



ENCOUNTER WITH CHRIST IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

ARGENTINA

ARGENTINIAN EVANGELICAL METHODIST CHURCH – METHODIST CHURCH OF FLORES ART EDUCATION PROGRAM, \$9,100

The mission strategy of the Methodist Church of Flores was to contribute to the care of single women and single mothers with children in the neighborhood where there is a high-risk context for unemployment, housing shortages and homelessness. The Methodist Church of Flores has been working on a program that will provide a space for art education for women (mostly single mothers) and their children. The goal of this program was to transform the situation of single mothers and women, ultimately creating opportunities for their empowerment which lead to economic self-sustainability.

The Church provides art workshops each Saturday, for both women and their young children where they also share a snack. They also provide a space for recreational and educational support for the children and at the same time a space for women (usually mothers) to participate in discussions on how to overcome their situation that keeps them in serious social vulnerability. The Church also offers a time for sharing the Good News of the Gospel.

ARGENTINIAN EVANGELICAL METHODIST CHURCH - PASTORAL TRAINING AND MISSION WORKSHOP PROJECT, \$10,000

The General Assembly of 1991, determined that the main focus of the Church's mission should be the organization of local congregations, and the development of local lay leadership. The XXI General Assembly in 2009 approved the reorganization of churches in other districts and circuits to implement a better connection, mutual support and the sharing of gifts and talents, among the congregations. There was a two year project (2014/2015) that included training for the 18 DS, and the training of pastors in the area of planning and development of life and mission of congregations in coordination with the appropriate districts. There was also a Laity National Meeting in May 2014, and training and mission workshops in the 18 districts during July 2014 through November 2015. This program was developed among 18 districts in a period of two years. It is mainly focused on training and strengthening the lay population of the church among the districts to work in the area of the local mission.

ARGENTINIAN EVANGELICAL METHODIST CHURCH – UNIVERSITY STUDENT "HOME" IN LA PLATA, \$10,000

The Argentine Evangelical Methodist Church (EMCA) has ownership of 7 student houses in various parts of the country. The Church has been providing housing for young people for over 40 years. Many universities in Argentina are public and programs are offered at no cost to students. Many young adults (mostly from poor families) travel from rural areas to cities to take advantage of the opportunity for higher education and economic prosperity.

The EMCA has a property worth \$50,000 in La Plata (a very important center for universities) and wanted to renovate the property so that it could be used as housing for students, especially those who are from rural areas. The property is in a very good geographic location. It is close to some university buildings and local congregations. This housing is not the typical university residence or lodgings. They are called "Homes" because the "family of the church" (brothers and sisters of the congregation) living nearby were willing to help in the integral formation of the students - through "teaching" of Christian values, family contention, and support during the study process. The EMCA "student housing project" has not been only about housing for students but the sharing of faith in an integral way.

EMCA was seeking assistance with the renovation costs of the property in La Plata which served 7 students. The roof of the building needed to be renewed and some repairs needed to be done in the kitchen and bathrooms. The students would then take care of the property and would be responsible for regulations for community life within the "home." A small fee was charged to the students in order to maintain the property and its common expenses.

ARGENTINIAN EVANGELICAL METHODIST CHURCH - YOUTH: MISSION FORMATION AND ECCLESIASTICAL RENOVATION, \$10,000

This grant to the Argentine Evangelical Methodist Church supported their project "Youth: Mission Formation and Ecclesiastical Renovation." Over the last few years, the Argentine Methodist Church has developed a series of reflections and concerns on what it means to be a "Church in Mission." At the Methodist National Encounter and the General Assembly in January 2004, the youth had the opportunity to share their experiences and to think about what it means to be a "Church in Mission."

In February of 2006, motivated youth delegations that participated in various CIEMAL meetings brought before Bishop Nelly Ritchie their need to organize and be trained as leaders of the Church. In response to the youth petition, the Argentine Evangelical Methodist Church has been providing training for youth leadership in different areas of life and mission.

Funds from Encounter with Christ provided four interregional training opportunities in the areas of evangelization, service, administration and education to 120 youth in seven regions of the Church.

ARGENTINIAN EVANGELICAL METHODIST CHURCH - YOUTH RECREATION PROJECT, \$6,000

The Church of Alta Garcia has a small membership community made up of working class members and several retirees. Youth membership (age ranging from 13 to 19 years) is increasing and the Church had been considering developing ministries to keep them engaged in the life of the church and community.

The Church noted that these young people were interested in music and were motivated to gather for recreational and spiritual purposes if there was music involved. The Church, however, did not have any musical instruments nor appropriate space to accommodate this ministry. They had a meeting room for the activity, but it was in need of being refurbishment - replacement of the ceiling, extension of the space and concrete flooring.

The goals of the Recreation Project were: 1) Opportunity for young people to become involved with the church. 2) Youth engagement in tasks of social commitment according to Methodist faith: Love to God, to the neighbor and to oneself.

The activities of the youth recreation project was carried out by the Christian Education Team, which was composed of four women leaders. The project reached out to approximately 50 young people.

Outcomes: Creation of a recreational space for youth, providing musical and art resources to a group of 40-50 young people who gather on a weekly basis.

The congregation continues to be committed to the development of youth leadership who will provide support for the continuation of the project. They continue to seek the support of the Methodist Church of Argentina for ways in which they can collaborate to make this project successful.

CAREF (COMMISSION TO SUPPORT REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS) - PROMOTING ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE FOR MIGRANTS, \$8,000

CAREF has developed a community network of Red Rioba, in which 20 grassroots organizations from the neighborhoods of Once, Abasto and Constitución participate. These neighborhoods count with a high immigrant population, especially from Bolivia, Peru and the Dominican Republic. CAREF participated in an exhibition at a Health Fair organized by Red Rioba, where it also networked with local health authorities from CESAC (Public Primary Health Center) which led to an alliance among the organizations to promote health rights of migrants at the local level.

The program seeks to promote equal and quality access to primary health care for migrants, especially women, young adults and children immigrants in three neighborhoods of the city of Buenos Aires. This was done through participative workshops to raise awareness and provide tools for immigrants, especially women, young adults and children, to increase access to primary health care, capacity building workshops with local health agents in the neighborhoods of Once, Abasto and Constitución. The purpose was to raise awareness about the specific rights of immigrants in relation to health care, and to strengthen community work and joint actions with local organizations such as Red Rioba. Direct beneficiaries are 120 migrants and 25 local health agents that participated in awareness raising and capacity building workshops. Indirect beneficiaries were the families of the migrants, refugees and asylum seekers that live in the neighborhoods of Once, Abasto and Constitución, in the city of Buenos Aires.

CHRISTIAN ECUMENICAL CENTER OF CORDOBA - ECUMENICAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR MISSION, \$6,500

The goal of this ecumenical coalition was to train new leaders with an Ecumenical vision for social and cultural transformation. The main goal was to move the whole community of Trinitarian faith, participate and contribute with their gifts and talents, and live together prayerfully in our Lord Jesus Christ, for a mutual spiritual enrichment.

The training program supported catered to youth and women, and it took place at social centers, local churches, schools and universities. The training program took place through weekend workshops in social centers, ecumenical celebrations, local churches, training camps, and conferences in schools and universities. Workshops covered Bible basis for ecumenisms, ecumenical relationships, and publishing of small dossier for training.

CREAS (REGIONAL CENTER FOR ADVICE AND SERVICE) - RIGHTS OF CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH, \$10,000

The Mission of CREAS is to strengthen the capacity of the ecumenical movement, local churches and community based organizations for the promotion of human rights – civil, political, economic, social, cultural and environmental. CREAS is identified as part of the ecumenical movement, understood as a set of people and entities who assume from their Christian faith, a commitment to human dignity and promotes diakonia as an instrument of justice.

One of CREAS's primary activities is promoting greater dignity from childhood through adolescence and youth, especially with young people from marginalized and poor areas. These activities include leadership development training and capacity building of young people. This mission is being developed in many countries in Latin America and the Caribbean region. The goal of this program is to strengthen leadership capabilities of organizations and/or local churches in management, sustainability and impact on the promotion and protection of child rights.

This project will target the local leadership of churches and community organizations formed mostly by young adults and women of the Buenos Aires area, who are in charge of activities of local churches and community organizations.

BOLIVIA

EVANGELICAL METHODIST CHURCH IN BOLIVIA - EQUIPMENT FOR EVANGELIZATION IN THE MISSIONARY AREA OF CHAPARE, \$10,000

In 2012, the EMCB began the work of evangelization throughout the Central District (Cochabamba), especially in the Chapare area, covering the communities of Ivirgarzama, Puerto Villarroel, Yuracare, Paradise, Chasqui and 8 de Agosto, in the Carrasco Province, Department of Cochabamba. Currently there are 79 full members and approximately the same number of youth and children. They count with a chapel in Puerto Villarroel, but in the other surrounding communities they gather at member's houses or huts. Most of the population of the villages are migrant Quechua people, except for those of Yuracaré that are indigenous and whose native language is Guarani. Their main occupation is agriculture, while others also engage in fishing activities at the Puerto Villarroel River. There is a great need in terms of health care, since the climate of the area is tropical, and tropical diseases, such as dengue, are very common. Another big issue in terms of health is malnutrition, and the nearest medical centers are 15–20 kilometers away. Education is also a main issue in the area because there are very few schools and a high numbers of dropouts being that at the age of 14 most girls are already mothers. They do not count with drinking water and their only source of water is the river.

The goals for this project were: To preach the Gospel to everyone; to train members of local churches for permanent evangelization promoting local church leadership; to promote and create conditions for self-sustaining economic for the families; to strengthen the rights of the people (land and territory); to offer first aid campaigns; and to pursue sustainability in rural development. This project was about getting the equipment and materials needed to start the work of evangelization in an integral way and to bring the Word of God to everyone in the area, but also, serving the community and helping them with the issues and challenges they face.

