

IDES Grant

We are so pleased to announce that International Disaster and Emergency Service (IDES) has approved a \$13,650 grant for the purpose of expanding our feeding program from two days a week to five days a week beginning in January 2023. When the grant runs out there is the possibility that it could be extended, but not indefinitely. The idea behind the grant is to increase the ministry while giving La Costa Colombia time to raise funds to replace the money and continue the ministry. That means La Costa Colombia needs to raise \$2,275 in additional monthly gifts in the upcoming year. It's a very tall order. But we believe God has led us in this direction and therefore will bless us with the increase.

Not Always Good News

Pastors suffer in ways that most people will never be able to understand. There is often undeserved criticism. What's worse than undeserved criticism? Fair criticism. It also hurts even though it's needed. Pastors also deal with unrealistic expectations. Differing priorities among the flock, disagreements, and the job of keeping an organization going with little help or resources combine to deplete a pastor's energy reserves.

Add to all of that the need to be present for people in all circumstances. There is the additional burden of preaching the gospel and seeking the lost. The responsibility to build up the body and train leaders never diminishes. Often underpaid or not paid at all, pastors frequently see their own families suffer with them.

Recently our ministry has seen two very sad situations where the pastors of our affiliate ministries have been abandoned by their fellow leaders. I have followed the situations closely

and am convinced that the pastors in question did nothing wrong. I have also seen situations where ministers are let go when they experience depression or marital problems. Rather than come alongside him or her, their supervisors cut them loose; culled from the herd because they are weak.

I have a passion for pastors. One of my main goals for La Costa Colombia was to provide support, encouragement, rest, and training for local pastors in Colombia.



Pastor Calixto Gómez thanks Bill Bruneau for all his support and encouragement

Our monthly ZOOM meetings are very helpful and the fellowship that has developed among the pastors in Colombia is wonderful. Yet, I still would love to resume our minister's retreats and training. But for the time being I can't. Why? No funds for travel, pastoral salaries, and retreat expenses.

There is so much that can be done on the coasts of Colombia with very little money. The Directors of La Costa Colombia have calculated that if we had a \$5,500 per month income we could easily fund:

- Six Ministry Family salaries
- Two retreats per year
- Five days a week of feeding 165 children
- The whole scholarship program
- Supplies and equipment for ministry partners
- A benevolence fund for emergencies

Will you please consider becoming a monthly supporter of La Costa Colombia? You can give online through our website LaCostaColombiaMission.org or send checks to our office at 7720 Surrey Dr, Indianapolis, Indiana 46227.



Jerry Sizemore
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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.

DECEMBER 2022

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thanksgiving is such a wonderful holiday. I love it because there is so little commercialism attached to Thanksgiving, at least for now. I enjoy all the trappings of buying and preparing the food and getting together with family and friends. But most of all I enjoy the emphasis on giving thanks for all my blessings.

Your support and encouragement of *La Costa Colombia* has been one of those blessings for which I am deeply thankful. With your help we have had a great year in ministry. Here are a few highlights I will write more in length about in the newsletter.

- Purchase of church property and property for a Community Health Center
- Graduation of Elida Camargo with a degree in Community Health, and the beginning of her work in the Community Health Center
- Addition of an affiliate ministry with another presently in discussions
- Two medical mission trips with FAME
- CHE training with FAME
- Monthly prayer and encouragement meeting with Colombian ministers

2022 certainly has been a wonderful year for our ministry. But it has not been without its challenges. Frankly stated, our ministry opportunities continually run ahead of our financing. There is so much more we could do with more financial support.

I am convinced that the Good Lord is preparing new partners to help us financially and in prayer and service. There are willing workers just waiting to be trained and supported. Our hope is that *La Costa Colombia* would be able to:

- Pay Elida Camargo's salary at the Community Health Center.
- Continue with our scholarship program of \$3,000 per year, which has seen 62 marvelous young people graduate and begin to serve in their communities.
- Remodel the Community Health Center and begin a community garden.
- Begin to support the work of Calixto Gomez to replicate what is being done at Casa Firme church and foundation.
- Make trips to hold minister's retreats, and also to expand our work with FAME.
- Help Carlos Gomez purchase a new laptop for the FUNDEPCAR sports ministry.

