



Scholarship Standouts

Top Left: Ana Sinisterra
Bottom Left: Daniela Acosta
Right: Laura Minota Deavila



DECEMBER 2021

Dear Friend of La Costa Colombia,

2021 has been an outstanding year for the ministries of *La Costa Colombia*. We have watched our partner ministries grow, we have developed new partnerships, and we are encountering new opportunities to grow ministry in 2022.

Your prayers and support have been vital, as always. Here are some highlights of our year:

- Casa Firme continued improvements on their building and served 165 children twice a week, even in keeping with COVID 19 restrictions.
- New ministries with teen mothers were started.
- FUNDEPCAR sports ministry expanded to five barrios and now serves over 450 youth.
- The scholarship program saw some significant graduations this year.
- The Pastors Network was revived and much needed encouragement was offered.
- A full scholarship was acquired through FAME, our ministry partner, for Elida Camargo in preparation to be the director of our hoped for Community Health Center.
- Negotiations for the property for the Community Health Center have moved forward and half the needed funds have been raised.

The enclosed newsletter gives details of some of the highlights.

I give thanks to the Lord for your faithfulness and for the growth of our ministry. Frankly, I have been surprised at the generosity I have seen recently. God bless you for your support and prayers.

My hope is that you will continue to see *La Costa Colombia* as a valuable ministry and worthy of your support. We need to keep our monthly commitments to our ministry partners and also raise an additional \$7,000 in order to purchase the property for our Community Health Center. A generous partner has offered to match the \$13,000 price of the property to help pay for renovations. With that kind of promise I trust the Lord is also preparing for more gifts to come.

Once again, thank you for your wonderful support for our ministry. With God's help we look forward to more growth in 2022.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Jerry Sizemore

Jerry Sizemore
Director
La Costa Colombia

La Costa Colombia is a helping mission focused on assisting and developing indigenous missions in the coastal cities of Colombia. We partner with churches and foundations with whom we share essential doctrinal agreement to provide training and development of church leaders, financial assistance to local missions and churches, scholarships for Christian youth, and medical missions in partnership with FAME.

**PARTNER
WITH US**

Your gifts and prayers are of such value!
Every financial gift is used directly for the ministry of national leaders in Colombia making an impact in their community.

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Community Health Center Project

Three years ago we became aware of a property just across the alley from Casa Firme in the Las Flores barrio of Barranquilla. We were allowed to tour the property and it was clear that it would be ideal for a Community Health Center as well as for expansion of the Casa Firme congregation. Through various contacts Roger Torres was able to find the owner of the property, a former missionary now retired in southern California. She told Roger the property was not available for sale because she hoped to start a new mission in it. But last year she contacted Roger and let him know that since our interest was to start a ministry she would sell it to us.

A generous ministry partner let us know that they would match whatever funds we raised for the purchase of the property to help cover costs of renovations. The original price of the property was \$17,000. But just last month we were informed that the owner was dropping the price to \$13,000. To date we have raised \$6,500 for the purchase of the property. We are half way there. We pray that you will consider a one time extra gift to help us get to the full price of purchase.

We believe the Lord has shown us this is His leading. Our ministry partner FAME has committed to help us operate the health center through training and continued short term trips. They also have provided a full scholarship for Roger Torres' wife, Elida Camargo. She is getting two degrees. Community Health and Pharmacy Management. The work we hope to expand in the center has already begun. So much more could be done with dedicated space.



Exterior and interior views of the property to be purchased for a Community Health Center

Here are some highlights of why we see God's hand in this effort:

- Doctor Tony Argote who works with us in our medical mission trips, has agreed to be the consulting physician for the health center.
- Elida Camargo has already started working with pregnant teens and with young mothers in the barrio teaching nutrition, hygiene and providing emotional support.
- Casa Firme children's ministry has grown and sees 165 children twice a week. With the expansion to the health center *La Costa Colombia* will qualify to apply for a grant to expand the feeding ministry to 6 days a week.
- FAME is committed to provide CHE training to the Casa Firme leadership in November of 2022. CHE stands for Community Health Evangelism and is the foundational concept of the work we hope to do in the Center.
- FUNDEPCAR Sports Ministry has shown interest in partnering with the Center, which would provide access to hundreds of families.