EVANGELICAL METHODIST CHURCH IN BOLIVIA - INDIGENOUS LEADERS TRAINING & CAPACITY BUILDING, \$7,000

In Bolivia, there are great political, economical and leadership problems and confrontations that negatively affect the lives of rural indigenous communities. Given that situation, the church worked with local indigenous leadership to strengthen their capacity in communications and the negotiations concerning different government actions and proposals (national and local) that may negatively affect their daily life.

Work with indigenous and rural ministries is a very important priority for the Evangelical Methodist Church in Bolivia. It is estimated that 55% of the community leaders receive little training from their organizations to understand complex social and political dynamics. To be good leaders and bring about positive social change, it is necessary that they acquire knowledge and skills on international relations, economic structural reforms and legislative processes so they can have an impact on, and participation in, municipalities and national government issues. This grant supported the Evangelical Methodist Church in Bolivia with the implementation of their training and capacity building of indigenous leaders.

EVANGELICAL METHODIST CHURCH IN BOLIVIA - INTEGRAL EVANGELIZATION WITH THE CHIMAN PEOPLE, \$10,000

In the east of Bolivia is Chaco and Amazonia, where one can find numerous indigenous people. In 1990 this country's indigenous people marched to present their needs claiming "Territory and Dignity", from the city of Trinidad, Beni to the city of La Paz. Some 850 indigenous people marched more than 600 kilometers for this very purpose. This march showed the whole nation a different way of advocacy based on solidarity, reciprocity, brotherhood, and the struggle of their original territories. Since then, the Government of Bolivia began to open the way to recognize the ethnic groups as Bolivian citizens with rights. Some of the principal goals of this project were: (a) to help construct and affirm one's own ethnic identity and culture; (b) to search for development strategies for the well being of the Chiman people; (c) to help find other means of subsistence such as agriculture and cattle; (d) to begin the work of intra cultural evangelization; (e) the integration of children in learning centers to help them learn how to read and write, and begin a literacy program for adults; (f) to create health posts for basic medical attention (there is one 15 kilometers away); (g) to strengthen their original language (Chiman); and, (h) to start development of projects so that the government will pay attention to their realities. The Chiman have been forgotten and marginalized, their culture rejected and excluded for more than 500 years, and even their rivers where they fish have been polluted. The Evangelical Methodist Church in Bolivia projected to support the Chiman people in the frame of proclaiming an integral Gospel of life, teaching, preaching, and healing; a Gospel of total freedom and redemption of people, structures and creation; and a Gospel brought to life in the history and the cultures of people, within the perspective of the construction of the Kingdom of God, which is all living in harmony.

EVANGELICAL METHODIST CHURCH IN BOLIVIA - YOUTH LEADERS TRAINING FOR MISSION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE, \$6,000

This grant to the Evangelical Methodist Church in Bolivia supported the Methodist Youth Federation (FEJUME) program of training youth leaders for mission and social justice. During the past years, seven training workshops have been held. As a result of these workshops, approximately 450 youth received leadership training in "*Mission and Social Justice*" and 21 received training in "*Communities and Churches Missionary Work and Practice*".

Bolivia has been strongly affected by an economic recession, which has affected the people in marginal communities, especially women, male adolescents and youth who do not find viable life alternatives and are marginalized from educational and health care opportunities. FEJUME recognizes the importance of youth involvement in the church and society, especially for the development of mission and social justice in their communities.

The Encounter with Christ grant helped FEJUME provide six "Youth Leaders Training for Mission and Social Justice" workshops and seminars and train 300 rural and urban youth leaders. The areas covered in the workshops and seminars were evangelization, discipleship, economy-society and culture-justice.

ISEAT (ANDEAN INSTITUTE OF HIGHER STUDIES IN THEOLOGY) - PASTORAL, BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL TRAINING, \$8,000

The ISEAT is an ecumenical institution whose mission is to develop and strengthen the church leadership through programs of theological, biblical and pastoral formation, and thereby transforming communities by training leaders to transmit the liberating message of Jesus Christ. Therefore the training promoted by the ISEAT did not only seek to teach the meaning of Christianity, but primarily to implement creative life practices among leaders and believers committed to their churches, communities, and the Bolivian Culture. Thus, the main goal of this project was "to train and strengthen the leaders in the churches and faith communities" through the creation of new spaces for reflection, discussion and debate on issues that question the spirituality and beliefs (i.e. gender, environment, ecumenical commitment), and by promoting the adoption of practices that foster Christian values in daily life, while strengthening the commitment of social and church leaders with their churches and faith communities.

Trainings included different courses on Christian identity and theological deepening; workshops on interreligious and ecumenisms, multiculturalism and environment; an International Encounter around gender issues; and support for the leadership and pastoral theological trainings.

BRAZIL

KOINONIA – ECUMENICAL FORUM FOR OVERCOMING FUNDAMENTALISMS, \$10,000

This grant supported a project that boosted the São Paulo Ecumenical Forum, to articulate and disseminate an ecumenical voice against fundamentalism, especially concerning denial of science, violence against women and people living with HIV/AIDS, and the role of religious communities.

KOINONIA Presença Ecumênica e Serviço is an ecumenical organization with more than 25 years of diaconal work in Brazil, with offices in Salvador, São Paulo, and Rio de Janeiro. Its mission is to mobilize ecumenical solidarity and to provide services to historically and culturally vulnerable groups in the process of social and political emancipation, as a manifestation of the mission of the ecumenical movement and its liberating values.

The main goal of the project was to strengthen the Ecumenical Movement connected with civil society movements in São Paulo, in its fight against fundamentalisms. The activities included:

- (a) preparatory meetings to reestablish a continuous meeting of an ecumenical forum in São Paulo;
- (b) thematic meetings to discuss the different issues around the growing fundamentalism in Brazil;
- (c) preparation of online resources and texts for different religious communities to use in their groups;
- (d) mobilization no later than January 21st, 2021, of the "National day to fight against religious intolerance", including interreligious vigils to give testament to peaceful acts of faith with justice and equal rights.

All of this was done according the general plan of action of KOINONIA and its cross-cutting axis of "Ecumenism, Overcoming Religious Intolerance, and Gender Justice". This project also aligned with the Encounter with Christ program's stated mission priority to support ecumenical relationships.

METHODIST CHURCH IN BRAZIL, National Church - BLACKNESS AND FAITH, \$7,000

This grant supported the Methodist Church of Brazil with ministries with people of African inheritance in order to provide them with tools and education on racial justice and reconciliation.

The Brazilian people are made up of the interrelationship of three historic races (Black, Indigenous and White) which provide the bases for a so called "Mestizo" society that assumes there are no racial problems in the country and all are equal. One of the myths of the country is "racial" democracy, where, because of miscegenation everybody is supposed to look the same or similar in reference to color. However, in spite of this mythology, the country does not enjoy racial justice and black people, in particular, are victims of daily abuses and exclusions. While it is not easy to notice this in daily life, racism assumes new forms and nuances. However, in secular employment, investment and the church, race still matters and stigmatizes and oppresses the life of black people. Regretfully, the church was part of the oppression and exclusion of black people, thus the church developed a national ministry to combat racism.

The program that was supported by Encounter with Christ worked in five regions of the church and country to increase awareness and to provide tools and skills to combat racism and to begin processes within the church and community for racial equality. After the program concluded in 2005, the church will had a more robust witness for racial justice and reconciliation.

METHODIST CHURCH IN BRAZIL, 1st ECCLESIASTICAL REGION - VOCATIONAL EDUCATION, \$8,000

This grant to the Peoples' Central Institute (PCI) of the Methodist Church in Brazil enabled PCI to continue with their vocational programs. PCI is a Methodist school and community center in the dock area of Rio de Janeiro. PCI has completed more than 99 years of service and has provided vocational training courses to the community for many years. The main beneficiaries of these vocational

courses are unemployed youth and those with low paying jobs, especially persons of African heritage.

The programs funded with this grant included two main courses: a Basic Computer course and a course in Bakery. The bread and other baked goods made in the bakery also supplement the meals of the children in the Day Care Center of PCI.

METHODIST CHURCH IN BRAZIL, 2nd REGION - CHURCH & RACIAL EQUALITY - AGENTS TRAINING, \$4,472

This grant supported the Methodist Church in Brazil with their project, Church and Racial Equality - Agents Training Ministry to Combat Racism was created in 2005. Its purpose was to search for ways to comply with mission goals of the Methodist Church in Brazil to combat violence, discrimination, injustice and support for the poor. Encounter with Christ funds enabled this ministry to train a 15 member working team, train educators, identify the Afro-descendent families that were members of the Methodist Church and help them rebuild their identity, and provide training programs for combating racism in all education actions of the Church.

METHODIST CHURCH IN BRAZIL, 2nd REGION - PROTECTING CHILDREN & A HOLISTIC LIFE WITHIN THE COMMUNITIES, \$10,000

The Anna Bittencourt Nursery is part of IRMA (Methodist Rural Institute of Alegrete). This Nursery works to promote integral development of poor children up to six years of age in their physical, psychological, intellectual and social aspects, and complementing the development with a Gospel based education. This Institution's Mission is to promote support for children and their relatives, without gender, race or religious discrimination, offering assistance to children and their families as well as defense for their human rights. All of this aiming to cultivate a sense of direction with dignity and citizenship. Its main goal is to promote education, cultural, mental and physical wellbeing of the children at school and of the families in the context in which they live. This is done directly or in partnership and support of other institutions and organizations.

This project presented to Encounter with Christ directs its actions to social and educational aspects and accomplishes extension work to the whole family nucleus. The institution's purpose is to present the Gospel to every person in a transformative way of the families and community in which the child lives. It is committed to the physical and sexual safety, the emotional welfare and the spiritual health of children, youth and adults. In this way, it promotes the inclusion of social development. This approach tries to contribute to the base of inclusive public policies for the population in socially risky situation.

The specific goals of the program were: a) to lead the children to experience situations that helped them develop a critical perspective; b) to help children become participatory citizens in school, family and church by tooling them to become able to exercise their citizenship with responsibility in search of a more fraternal and fair society; c) to increase students receiving services by 20%; d) to provide sheltering to 100% of the student body; and e) to offer orientation and family support to families in high risk.

