governance, sustainability, and diaconal witness.

I invite you to share your generosity with this endowment as an avenue for your giving. Specific information about this and other endowments are available at our English website www.fundacioncaminoemaus.org/en. **Blessed Christmas and a Healthy New Year 2023!**

With deep gratitude,

*Rev. Atahualpa Hernández Miranda - Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia - IELCO*

Beloved mission companions:

Peace, health and hope to all and each one of you in this Advent Season! This Annual Report highlights our shared accomplishments and serves as our accountability for the ongoing trust you place in us as Fundación Camino de Emaús (Emmaus Road Foundation).

Formal education being our core mission, this year 2022 we granted 230 scholarships covering the spectrum of elementary to university education. Workshops about parenting, assertive communication, and child protection policies, were provided to students and their parents as well. The work we do through the scholarship programs helps to lower school dropout and unattendance rates which many times are related to abuse, violence, unemployment, and lack of communication within the families. Through our workshops we provide tools and advice to students and their parents so that families become the place where love, support, assertive communication, and growth are nurtured and put into practice.

As a leadership-driven non-profit organization, we celebrate having provided focused leadership and communication for the launching of SOLMICOL (Sociedad Luterana Misionera de Colombia in Spanish).

SOLMICOL's objective is to inspire a movement of generosity in and outside Colombia in order to strengthen the evangelizing capacity of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia. You will find information about these significant accomplishments later in this Report.

Ongoing focus was also given to strengthening our administrative and legal capacity as Emmaus Road Foundation. As the Foundation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia, we gladly facilitated bilingual communication and international relationships for mission companions in Canada and the United States who blessed us with their personal visits here to Colombia.

As we envision the new year 2023, we recommit our knowledge, passion, gifts, and resources towards formal education, especially for university students who have less opportunities to achieve their academic goals due to college's high costs, lack of public education entities and poor academic formation during their previous school years. We will continue to offer workshops to our target population and work on strengthening our visibility, administrative, financial, and legal capacity to provide services to a wider number of individuals, families, and communities.

As someone said, 'gratitude is indeed the memory of the heart'. Echoing these inspiring words, we express our profound gratitude to all individuals, families, congregations, and organizations who made possible our life-giving and empowering mission in 2022. Thank you for trusting God's work through our hands and for transforming the lives of those we serve. We invite you to continue walking with us in shared mission in 2023. As our mission states, "together we are empowering individuals, families, and communities as agents of social change".

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2023. May the light and love of God abide within us, our families, ministries, and organizations. Always.

Stella Lizarazo
Executive Director



ENDOWMENTS

Prince of Peace Endowment: We celebrate the legacy of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Austin, Texas. When the congregation closed its doors, Emmaus Road Foundation was one of the six ministries blessed with an endowment. God's mission in Colombia will always celebrate this legacy for formal education, Christian leadership, and evangelizing initiatives.

LIZWAN Endowment Fund: This endowment was established in the United States in 2021 with a seed capital of \$5,000 provided by the Lizarazo Wangness family. Additional gifts are always welcome to make it grow. Our gratitude to the Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest in Texas for managing these endowments in the United States.

IELCO'S Endowment for Formal Education: We are grateful to IELCO-Finland Scholarship Program for its foundational gifts to this endowment in Colombia. 5 new elementary school students received a scholarship from the interest received from this national endowment.

Working in strategic alliance with World Vision, we implemented workshops on "Raising Kids with Tenderness". These multiplying workshops were offered to 15 congregational leaders, Sunday school teachers, and members of our scholarship's committees. We also joined Fundecise, a Colombian organization representing Giving Tuesday in Colombia. We are now ambassadors for the global movement of radical generosity called GivingTuesday.

Global Voices Virtual Events:

This year 2022 we offered two Global Voices Virtual Events. They are available in the tab of Gallery in our website www.fundacioncaminoemaus.org/en. This uplifting practice will continue into 2023. Celebrating the transforming power of music, prayer and mission relationships, these events give us the opportunity to join our voices in common praise, to hear directly from different folks who are directly involved in our shared mission and to be a church without borders. Though so far our Global Voices Virtual Events have brought voices from Colombia, Canada and the United States, other voices from other parts of the world are always welcome.

Financial gifts for Fundación Camino de Emaús (same as Emmaus Road Foundation) may be given in three different ways:

Make checks payable to Southeastern Minnesota Synod and mail it in attention of Kathy Chatelaine to 1001 14th Street NW Suite 300, Rochester, MN 55901. Please earmark your gifts Emmaus Road Foundation in the memo line. The Southeastern Minnesota Synod is our Fiscal Agent in the USA.

Gifts by credit card are securely processed through our online giving platform of Network For Good and through our English website www.fundacioncaminoemaus.org/en.

Gifts for the LIZWAN Endowment Fund are always welcome, appreciated and grow sustainability toward the future. Whether we give while living or decide to include Fundación Camino de Emaús in our final legacy generosity, Deacon John Dellis from the Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest will be delighted to guide us in this later regard. Though general operations greatly benefit from our generosity, we are encouraging our mission companions to give toward the LIZWAN Endowment Fund. Checks need to be made payable to Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest, noting LIZWAN Endowment Fund Acct. 6385 in the memo line. This is the address where to send our checks: Lutheran Foundation of The Southwest 103 12th Street Suite 201, Pflugerville, TX 78660.



NEW WEBSITE, NEW EMAIL AND PHONE NUMBER IN COLOMBIA

Website: www.fundacioncaminoemaus.org/en

Email: contacto@fundacioncaminoemaus.org

Cellular phone: 313-249-8921

IN THE USA PLEASE ADDRESS COMMUNICATIONS TO:

Email: emmausroadcolombia@ielco.org

Cellular Phone: 512-484-5167

Designed by: Jorge Enrique Diaz L

<https://telebitcom.wixsite.com/telebitcom> - e-mail: jkikediaz@gmail.com