Please be in prayer for this project, and ask the Lord if He is leading you to make an extra gift in order to see it come to fruition.



Leadership Training and Encouragement

Novemehr 9-18 Jerry Sizemore was able to visit our partner ministries in Barranquilla. This was our first trip since March of 2020, when the Covid-19 pandemic hit. Jerry says this was one of the most productive trips he has ever made. The pandemic hit Barranquilla hard and they are still under strict restrictions. Pastors and church leaders have suffered emotionally with the extra burden of keeping church ministries going during such a difficult time.

Jerry spent some very valuable time offering encouragement and training to our partners. He spent one evening and one afternoon with the leadership of Casa Firme introducing them to the Discovery Bible Study Method. They studied passages from Ephesians 5 and the book of 1 Timothy. The teaching was of great benefit as the Discovery Bible Study Method teaches how to read the Bible and understand it for yourself. Many times believers do not have access to commentaries or formal education, but the Bible was intended to be read and understood by all. The Discovery Method is of great help in simplifying while also deepening Bible reading and study.



Jerry also had an opportunity to take six ministers and their wives out for a nice meal and time of fellowship. For five of the couples it was the first time they had eaten out in a year and a half. These ministers are struggling with the new normal of church life. Attendance is down significantly as well as offerings. Some are going into their pensions to pay expenses. Four of the ministers told us they were struggling with severe discouragement.

One evening does not solve their struggles but it has accomplished two things of importance. First is the reorganizing of our network of like-minded churches. They openly spoke of how much they appreciate knowing that *La Costa Colombia* is with them as a ministry encouragement. The other important accomplishment of the evening was to bring them together. Ministers have a terrible tendency to isolate. But Jerry asked them all to consider getting together once a month for prayer and mutual encouragement. Jerry hopes to be able to join these meetings via ZOOM.

Scholarship Standouts

Presently we have 16 scholarship recipients. They are all outstanding in their own way. We want to highlight three exceptional young ladies as examples of why this program is so important.

Ana Sinisterra – Ana is the daughter of a local minister in the Las Flores barrio and she is part of the youth group at Casa Firme. Ana loves her parents deeply and for several years has risen at 4:00 every morning to pray for her parents' ministry. Two years ago Ana's brother was killed as he sat on their porch and a gun fight broke out in the street. *La Costa* was able to pay for his funeral expenses and Ana has shown deep appreciation for our ministry. Ana is studying Chemical Engineering. Ana has also studied English and speaks the language very well. Now she is studying French and German along with her college courses.

Daniela Acosta – Daniela is a young woman of deep dedication to her family, her church, and mostly to her Lord. Recently Daniela had to move to Medellin, but because of her strong character, we decided to keep her in the scholarship program. Daniela recently graduated with a degree in Agricultural Engineering. *La Costa* payed for her cap and gown—one our favorite moments. Daniela plans to pursue her studies through getting a Doctorate, and *La Costa* is hoping to be right alongside her. Daniela has expressed how she hopes to use her education to help struggling farmers develop thriving businesses.

Laura Minota Deavila – One of our great friends in this ministry passed away several years ago from spinal meningitis. Narciso was the founder of the church in Buenaventura, Colombia, with which we work. Since his death *La Costa* has been supporting his widow and two daughters with a small monthly gift. This is supplemental to what the church does for them. Now, his daughter Laura has graduated High School and will start her studies this January in Pre-Med. Her hope is to become a Medical Doctor and continue to serve the Lord as a missionary in her own country. She is our newest addition to the scholarship program and we fully expect the Lord to use her mightily.

Almost all of our scholarship funding has come from one congregation here in the States. But they have informed us that their funding source is ending in 2022 and *La Costa* will then be responsible to cover the cost of the scholarships. Please pray for the Lord to increase our support base so these marvelous young people can continue to pursue their dreams and become powerful servants in the Lord's Kingdom.