This work is conducted by a social worker, a psychologist, and several teachers and volunteers. They have received support from the local Methodist Church, the Regional and National Methodist bodies, and technical and logistics from the Social and Educational Methodist Net of the Second Ecclesiastical Region, as well as from the Municipal Secretary of Education and the Municipal Secretary of Social Action.

METHODIST CHURCH IN BRAZIL, 3rd ECCLESIASTICAL REGION - AMAS/INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN SAO PAULO, \$10,000

The Methodist Association of Social Action in Vila Mariana (AMAS) was instituted by the Methodist Church of Brazil 24 years ago to render services to socially and economically excluded segments of society. AMAS has been focusing its actions in the assistance of children and their parents that live in the periphery of the City of Sao Paulo. AMAS maintains a Day Care facility called Children's Educational Center. The Center offers free day care to 120 children ages 0 to 3, Monday through Friday, 6am to 6pm. This service is offered to families whose medium monthly income of about US\$400.00. As an educational entity, the center has always been known by its pedagogical methodologies which are deeply integrated towards the development of children. It is also known by the outstanding care programs on health, nutrition, recreation, spiritual formation, and education for citizenship, as well as for the participation of parents in several periodical activities to assure their integral development. The educators of the center count on the orientation of a Methodist volunteer physiotherapist. The technical supervising of this project will be made by the volunteer physiotherapist as well as an occupational therapist on staff. The intent of the program is to build a room and equip it accordingly.

METHODIST CHURCH IN BRAZIL, 4th ECCLESIASTICAL REGION - SHADE AND FRESH WATER PROJECT - NOVA GERACAO, \$4,000

This grant was made to the Methodist Church in Brazil, Fourth Region for the Shade and Fresh Water (SFW) program in Pouso Alegre, Mina Gerais. Shade and Fresh Water is situated in a poor urban area, where many families lack employment and children lack educational opportunities. SFW offers various activities to these children and families, providing an alternative to street life. At its founding, SFW was the only national project of the Brazilian Methodist Church supported by all of its departments and has had a significant impact on the way the denomination has chosen to prioritize children. Global Ministries has maintained a long-standing and dedicated partnership with SFW, including by sending Global Mission Fellows there since 2013.

The SFW program aims to address the problem that many of the community's children don't have access to formal education. Survey results indicate that about 700 children in the community are not registered for primary schooling or do not have access to full-time children's programs offered by the public schools. To respond to this need, the Methodist Church of Pouso Alegre, with support from Global Ministries, organized SFW Nova Geracao (New Generation) project with the idea of offering workshops to promote new areas of learning for the youth. SFW currently offers workshops in Christian education, sign language, soccer and other sports, ballet, writing, music, civics, and crafts.

METHODIST CHURCH IN BRAZIL, 4th ECCLESIASTICAL REGION - GERAR PROJECT, \$6,120

This grant was made to the Methodist Church of Brazil (4th Region) to improve the living conditions of young and needy families in the Planalto neighborhood on the outskirts of Belo Horizonte in Brazil. The Methodist Church has been active in the Planalto District community for 50 years and seeks to experience the full gospel through its community service, Sunday school programs, Bible studies, discipleship, large group meetings, and prayer meetings. As a missionary community, it seeks to encourage community action in support of the needs of children, youth, women, and men living in the adjacent neighborhoods. The church's activities are developed in partnership with the community. The Gerar Project began in July of 2003.

The problem to be addressed through this project is a lack of job opportunities for youth in the local community. Recent economic crises have stunted youth's ability to enter the labor market, with increased numbers abandoning their studies before obtaining a degree, and a general reduction in income-generating initiatives. Projeto Gerar emerged out of this context and cultivated the idea that "one generation teaches and learns from the other generation".

The Gerar Project's goal is to help improve the living conditions of women, men, and needy families in the Planalto neighborhood surrounding the city of Belo Horizonte. From that goal arise the several objectives. The Gerar Project organizes and develops income-generating groups through job training, craft production, and selling products. It holds educational workshops to develop a sense of community among youth and adult members of the production groups. It offers courses in sewing, embroidery, crochet, painting, gardening, and other craft activities. It provides pastoral and psychological counseling for participants in the courses. It offers support groups promoting spiritual, psychological, and physical wellbeing, with special attention to elderly group members.

METHODIST CHURCH IN BRAZIL, 4th ECCLESIASTICAL REGION – TRANSFORMING LIVES PROJECT, \$5,000

This grant was made to the Methodist Church of Brazil (4th Region) for a ministry with marginalized people in Governador Valadares. The Transforming Lives Project (TLP) is located in a high-crime community. There, boys and girls often have no paternal role model. The purpose of the TLP is to offer youth a better future by offering them an opportunity to know Christ. The project's key activities include music, devotional time, computer science classes, snacks, and personal counseling from a biblical perspective.

The problems to be addressed through TLP are the prevalence of orphaned children, a lack of community leadership and formal education, poverty, and prostitution. The goal of the Transforming Lives Project is to develop better leaders and citizens and to promote academic reinforcement with classes including music, art, and education. To achieve this, TLP works with a discipleship model and welcomes people who are involved with bad activities in the neighborhood such as drug traffickers and prostitutes, in order to offer them a better future.

The Transforming Lives Project leads the implementation of the program's activities. It is a year old and gradually growing month by month. It hopes to tackle new challenges but lacks the resources to do this. It hosts music, art, civic education, and classes for members of the community who are marginalized in a variety of ways. Counseling sessions are also offered to participants, integrating a biblical perspective.

METHODIST CHURCH IN BRAZIL, 5th ECCLESIASTICAL REGION - AMAI/ASSISTANCE FOR INFANT EDUCATION- STATE OF GOIAS, \$8,000

The Methodist Association for Assistance to Children's Education (AMAI) is currently a project of the District of Goiania in the 5th Ecclesiastical Region of the Methodist Church in Brazil. AMAI was born as an initiative of the New Horizon Methodist Church with the intention of assisting needy children in the New Horizon neighborhood as well as the surrounding City of Goiania. The program provides basic educational formation and care to 60 children. The care is provided on a full-time basis and throughout the entire year. The program strives to help the parents provide for the development of their children by offering activities that can improve the quality of life for these children. These activities are offered by professionals in child formation and development. This project also became a Child Care entity that not only offers care but also provides for spiritual growth. AMAI is supported by the city's *Department of Education* and the *Municipal Foundation of Community Development* as well as by the *Methodist Church of Brazil*.

METHODIST CHURCH IN BRAZIL, 6th REGION - SHADE AND FRESH WATER IN TRES LAGOAS, \$10,000

This grant was made to the Methodist Church in Brazil, local church in Tres Lagoas, Mato Grosso, to enhance the infrastructure of the Shade and Fresh Water program in Tres Lagoas. The Methodist Church in Três Lagoas, Mato Grosso Sul, was established in this city in 1992, and since then it has provided services of great relevance to support the basic needs of the local population through social actions such as: bazaars, children's parties, and athletic activities. The local Church is located in the low-income and developing neighborhood of Três Lagoas, which is the third most populous city in Mato Grosso do Sul State and the 25th largest in Brazil. The church neighborhood has mostly low-income residents, with a great need for socio-cultural development due to the lack of resources to provide professional training, or for the basic needs and the development of children and adolescents living in the neighborhood.

Since the birth and establishment of the local Church in the neighborhood, the Church has noted the need to become a transformative and motivating vehicle for the local population through programs and actions that promote inclusion and improvement in learning and the development of sociocultural skills. Because of the neighborhood's harsh reality, the local church decided to create a project with the intent of taking care of children and adolescents. This focus on children and adolescents has had lasting consequences, as the program has a significant impact on the future stability and prosperity of families, the community, and the city. The emotional, social, and physical development of the children and adolescents has a direct impact on their development and on the

type of adults that they become. To better serve children and families, some improvements and needed maintenance and repair need to be done. An Encounter with Christ grant will match the efforts of the local congregation to continue serving with its community at large.

METHODIST CHURCH IN BRAZIL, 6th REGION - CHURCH PLANTING AMONG BRAZILIANS AND HAITIANS, \$10,000

Santa Catarina is a State in Southern Brazil. There is a population of 6.7 million people living in 295 cities and towns. The main economic resource comes from agriculture, industry and mineral stratification. Thousands of Haitians are currently moving to Santa Catarina looking for jobs and seeking a safe place for their families. The majority of the Haitians coming to this area do not speak Portuguese. They speak French and Haitian Creole.

METHODIST CHURCH IN BRAZIL, 6th REGION - HORTICULTURE PROJECT OF MANNAIN THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY, \$8,870

Mannain Therapeutic Community (MTC) program was founded in 2002, with a specific goal of providing wholistic care for those who are recovering from substance abuse (drugs and alcohol). This project, in partnership with MTC of the Methodist Church of Bacacheri in Curitiba, aimed to develop a horticulture project which would help those conflicted with addiction, as well as their families (especially, at-risk children and adolescents).

The Horticulture Project (a gardening project) was provided to persons who were in the last phase of their recovery from addiction. The Project was also developed in partnership with SENAR (a state sponsored organization) who provide technical skills (teachers). Staff of MTC and resident patients participated in the Horticulture Project.

Participants of the Horticulture Project engaged in gardening activities as part of an occupational therapy program. Specific objectives of this Project were: 1) Training of residents in the practice of sustainable production garden; 2) Serve as a resource for sustainability of the MTC; and 3) Rehabilitation of patients through work and education.

METHODIST CHURCH IN BRAZIL, 6th REGION - MC IN CORNELIO PROCOPIO, WOMEN, CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES, \$10,000

The Methodist Church in Cornélio Procopio, Brazil is comprised of eight congregations of four hundred members across seven different cities. The Church's ministries include worship, Sunday School, families' visitations, women, children and youth ministries and programs that respond to the needs of the communities in which it serves.

There are many opportunities for evangelization in most of the communities in which the Church currently serves. In addition, violence and drugs are destroying the lives of many young people and also resulting in broken homes and families. The Church was seeking to address some of these social ills in the society by increasing their ministries and programs with women, children and youth.