Once more, thank you for your support, encouragement and prayers. May the Lord richly bless you this Holiday Season and in the New Year.

In Christ, *Jerry Sizemore*

**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.

Another Successful Medical Mission Trip

Fellowship of Associates of Medical Evangelism (F.A.M.E.) is our faithful ministry partner. October 23 – November 6 they led what all agreed was the most impactful trip yet to Barranquilla and the Las Flores barrio. Nineteen people traveled over a two-week period and provided significant ministry in two ways.

CHE Training

Six wonderful women traveled the first week and conducted Community Health Evangelism (CHE) training. All week I received one message after another here in Indiana from participants of the training telling me how much they appreciated the lessons and the approach to community ministry.

All of the La Costa Colombia affiliate ministries were represented at the training as well as medical personnel from the community at large. In all there were 25 attendees.

One medical professional from the community commented, "I have never been a believer in Christianity because all I have ever seen of it was preachers yelling and folks making noise. But if what I have seen this week is the true gospel, I am going to take another look."



All the CHE participants, teachers, and interpreters

Medical Mission

On week two, the CHE team was joined by 13 other travelers and another successful medical campaign was conducted in Las Flores. Bad weather and the threat of violence tried to dissuade these wonderful servants but to no avail. Five hundred fifty-four patients were served and the gospel was shared with them and their families.



Our medical mision team on a day of rest



Pastora Josefina D'Avila and Pastor Rogelio Torres talking with patients as they wait to be attended

Two Medical Mission trips are planned for 2023

June 11-18 is an open trip

If you have an interest, please visit the FAME website: fameworld.org

October 31 is a private trip

A group from Chapel Rock Christian Church in Indianapolis will come

Casa Firme Academy

Harold and Erica Diaz are a wonderful couple from the Casa Firme leadership. They work in children's ministry, music ministry, and media ministry. Harold is a beneficiary of the La Costa Colombia scholarship program.

Recently, Harold became concerned that many of our scholarship recipients were not serving in the community as is intended by the program. One conclusion he made was that perhaps some just don't know where to put their efforts. So he and Erica have birthed the idea of having a training academy associated with the Casa Firme Community Health Center and congregation.

This academy will provide ongoing education for people in the community for little to no cost. All subjects will be taught by La Costa Colombia Scholarship graduates. In this way the scholarship graduates will be given a way to serve and the Community Health Center will broaden their impact in the neighborhood.

Subjects to be taught will include Theology 101 and 102, Computer Programming and Web Design, Family and Business Finance and Accounting, English as a New Language, Physical Fitness for the Family, Legal Essentials for the Family, and Music.

This idea was heavily influenced by the CHE training that was conducted earlier this Fall.



Harold and Erica Diaz, the founders and new directors of the Casa Firme Academy for continuing edution

FUNDEPCAR Sports Foundation of the Caribbean

If you have followed our ministry for very long, you know that five of our scholarship graduates have been giving back to the community for several years now. FUNDEPCAR sports ministry serves 165 youth in the Las Flores barrio and is expanding to four other neighborhoods.

Last year this ministry took three of their best soccer players to a professional soccer tryout camp in Medellin, Colombia. (This camp is very similar to our NFL Combine.) At that camp one player received an offer to play professionally in Mexico. This year two other players attended the camp and one received an invitation to try out for the professional soccer team in Medellin.

Most importantly, the ministry has captured the attention of the coaching staff at the Medellin Independents. Their head coach actually flew to Barranquilla to observe what Carlos Gomez and his team were doing. While there he noticed a jersey the young men were wearing. Like many jerseys it lists corporate sponsors on the back. But one sponsor really grabbed the coaches attention: *La Costa Colombia, Pastor Jerry Sizemore*.

The coach asked Carlos to explain the relationship between a Pastor and the sports foundation. At the end of the conversation, he asked Carlos if he could have two of the jerseys to take back to his office in Medellin. Carlos had to call me and ask for the money to screen print two jerseys and I was thrilled to oblige.

Folks, Christ is being held in honor in the highest offices of professional sports in Colombia because of the faithful support and encouragement of American Christians. God be praised.



The two jerseys that now grace the coach's office of the Independiente Medellin