These programs continue to be ongoing with the support of Church of Cornélio Procopio, but assistance was needed to improve their capacity. For example, they needed to repair some buildings and purchase resource materials for workshops and other ministries. Implementation of these ministries were carried out through volunteers and pastors. The evaluation process of this project has been carried out every six months by the Church leaders, taking into account the development and achievement of its goals. This project has been able to bring about social change for families, women, children and young people.

METHODIST CHURCH IN BRAZIL, 6th REGION - RENEWAL, REMODELING AND RECYCLING ART, \$10,000

Vila Pantanal is a village on the outskirts of the city of Curitiba. People living in the village do not have regular jobs, resulting in 850 families living in an impoverished condition. The Pantanal village is considered one of the communities with the highest levels of unemployment, violence, and school drop-out rates. Forty percent of the residents survive on the collection of recyclable material.

METHODIST CHURCH IN BRAZIL, 6th REGION - SHADE AND FRESH WATER PROJECT, \$10,000

Several years ago, the Brazilian Methodist Church made children its "number one priority" and created the Shade and Fresh Water (SWF) Project as a national network to help local Methodist churches develop supervised activities to keep children off the streets. The goal continues to be to help children become healthy citizens by being exposed to Christian values. The Project promotes healthy physical, intellectual, emotional, spiritual and social development.

SFW carries out its work in the community with participation of 40 volunteers from the Church. The congregation of the 6th Region of the Methodist Church in Brazil supports the everyday task of the SFW project, through offerings and maintenance of the infrastructure.

This request was to support the renovation and programs of a "Shade and Fresh Water" (SFW) project in the 6th Region of the Methodist Church in Brazil. This SFW project has been serving the community of Cornelia Procopio, Parana – for over 10 years. Over 350 children have benefitted from this project. The population served by this project is in an area where there is a high incidence of crime, drug abuse and other societal ills. It is a high risk area for children and youth because of street violence and addictions. SFW presents a life of faith as an effective and positive alternative in the midst of the violence.

The Church was seeking support for the maintenance of their facilities in Cornelia Procopio, Parana. They also needed to update their resource and educational materials.

METHODIST CHURCH IN BRAZIL, 8th REGION - COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS WITH AMAI, \$3,000

This grant was made to the Methodist Church in Brazil, Eighth Region, to support workshops held by an NGO called Asociación

Metodista Assistencial de Educação Infantil (AMAI). AMAI is a philanthropic, public service NGO based in the Sector Novo Horizonte area of Goiânia in Brazil. It was founded in 1982 by members of the Methodist churches in Goiânia. It strives to offer basic education to children from low-income families and contribute to the socio-economic development of those families. Families in the community tend to be commercial workers, domestic workers, divorced parents, and unemployed, and their children tend to live in high-risk situations. AMAI functions under the direction of a Methodist Church in Goiânia.

The problem to be addressed through the project is a lack of economic opportunity for families and children in the community. Most of the children served, primarily ages 2-5, are girls. Many live in single-parent households with working mothers. Part-time, minimum wage work is prevalent in the community. Families come to AMAI searching for opportunities for better work, while ensuring their children are protected and cared for.

AMAI and their partners, including a government-funded Brazilian Microbusiness Assistance Service (SEBRAE), will offer business workshops in August and November focused on income-generating skills such as making paper flowers and decorations, zero-waste cooking, balloons, and makeup, and business-related skills like how to decide on prices for items, how to control the cash register flow, and how to set up an online shop.

METHODIST CHURCH IN BRAZIL, REMA (Missionary Region of the Amazon) - ACCOMPANIMENT PROGRAM WITH PREGNANT INDIGENOUS YOUNG WOMEN, \$2,000

The Methodist Church in Ji-Paraná, in the neighborhood of Urupá, has been faithful in its service of its mission and ministries for eighteen years – teaching about the Kingdom of God and fulfilling the mission of God's purpose to save the world. The Church's ministries include several social outreach programs and initiatives. One of which is working with the "araras-de-rondônia" – an indigenous group of people in Brazil who live on the shore of the Ji Parana River. They are a small indigenous group of 300 people, living in the jungle and sustaining themselves through hunting and fishing.

The goals of this project were to work with pregnant teens in the Urupe neighborhood and to provide them with the opportunity to know the Gospel of Christ; to accompany them in activities to become mothers as well as to provide a space where they can develop other recreational activities; to provide information and resources on health care; to monitor their prenatal care; to provide basic necessities for their newborn babies (including bassinets); to provide pastoral support to the local missionaries in the tribe; and to bring awareness and develop self-esteem of indigenous adolescents.

METHODIST CHURCH IN BRAZIL, REMA (Missionary Region of the Amazon) - INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY MARUWAI, \$10,000

The Methodist Church in the Northeast of Brazil has been established for about 50 years. They began missionary work in Varjadas in 1991 with visits and evangelization. In 1999 they built the Temple and began social work and joined forces with the community in search of new perspectives that might give dignity to all life in the area. This work aimed to benefit farm families with clean drinking water. This project ran from 1999 to 2008 with funds acquired by The United Methodist Church's Committee on Relief – UMCOR – and served an average of 150 (one hundred fifty) families. From 2008 to 2012, plate tanks were built with the support of Habitat for Humanity. Plate tanks capture rainwater and helps families despite the scarcity of rainfall.

The purpose included work to restore the existing well with exchange of equipment and acquisition of another desalination plant; Permanent Management process water distribution; operation and maintenance of the equipment by a skilled employee; ensuring primary health of the population, especially children and the elderly; and to maintain an articulated and organized community in the educational process in search of a better quality of individual and collective lives.

METHODIST CHURCH IN BRAZIL, REMA (Missionary Region of the Amazon) - SOLIDARITY WITH HAITI IMMIGRANTS IN MANAUS, \$8,750

Many Haitians have migrated to Manaus, Brazil, after the earthquake in search of better economic opportunities. The Methodist Ministry in Manaus has welcomed about seventy Haitian immigrants who are currently worshipping in French on Sunday afternoons. Twenty of them have since become members of the Methodist Ministry. Many of these immigrants are heads of households, living alone and waiting for an opportunity which will allow them to bring their families to Brazil.

The Federal Government has recently begun to allow the entry of family members of immigrants living in Brazil. However, due to the difficulty of speaking the language (Portuguese), the immigrants cannot find decent paying jobs and face many hardships, including being unable to afford the costs to bringing their wives and children to Brazil. This project of the Brazilian Methodist Church in Manaus assisted the Haitian immigrants by providing language courses in Portuguese and baskets of basic necessities for low-income immigrant families.

METHODIST CHURCH IN BRAZIL, REMNE (Missionary Region of the Northeast) - CITIZENSHIP & ENVIRONMENT TRAINING FOR CHILDREN & TEENAGERS, \$8,053

The Centro Comunitario Metodista em Alto da Bondade (CCM, Methodist Community Center in Alto da Bondade) is located in an impoverished community of about 15,000 persons on the edge of the City of Olinda in the State of Pernambuco. This community has been affected by a large increase of single mothers that support their families in the midst of high unemployment. These mothers stay out all day working to earn enough to cover basic necessities. The CCM Day Nursery became a safe place to care for their children. The CCM has taken on the mission of developing a community action program that promotes holistic care and social relationships

based on the Love of Christ. This includes bringing hope and health for the families involved as well as the possibility of a better future for the children, teenagers and mothers in this poor community.

Because of poverty and the lack of opportunities in public schools, the children and teenagers begin to search for work very early in life. They live in the midst of easy access to drugs with a feeling of denied hope. Therefore, in addition to the Day Nursery, CCM offers carpentry courses and other training programs for young people. Currently, CCM is trying to offer new opportunities such as workshops on Environment - garbage and waste material and on recycled paper for teenage students.

METHODIST CHURCH IN BRAZIL, REMNE (Missionary Region of the Northeast) - WATER, SOURCE OF LIFE, \$10,000

The Methodist Church in the Northeast of Brazil has been established for about 50 years. They began missionary work in Varjadas in 1991 with visits and evangelization. In 1999 they built the Temple and then begun doing social work and joined forces with the community in search of new perspectives that might give dignity to all of life in the area.

This work aimed to benefit farm families with clean drinking water. The project had been functioning from 1999 to 2008 with funds acquired by the United Methodist Committee on Relief -UMCOR - and served an average of 150 (one hundred fifty) families.

From 2008 to 2012, plate tanks were built with the support of Habitat for Humanity. The plate tanks capture rainwater and that has since helped families despite the scarcity of rainfall.

CCC

CCC (CARIBBEAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES) - CHILD ABUSE AND THE ROLE OF TEACHERS, \$10,000

There is a frightening and shocking realization of the frequency of child abuse with children between the ages of 0-18 that requires pressing attention in Trinidad and Tobago, seen through informal surveys and constant contact with constituents. There is shockingly no ongoing response from the nation's society on the issue even though child abuse is widely spread and occurs continuously, with the preponderance of incidents not being reported. The schools, where the students spend the majority of their time, astoundingly do not employ trained nurses, counselors, or psychologists which would be of assistance to the students in need. The teachers that are employed, which have the most direct contact with the students, are unfortunately not equipped with the skills necessary to identify victims of abuse. They also lack the essential skills to handle such cases if they arise. It was therefore imperative that the teachers be given some basic training in identifying and providing guidance to victims of abuse. North and South of Trinidad were involved in this project given that school personnel and students from both areas were involved. There were meetings held with the relevant school boards and the local school district office of the government's Ministry of Education in order to ensure involvement in this interactive process. Throughout this process, there was a "Trainees' Guide" put together by its participants with the intention of highlighting the key aspects of the training so that the skills and knowledge they learned could be passed on to parents, colleagues, and other school personnel.

This project contributed to both the protection of children from further abuse and to their post-abuse development by: (a) equipping over 50 school personnel from both North and South of Trinidad with the skills to recognize children who have been or are being abused; (b) responding effectively and appropriately to each situation; and (c) motivating and equipping the school personnel to share the skills and knowledge they have learnt with other non-participating school personnel. With the successful implementation of this program, this projected beneficiaries of this project are the students of selected schools in the North and South of Trinidad, and the school personnel who received this training.

CHILE

METHODIST CHURCH OF CHILE - CONSTRUCTING RESPONSES FOR AN EFFECTIVE, RELEVANT & CONTEXTUALIZED FAITH, \$10,000

The Methodist Church of Chile defined four areas of work during the 2014-2017 quadrennial: the Christian experience, discipleship, evangelism and social life. In 2009 the Methodist Church of Chile held a conference with pastors and members where they discussed a theoretical framework comprised of three concepts: people, world, and society. The process included a study and reflection from the local church. A set of books were designed to introduce these subjects. Each congregation sent a report to be presented at the final meeting. These reports were discussed and analyzed by working groups.

The main focus of the conference was to develop resources to promote witnesses of the church as the world faces the crossroads. The purpose was to initiate a collective process that would define the mission. How to be church today, here, and now. The process established a frame of reference and a methodology to formulate answers to the demands of the context in which the mission of the Methodist Church of Chile is developed from the Wesleyan tradition. They addressed and stated positions on issues such as human reproduction and sexuality, drug decriminalization and legalization, among others. The topics addressed trying not to fall in casuistic but rather search guiding principles to address particular situations.

METHODIST CHURCH OF CHILE – DABAR METODISTA 2013, \$7,500

The DABAR project has more than five years of experience within the Evangelical Methodist Church in Chile. This project mobilizes a team of persons from various Methodist communities to work for three days in a selected city where they engage in a ministry of preaching the Word, and Witness and Service to the community. This activity takes place in seven districts of the Church throughout

the year.

The goals of this program were to mobilize a specific Methodist community of each of the seven districts of the Church in Chile to live three days in a holistic mission experience with the help of their brothers and sisters of other communities; and to develop and recognize new leaders to empower them for similar new experiences.. But the most important outcome of this program was that both the local church and the surrounding communities benefitted from the work of service and witness. The local churches were also strengthened by this practice of their congregations.

METHODIST CHURCH OF CHILE – MUSIC & LITURGY MINISTRY, \$8,800

This grant was made to the Methodist Church of Chile to support three food banks and three feeding programs in low-income communities . Communities have been strongly impacted by unemployment and the rise in prices of basic goods during the COVID-19 pandemic in Chile. This situation not only impacts the health of the population but has also created a general economic crisis. It has aggravated the large economic divides in Chile, and generated a combined unemployment rate over 20%, while Chile has never had a combined unemployment rate over 9% in the last 10 years. This also came just after a complex social and political unrest in the last months of 2019. The pandemic sharpened the complex social and economic reality of the country, and analysis from local governments and international agencies project that this general crisis will continue at least for the first half of 2021.

This project will address the challenges faced by communities in Chile due to a spike in unemployment and a rise in the prices of basic goods, in the most neoliberal economy in the world, all resulting from the economic crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal of this project is to establish three food banks in low-income communities, and to support three existing nutrition programs in vulnerable communities by providing meals for families. This aligns with the Methodist Church of Chile's stated objective to "invest in modern-day society by means of service in solidarity with the community, to benefit human dignity and development, from a Wesleyan perspective", as part of its National Program for Life and Mission approved for the 2018-2021 quadrennium by the General Assembly.

To accomplish this, the Methodist Church in Chile plans to open three food banks in low-income communities which struggle with buying goods due to their high prices and stocking them with food purchased in bulk quantities at low prices. They will also support three existing feeding programs for communities affected by unemployment, providing meals for those families. Finally, they will develop a network of volunteers to support the work of the food banks and feeding programs.

METHODIST CHURCH OF CHILE – M FOOD BANK AND NUTRITION PROGRAM SUPPORT, \$10,000

The central focus of the Methodist Church of Chile is evangelization through education and training in the Christian faith. As such, this project had the objective of strengthening not only music but doctrine in the local churches. The project was developed in approximately ten districts delivering artistic skills for the development of faith and theological training. There were three training levels for this project: 1) One national Workshop that gathered three representatives of each District that trained facilitators for the districts levels; and 2) Two workshop trainings in each district led by the trained facilitators

One of the needs that arose in the area of life and mission of the Church, was venturing into what relates to teaching music and singing. It exists as a crisis of Hymnology history, which the Church hoped to recover and develop extensively. Noting the crisis of elements that enrich the liturgical life of the Methodist congregations, it became urgent to recover the purpose and value of Christian song in the life of faith and church.

The main goal of this project was to develop a systematic work on the recovery of the value of singing in liturgical life and evangelistic Methodist congregations and simultaneously develop a doctrinal reflection and research of musical balance in local churches.

Outcomes of this project was the development of Wesleyan theological foundations in the light of singing and community experience of faith. A monitoring guideline was developed from the work that needed to be performed and was developed according to schedule, in order to measure quantitative and qualitative elements of participation and geographical representation. It was a process that lead to creating a musical culture within local and district churches.

METHODIST CHURCH OF CHILE – NATIONAL ENCOUNTER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, \$10,000

The Methodist Church of Chile has defined four areas of ministry focus: The Christian Experience, Discipleship, Evangelism and Life in the Social Context. This project had to do with the evangelization of youth and young adults through a national "Encounter for Christ" training program. The Church targeted young people who were not enrolled in Federations or other organized groups within the church structure, but had potential to become vital members of the mission and ministries of the Church in Chile.

The Theme of the Encounter was "Working as The People of God so that the World May Believe" and the objective of the encounter was to spread the Christian faith and increase the membership through preaching and testimony. Activities included discussions around the various structures of youth and young adults groups in various districts; and leadership development and training workshops. Local leadership provided training. It was expected that this national gathering of young people (100-115) would be empowered to assume leadership roles and become actively engaged in the mission of the Church.

In addition, this process helped the Church at their next General Assembly in January 2016, where they created space for young adult ministries, and a renewed vocation for mission for young adults and their service in new mission initiatives.

METHODIST CHURCH OF CHILE - WITNESS AND COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECT, \$10,000

Witness and Community Action (DABAR) is a project that the Methodist Church of Chile (IMECH) has developed as a strategy for mission. It is centered on District events to develop an intensive ministry of evangelization, social service, providing pastoral and lay presence; labor and professional input. These events are then followed up by a daily practice of witness and community work by the congregations in that region.

Currently, IMECH is at the beginning a new Episcopal period and a central objective of this new period is to strengthen congregations and move into new areas of witness. In the midst of this beginning IMECH is facing a more pressing challenge caused by the earthquake and tsunami of February, 2010.

One of the principal needs that arose were the reconstruction of housing, public infrastructure, churches and parsonages. Events with the emphasis on the ministries listed above were held in the seven Districts across the country and especially in the Districts most affected by the earthquake and the tsunami.

THEOLOGICAL COMMUNITY OF CHILE – PROFESSOR DAGOBERTO RAMIREZ THEOLOGICAL WEEK, \$3,500

The CTE has contributed since its origins to the theological formation of hundreds of people currently serving in a wide range of functions and activities in relation to their churches and ecumenical bodies. CTE planned an annual "Prof. Dagoberto Ramirez Theological week", which enabled them to bring together theological students, pastors, pastors, and teachers linked with theological or religious teaching, from CTE and other institutions to reflect together on theology and mission. CTE welcomed participants from various evangelical denominations, seminaries, local congregations and others around the country during this week of training and reflection. The average age of persons in attendance was fifty years, each of them representing at least twenty different evangelical denominations.

CTE received financial support to enable the participation of lecturers, professors, students, alumni, pastors and lay leaders to be part of week of dialogue and theological study.

THEOLOGICAL COMMUNITY OF CHILE - VIRTUAL LEARNING COMMUNITY FOR EVANGELICAL PROFESSIONALS, \$10,000

The first 25 years of development of the CTE, teaching was focused primarily on the need for training future clergy of member churches, (particularly those belonging to the so-called "historic Protestantism"). Things are changing and CTE is now undergoing a spontaneous process of change in the profile of the students, particularly among women and men, members of evangelicals churches, lay people, but especially coming from the Chilean Pentecostalism. This has motivated to CTE to contribute in the development of new opportunities in biblical-theological training. Considering the many different locations of the laity, they have recognized the limited access to training programs in residence, therefore opportunities offered by technology information and communication technologies (ICT) is required. This project aimed precisely to create the conditions for the effective use of such technology.

The CTE built a virtual learning community among evangelicals professionals, men and women, for exploration, reflexivity, learning and joint training of opinion on the issues and ethical dilemmas that face Chilean society. This learning community was supported by a Technology Platform and Methodology combining ICT and learning methods in virtual environment (internet), to be able to operate simultaneously on a wide scale throughout the country. Within 18 months, an estimated 500 evangelical professionals, men and women, across the country, become active members of the virtual learning community and have contributed regularly to their funding through the equivalent of U.S. \$60.00 annual contribution. The membership of this virtual learning community has generated forums, debates, surveys, consultations, etc. This created an environment where a common public opinion could develop regarding public issues related to ethics and morality.

CIEMAL

CIEMAL (COUNCIL OF EVANGELICAL MC IN LAC) - LATIN AMERICAN CHRISTIAN MUSIC PROJECT, \$8,000

The Council of Evangelical Churches of Latin America and Caribbean (CIEMAL) is an expression of the Methodist churches in the region, carries out its mission in strengthening the connectionalism of more than twenty Methodist churches in Central and South America, Mexico and the Caribbean, and these in turn with the global United Methodist Church. One of its central programs is "Communication of the Gospel" and since its inception, one of its challenges has been the proclamation through singing and music in the tradition of Methodist people.

This project arose from the abundant production of music and song that pastors, bishops and musicians had been creating with a clear and profound Wesleyan theology along with rhythms and culture of Latin America and Caribbean. This project also responded to the great need for Christian music to be made available. There were two objectives for this project: 1) To support the recording of music and songs, starting with the "Latin American Cantata" and followed by other significant contributions; and 2) To create a virtual space on the CIEMAL website to facilitate open access to listen to, play and record Christian music in Latin America as an instrument of proclamation, worship, and strengthening the faith of people and communities.

CIEMAL (COUNCIL OF EVANGELICAL MC IN LAC) - LATIN AMERICAN SCHOOL OF EVANGELIZATION, \$10,000

The Council of Evangelical Methodist Churches in Latin America and the Caribbean (CIEMAL) supports its member Churches in

their evangelizing mission through the Latin America School of Evangelization (ELADE). In its long history of accompaniment, the school has changed its approach to evangelization and offered different methodologies. The model has been mostly through workshops and the production of materials related to program, service, and proclamation. ELADE started as an initiative to call together leaders in mission in regional events. It became an itinerant institute offering workshops in several cities and counties in the region. The effort produced a cadre of promoters who became agents of accompaniment for the evangelizing efforts. This also allowed the school to consult in the production of relevant materials and sounded ongoing consultation. After 80 workshops were offered in 29 cities and in 13 counties, 1006 Elders, 505 indigenous people, and 682 Young persons have been trained. Two hundred fourteen (214) publications have been produced; publications that have been included in the National bulletins. The purpose, thus, was to prepare promoters in the usage of participatory methodologies under a foundational theological approach to evangelization. The intention was for this evangelization to reach the grass root levels of the communities in which the churches are engaged in mission and ministry.

CIEMAL (COUNCIL OF EVANGELICAL MC IN LAC) - LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, \$7,600

This grant to CIEMAL (Council of Latin America Churches in Latin America and the Caribbean), supported their Leadership Development Program in Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia where there is a great need for better preparation for mission in emerging churches. The main objectives of this program were: (1) to create two training groups, with assistance from more established CIEMAL churches, which trained new leadership of the emerging churches; and (2) to write and edit easily understandable orientation materials of missionary action in its different geographic areas.

CIEMAL (COUNCIL OF EVANGELICAL MC IN LAC) - REGIONAL ENCOUNTERS, YOUTH IN MISSION PROGRAM, \$10,000

Youth in Mission is a program of CIEMAL with the purpose of the integrating and training Methodist youth, it is organized into four regions: Andean, Caribbean, Southern Cone and Mesoamerica, and includes a network of Methodist youth organizations in twenty countries in the region.

This program carries out regional encounters as its central strategy of training, the purpose of these events were to promote integration and develop young leadership based on a comprehensive concept of mission. The training included biblical-theological basis and missionary practice in local communities. The countries represented by an equal gender delegation of young leaders between 18 and 30 whose responsibility was to replicate the training in their countries. For 2010 they scheduled two Regional Training Events: 1) the Andean Region, with about 50 leaders from: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela; and 2) Mesoamerican Region, with about 60 leaders from: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and the Methodist Church of the Americas and the Caribbean.

CIEMAL (COUNCIL OF EVANGELICAL MC IN LAC) - YOUTH IN MISSION ENCOUNTER, \$6,000

The continental Encounter of Youth in Latin America and the Caribbean was originally developed with the objective to gather Youth from the region that were elected as delegates of the General Assembly of Council of Churches in Latin America and The Caribbean (CIEMAL). A program called Youth in Mission developed from this initial experience. The objectives of the Youth in Mission program include the creation of a space in which young adult representatives from different countries can gather together to analyze the regional church work. It also seeks to create a moment in which the youth can share experiences of leadership with new leaders. The final objective was to plan the work of the CIEMAL Youth and related organizations for the following five years. The gathering, in summary, is an effort that encourages the Youth to dream, think, and plan together for their work in Latin America and The Caribbean (LAC). The participants consisted of youth from Panama, where the Encounter was held. Since the gathering happened in Mesoamerica (Mexico, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama) a contingency of the region offered strong participation. Participants for the other regions of LAC also encouraged participants and funds for this purpose were allocated accordingly.

CLAI

CLAI (COUNCIL OF LATIN AMERICAN CHURCHES) - LATIN AMERICAN LITURGICAL NETWORK, \$10,000

The Council of Churches in Latin America (CLAI) has a structure of five regional secretaries distributed among twenty countries in the Latin America region and several programs including its Latin American Liturgical Network. Some of the main efforts of CLAI are:

- a. The renewal of the ecumenical movement by prioritization of the participation of new generations and the voices of the national tables. Working in training and giving the opportunity for the participation of young theologians in a proportionality of not less than 40% of the participants;
- b. Training for the propagation and transformation: Developing a culture of monitoring and preparation of training materials that can be used in local groups of churches and ecumenical bodies. Informing is not enough when instruments for propagation and transformation are not provided;
- c. Ecumenical links with other actors, other sectors of the society, and in-between programs: CLAI favors profound witnessing of the Church promoting better socio-political-economical reality in which the churches are established. Therefore, the incidence and interdisciplinary cooperation with ecumenical bodies in civil society and government are important and should be sought; and
- d. Strategic alliances. Various confessional families and churches in the North have their programs that seek to impact Latin America and the Caribbean. The search for alliances in areas such as foreign debt, new financial order, climate justice, natural resource extraction are priorities.

CLAI understands liturgy is part of the mission of the Church. Theological seminaries offer courses in liturgy, but have a space to

share experiences and materials that promote liturgical renewal and the deepening of a spirituality rooted in the context of Latin America and the Caribbean has intensified and monitored the work of theological seminaries. The main goal of this project is to promote liturgical renewal and the deepening of a spirituality rooted in the context of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Liturgy Network of CLAI began in the late eighties promoting a liturgical renewal and the deepening of a spirituality rooted in the context of Latin America and the Caribbean. Its birth is owed to the decision of the Churches of CLAI and the charisma of its first coordinator, the Rev. Ernesto Barros Cardoso. In that journey, people throughout Latin America from different Christian denominations have since been added bringing their creativity to help Protestant and Evangelical churches to take the expression of their own culture as a way to give praise and glory to God life. In 1997 the network added a daily service via e-mail (music, ideas, liturgies, theoretical reflections, homiletic aids, etc.) to be used in regular celebrations in churches, schools, universities, ecumenical bodies, etc. Today, this medium serves more than 7,000 people and institutions, and allows different countries and denominations to interactively use this resource to help celebrate the living God in our midst.

CLAI (COUNCIL OF LATIN AMERICAN CHURCHES) - THEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, \$5,000

This program supported a Theological Commission which met once a year and consisted of a core group, a theologian from each region, and the General Secretary. Every meeting had 2 or 3 guests specialized in other sciences to address specific issues. The Theological commission served as a counselling commission to help CLAI's member churches facing new theological and ecclesial challenges, affirming an ecumenism of concrete gestures. The Theological Commission prepared an annual report presenting a document with the results of their work, and CLAI's National Table that consisted of twenty countries, analyzed the document and the suggested proposals.

The goals of the Theological Commission was to gather the Theological Commission around the issue of: "Is biblical the theology of prosperity?"; to produce the 2014 edition of the Magazine "Signs of Life", which subject was based on the organization and convening of a Latin American Theology Forum on "Theological Prosperity" that was held in the second half of 2015; and to plan an international 4-day event with 6 theologians (3 women and 3 men), 2 sociologists (a man and a woman) and 2 representatives of civil society organizations (man and woman) in Quito / Ecuador, from the 12th to the 16th of August, 2014.

COLOMBIA

COLOMBIAN METHODIST CHURCH - DIGNIFYING QUALITY OF LIFE INDIGENOUS AND AFRICAN DESCENDENTS, \$7,502

The grant to the Colombian Methodist Church was to support the Dignifying Quality of Life Indigenous and African Descendents project. The purpose of this project was to help the communities of Brisas del Mar (indigenous) and Rincon del Mar (African origin) recover from civil war where they have suffered physically and mentally and were in need of basic sanitary services, especially water. The grant helped with the construction of an aqueduct and purchase of a motor pump to enable 120 families to receive water into their homes. Enlarging the church at Rincon del Mar was also planned to make space for training local leadership.

COLOMBIAN METHODIST CHURCH - TRAINING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, \$10,000

In the past years, the Colombian Methodist Church working among the Zenu Indigenous people, had noted that the process of empowerment itself had been a struggle and the mutual resistance has been an issue faced for centuries. This culture is alive and recurrent in their myths, beliefs, customs and artisan skills. But support is required to systematize their experiences to empower and achieve efficiency and better human development indices. Crafts and agriculture have always been the financial support of the people of Zenú. But this project helped improve the marketing fair of handicrafts and agriculture; further emphasis was on improving the quality of education and health, and resources to improve the quality of life. The direct beneficiaries of this project were the Indigenous ethnic Zenú, from the two Methodist church communities, located in the village of "Pueblecito" and "La Isla", in the Department of Sucre, both are in the indigenous reservation San Andrés Sotavento.

In the first stage of this project we had about one hundred (100) people participate, specifically young men and women. The second stage, benefitted about four thousand (4,000) Indigenous people, men and women. The aim was to develop a self-sufficient indigenous development project and build a culture of peace that promotes justice and the common good among the people Zenú.

CEPALC (POPULAR CENTER OF AMERICA LATINA FOR COMMUNICATIONS) – BUILDING RIGHTS & PEACE THROUGH RADIO PROGRAMMING, \$10,000

CEPALC is an ecumenical organization providing exclusive service to the poorest groups of the population in Colombia through training in management and ownership of media, with the understanding that these are tools for empowering the dignity of those groups and strengthening their struggle for their rights and their culture. CEPALC gives voice to those who are silenced and excluded in society. They have trained dozens of groups on the basis of social organizations and of Christian communities throughout the country.

The initial program of communication has been strengthened and complemented with other programs aimed at children's groups and women. Most of the boys and girls participating in the program are from families affected by serious social problems or who live

in neighborhoods of high criminal activity. For more than 15 years, CEPALC has worked with women of Christian communities on processes of formation and accompaniment based on three basic points: 1) knowledge of their social rights, cultural and political rights, and the consequent strengthening of their self-esteem; 2) The reinterpretation of the biblical texts from a perspective guided by a vision of equity between the sexes; and 3) make women true builders of rights in their communities.

This particular project for which funding was requested was to emphasize training and empowerment of young women, particularly those that have been discriminated against and excluded in society as indigenous peoples and African descent. The activities of this project included: 1) training workshops in radio journalism for members of different groups and organizations that wanted to participate in the production of programs for the station; 2) workshops analyzing social reality of Colombians and journalism with a gender perspective for groups who want to be part of the programming of "Radio Encounter"; 3) training workshops on broadcast journalism and assembly of digital radio with groups from different regions who want to replicate or reproduce the experience of "Encounter Radio"; and 4) production of live programs from different regions of the country. This project benefitted 350 people, mostly 1) youth groups from Bogotá belonging to Churches including the Methodist Church or from different social organizations in localities of Bogotá as Suba, Tunjuelito, Uribe, San Cristobal; 2) children's groups from 10 districts of Bogotá; and 3) women's groups.

These groups participated in the production of programs for the radio station "Radio encounter" and some of them received training to assemble their own digital stations. Consequently, there was audience expansion of the radio station in other countries such as Ecuador, Costa Rica, Chile, Venezuela, Australia, United States, Germany and Taiwan.

CEPALC (POPULAR CENTER OF AMERICA LATINA FOR COMMUNICATIONS) - COMMUNITY GROUP & RADIO WORKERS TRAINING IN CONFLICT ZONES, \$4,000

The grant to CEPALC (Popular Center of Communication for Latin America) supported their Community Group and Radio Workers Training in the Conflict Zones program. The purpose of the grant was to enable the common people to utilize the radio stations of their various communities to become a resource for the critical problems that the people face. Another purpose was to demonstrate that it is possible to build among the communities in the conflict zones a model of living together that develops a tolerance among the population that is based on the love and compassion that Jesus taught.

CEPALC (POPULAR CENTER OF AMERICA LATINA FOR COMMUNICATIONS) – GENDER JUSTICE & SOCIAL RIGHTS TRAINING FOR INDIGENOUS CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE, \$9,000

The Popular Center of Communication for Latin America (CEPALC) was created in 1978 to work in the service of the poorest of people with training in the management and ownership of the media, and the understanding that media is a useful tool to empower disenfranchised groups with dignity and strengthen their struggle for their rights and culture. In recent years CEPALC have emphasized its work with Zenú indigenous groups of young people and women on the Colombian Atlantic Coast; with African-American groups, youth and children living in communities affected by social exclusion and poverty in Bogotá and other regions of the country. As a complement to this peace and justice work, CEPALC has set up a digital radio station, "Encounter Radio" and publishes a social information magazine for people called "Encounter."

Due to years of intense and costly political-military conflict in Colombia, more than 8 million people have been displaced or expelled from their lands and thousands murdered. The labor market is precarious and discriminatory against women and young people; unemployment among men is 7%, and among women it is 12%. Half of the unemployed who recognize official statistics (2.5 million) are young people under 25 years of age. The most ironic thing is that almost half of these young people have academic, professional qualifications. Statistically, out of every 10 young people who are unemployed, 6 of them are women.

The goal of this project was to train and provide the mechanisms for leadership development of Zenu indigenous children and young people on issues related to their rights, social values and how to build relationships of gender equity using the means of communication. Activities included 1) 4 workshops of 8 hours each on women's rights, gender equity and gender justice with youth from the indigenous communities of the San Andrés de Sotavento and Tuchín; 2) 10 workshops of 4 hours each one on children's rights, social values and means of communication with children of the communities of the cabildos of San Andrés de Sotavento and Tuchín; 3) 4 workshops of 8 hours each on women's rights, gender equity and gender justice with youth from the rural community of Morcá (Boyacá); 4) 4 workshops of 8 hours each of theater, radio and television production with young people from the indigenous communities of the cabildos of San Andrés de Sotavento and Tuchín; and 5) 4 workshops of 8 hours each on radio and video production with youth from the rural community of Morcá (Boyacá).

These activities were implemented by CEPALC's team of instructors who are familiar with the different regions and had the support of the Zenú indigenous women's organization, managers and teachers of indigenous community colleges, Morcá peasant school, Youth group "Cocido Boyacense."

Direct beneficiaries were young 100 women, 100, 220 children, and 30 young men. Expected results were: 1) young indigenous people now know and defend their rights in indigenous communities; 2) leadership has been empowered; 3) indigenous children now defend their rights, have increased their self-esteem and strengthen, and their creativity through the use of different means of communication; 4) Zenú indigenous women's association of San Andres de Sotavento has been strengthened and reorganized in recent years, are actively participates in the project and are committed to multiply the process in the different communities of the town council; and 5) groups of teachers from the indigenous schools involved in the project will continue to apply the methodology in their

school plans.

CEPALC (POPULAR CENTER OF AMERICA LATINA FOR COMMUNICATIONS) - SOCIAL VALUES TRAINING PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN, \$10,000

The main goal of this project was to develop workshops for the children in neighborhoods of Bogota, Sogamoso and surroundings. These workshops were based on: Strengthen the dignity and self-esteem of children of the popular sectors by educating them about their rights and encouraging them to commit, promote and defend these rights, by exercising the social values of compassion, brotherhood and solidarity that teaches the gospel of Jesus on a daily basis; give visibility, and social prominence to boys and of unprivileged sectors, by training them to develop their communicational skills, which will facilitate their access to news media, like radio and television, or help them to develop their artistic talents; and contribute to build a culture of peace, teaching the children to be planters of values, such as compassion to fulfill the commandment of love and Justice of the Gospel.

CEPALC (POPULAR CENTER OF AMERICA LATINA FOR COMMUNICATIONS) - TRAINING IN MEDIA, RIGHTS AND JUSTICE VALUES AFRO-INDIGENOUS, \$10,000

Popular Center of Communication for Latin America (CEPALC) was created in 1978 to work in the service of the poorest of people with training in the management and ownership of the media, and the understanding that media is a useful tool to empower disenfranchised groups with dignity and strengthen their struggle for their rights and culture. In recent years, CEPALC has trained and helped in the organization of groups of Zenu Indigenous and Afro American women from the Atlantic Coast, understanding that these groups of women are especially excluded because of the discrimination they suffer in the country and their ethnicity.

This project facilitated the use of the local mass media in a democratic way, training women in its use, so that they could speak with their own voices and defend their rights and interests as individuals and as a social group. The training included workshops on radio and television journalism, gender issues, leadership development and values for peace.

CEPALC (POPULAR CENTER OF AMERICA LATINA FOR COMMUNICATIONS) – SOWERS OF PEACE, \$8,309.76

This grant was made to the Centro Ecuaménico Popular para América Latina de Comunicación (CEPALC) to train ex-guerrilla fighters who have laid down their arms in la Uribe, Colombia on human rights, peaceful values, and conflict resolution. Large sectors of the population are overwhelmed by violence and despair, but there is a youthful sector that has led the country's expressions of social protest, which denounce the violation of social and political rights by the State. Colombia faces a great social crisis and a great opportunity to promote initiatives, projects, and programs that will strengthen peace agreements and human rights in the country.

The program aimed to achieve the following goals:

- (i) To help program participants know, promote, and understand the importance of human rights to build a true culture of peace in Colombia.
- (ii) To help program participants understand women's rights as an integral part of human rights and consequently commit to transforming the dominant patriarchal culture that justifies sexist discrimination and violence against women.
- (iii) To empower program participants to defend and promote the rights of children, recognizing their values and dignity, and that children cannot be subjected to violence or physical or psychological abuse, and the importance of reporting such abuses promptly.
- (iv) To help program participants use media management and communication languages as an instrument to defend their rights and strengthen their self-esteem and creativity.
- (v) To help former demobilized guerrillas reintegrate into civil society and fulfill their commitment to become true builders of peace in the region.
- (vi) To empower program participants as builders of peace in the region, making the inclusive message of Jesus and his preaching of active compassion a reality.

The program was carried out through the following activities:

- (i) Training workshops on human rights, social values, a culture of peace supported by the creative use of media and languages of communication such as theater, puppets, music, radio, painting, and a critical, creative methodology of learning by doing.
- (ii) Workshops on women's rights, denunciation of gender violence, and gender equality supported by creative exercises in different media and languages of communication.
- (iii) Workshops on children's rights and reporting of child abuse, supported by creative exercises in different media and languages of communication.
- (iv) Workshops on mediation and reconciliation strategies to resolve conflicts that arise in groups, supported by creative exercises in different media and languages of communication.

COSTA RICA

EVANGELICAL METHODIST CHURCH OF COSTA RICA- WOMEN IN MARGINAL URBAN ZONES - SAN JOSE, \$8,000

The Nueva Jerusalem Methodist Church has been engaged in offering support and help to the men, women, and youth of San Sebastian and its surrounding urban marginal communities through the Susana Wesley Center. The main services offered are basic and vocational-trade education to dropouts as well as other persons that have not acquired a basic education or have a profession. The goal was to advance the families in their economic strength. In 2008, this Church celebrated its 7th year of provision of social services to these communities. The program consisted of offering training courses in basic life skills to promote mental, emotional, and physical wealth. At the same time, and when appropriate, people are referred to other services. These services include formal education (modular system) in some of the colleges of the Methodist Church of Costa Rica. At this point in time there are three classes being offered in this program. Others are referred to vocational/trade studies; these studies include courses in culinary trade, bakery, bakery decoration, accounting, English, aesthetics, hair styling, arts and crafts, sewing, computer skills, secretarial studies, and others. To date, 400 students have participated and taken 28 different courses. Approximately 70% of the population are women, 20% are youth and 10% are men. These services are offered at a very low or no cost for the students. Approximately 50% of the participants have been given a full scholarship.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

EVANGELICAL DOMINICAN CHURCH - GROWING WITH CHRIST, \$6,500

This grant supported this project "Growing with Christ of the Dominican Evangelical Church" in the Dominican Republic that focused on Christian education as a means of evangelization and holistic care for children. In an attempt to reach children, the Dominican Evangelical Churches started summer schools and Christian Education Institutes to evangelize and reach out to children in their communities. Even though these activities are important and formative, there was still the need for continuous educational opportunities and caring ministries. For this reason, they believe that God has led them to become more intentional with children ministries by providing sound Christian education and other activities that are conducive for a better quality of life for the children and youth of the church and the communities they service.

EVANGELICAL DOMINICAN CHURCH - STRENGTHENING CHURCH LEADERSHIP IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, \$8,035

This grant was made to the Dominican Evangelical Church for training pastors in modern religious movements. There are currently many different religious movements that have gained a foothold in the Dominican Republic. The Dominican Evangelical Church (DEC) urgently needs to address this phenomenon, by reinforcing its pastoral and lay teams, especially among its leadership. Both pastors and laypeople feel threatened and have questioned the faith and traditions which the DEC has always professed.

The goals of this program was to train 70 pastors and laypeople regarding the diverse religious movements in the Dominican Republic and to establish strategies to strengthen the Protestant identity. To reach these goals, the DEC will hold a national three-day gathering for pastors and lay leaders. Topics will include the growth of new religious movements in Dominican society, how to balance the new and old in worship, and how to be a Church that serves its community. The DEC hosted four regional two-day gatherings to discuss and debate the following topics: the Church and its context in each region, the local Church as a healing space, and what does God asks of Christians in worship. Each region will summarize its gathering to be presented at the final gathering. A final three-day national gathering will be held for evaluation and final thoughts. Each region will present the summary of their meeting. Topics for the final gathering will include the following: is a healing Church relevant today, how to understand different forms of worship, and the contextual reality of pastoral work.

EVANGELICAL DOMINICAN CHURCH - LET'S RESCUE CHILDHOOD POTENTIAL, SANTO DOMINGO, \$9,441.18

Since 1998, the Evangelical Dominican Church (EDC) has been working with the poor of the community of Villa Duarte in Santo Domingo. The Church has established not only a Preaching Point but also a social action program called Let's Rescue Childhood Potential. The program reaches more than 70 children. It offers meals as well as medical and odontological services. These children also participate in Christian Education activities. These activities include the learning of Biblical texts and instructions in relation to prayer. During vacations, a Vacation Bible School is offered. Finally, as part of the wholistic approach to ministry, some of these Children are sent to some of the Day Schools run by the EDC. This project promoted the involvement of the people of the neighborhood in all activities. Workshops were presented in an ongoing basis. Not only the parents of the children that participated were involved in the program, but also the members of the local congregation in Villa Duarte. Some businesses were involved in the program as well.

EVANGELICAL DOMINICAN CHURCH - TECHNICAL/VOCATIONAL SCHOOL PROGRAM, \$6,800

This grant supported the Youth Association of the Dominican Evangelical Church with their Technical Vocational School Program. This project encouraged professional technical education for Dominican and Haitian youth, especially in the metropolitan areas of the country.

ECUADOR

EVANGELICAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ECUADOR - DANCING TO LIVE, \$4,120

This grant to the Evangelical Methodist Church in Ecuador supported their project, Dancing to Live. Over the last few years, new families of indigenous and African descent have moved into a community near the capital city of Quito. The Encounter grant allowed a Methodist church in the community to provide the children with the opportunity to express their uniqueness through the arts, especially native dances. It was also the wish of the church community that the children receive support in areas that were not being taken care of by society, such as love, committed spiritual formation and integral health care.

EVANGELICAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ECUADOR - INDIGENOUS CONGREGATION IN IMBABURA, \$10,000

The Evangelical United Methodist Church of Ecuador Operating Plans included the strengthening and development of local congregations. The "Family Restoration Center" is a new local congregation that has been working on its own development and programming since 2010. This congregation is located in the Andean Quichua indigenous region, with the Cayambis and Otavalos people, in the town of Gonzales Suarez, about two and half hours north of Quito. This indigenous population is deeply rooted in their cultural values and wisdom and engages in small scale agriculture for their livelihood.

This new congregation was started and is currently led by lay members of another Methodist congregation (the Otavalo people) in the region. They have a team of highly committed local leaders, and have been gathering for worship and fellowship on leased land for the past few years. The Congregation of "Family Restoration Center" is now looking at having their own infrastructure. This request was to provide much needed funding for the building of a facility which is important for continuation and success of the ministry.

The goals of this project was to support the pastoral ministry, preaching, evangelism and discipleship of the Imbabura people; to support their ministry of service to the community; to support efforts to have their own land and local church; and to strengthen its mission of indigenous identity.

EVANGELICAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ECUADOR - MISSION AND TRAINING PROGRAM FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, \$10,000

The Methodist youth organization of Ecuador has existed since 2001. Unfortunately, in spite of their efforts, they have not been raising leaders to become active members of our church, and become part of the organization. Therefore they wanted to start a project to develop a training center for youth leadership. The training center focuses on bible based training, missions, evangelism, worship, and service. The intention of the program was to: Motive young people of the Methodist Church to work in the service of God; form new church leaders capable of leading the various ministries; create a continuous process of training and learning, incorporating core principles; and bring good teachers to train in different areas, in accordance with the Bishop and authorities.

The program was developed with the participation of adolescents and young adults. The coordination was under the responsibility of the Episcopal office, through workshops, encounters and training courses in Quito, but also encouraging missions in local churches and surrounding districts.

EVANGELICAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ECUADOR - MISSIONARY WORK IN MANABI, \$10,000

The EUMCE has two districts: District Sierra, which covers the city of Quito and rural and indigenous areas of the Andes and the Coast District, which covers the churches located in the lowlands near the coast of Ecuador. This project was aimed at the Coast District Evangelical United Methodist congregation "Sendero de luz" and other initiatives located in the town of El Carmen, Manabi Province.

The goals of this project were to develop the work of the local congregation, emphasizing ministry to children in need; to support three new works nearby, with emphasis on evangelism and discipleship; to attend the ministry to children, adolescents and families in their need; and to support the pastoral and theological formation of local and district leadership.

EVANGELICAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ECUADOR - SEEDING IN NEW LANDS, \$10,000

The Evangelical United Methodist Church in Ecuador is in the process of renewal of its mission and vision. The new approach includes the opening of new work in strategic places. The strategic places include settlement areas for people moving from the rural areas to the metropolitan regions. The strategy also calls for the development of teams for evangelization. With the Seeding in New Lands Project, an evangelistic team has been developed. Training of the same as well as its sending forth has been planned for. In regards to the evangelization approach, the emphasis will be given in service, Children ministries, Women ministries, and Pastoral services to families. This was developed to serve the people migrating to Quito from rural areas. Among the people that were served included the Indigenous families. The goal was to open at least one new Church starting in 2008. The intentions were also to consolidate the evangelistic teams for future evangelistic endeavors.

EVANGELICAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ECUADOR – SUPPORT FOR NEW MISSION CONGREGATION IN ATUCUCHO, \$10,000

Three decades ago, the neighborhood of Atucucho was "created" by rural migrants and homeless families. Today this neighborhood is now a suburb/city. However, due to high levels of poverty and its location in an area that is not easily accessible, (very hilly) it does not have many public services. Members of this community have almost non-existent electrical and water services, poor sewage systems and dirt roads. In addition, as a result of poverty and dire living conditions, there is a high level of illiteracy, violence and crime resulting in the abandonment of children, common diseases of poverty and infant mortality, school dropout, teen pregnancy, alcoholism, domestic violence, broken homes and many families living in despair and anxiety about their future. Many indigenous rural migrant families and populations of African descent are also now coming into this area searching for better opportunities. Today women (most of whom are heads of household) are working outside the home doing laundry or cleaning. Many

parents are working as helpers on construction sites, or doing informal trade or other jobs. Most families live in rented rooms while some own small lots in very precarious buildings.

The Evangelical Methodist Church in Ecuador (IEMUE) is a very young and growing church with 20 congregations and 7 new initiatives. Its goal has been to strengthen and grow congregations to take the gospel and witness of Christian life, especially, new church communities. IEMUE is currently cultivating a new mission opportunity around the boundaries of cities like Barrio de Atucucho.

The members of the congregation in this new Atucucho mission area works with approximately 60 children and youth three days of every week through various ministries: Christian education, meals and homework assistance, health and hygiene, and personal growth and development. They also conduct an empowerment program for women and family and have regular church activities for all members: worship, bible studies, discipleship and social activities.

This request was for the purpose of supporting the ministries of this new mission congregation. More specifically, supporting local leaders with the presence of pastors who are committed to growth, evangelism, discipleship and service in the framework of integral mission of the Church. This project addressed the following priorities of IEMUE: evangelization, ministries of social transformation and ministries with women, children and youth.

The women of this community volunteered their time to work with the ministries caring for children and young people. IEMUE provided assistance with the program planning, monitoring and evaluation, and the community leaders sought out local partnerships (businesses and other) for support (in-kind, volunteer or financial).

EVANGELICAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ECUADOR – ‘EL SEMBRADOR’ METHODIST SCHOOL, \$6,632.24

This project was to support a construction expansion project and bolster both the academic offering and also the pastoral accompaniment offered to children, adolescents and parents related to the rural "El Sembrador" Methodist School in Pastocalle, Ecuador.

In alignment with the Church's stated priority to foster "Children's and Adolescent Ministries, so that in the future it has young people and their families as part of the Church," the goals of the School's improvement projects were the following:

- construct a security wall for its new classrooms;
- bolster the School's Christian education and pastoral accompaniment for students, teacher, parents, and the community; and
- bolster the academic rigor and expand the academic offering of the School, to soon offer up to 9th grade.

These goals were attained by carrying out the following activities:

- contracting laborers, purchase construction materials, and supervise construction;
- purchasing teaching materials for Bible classes and instruments for music classes, and hold monthly meetings providing pastoral counseling and guidance; and
- hiring one teacher as part of the academic expansion to offer a 9th Grade course. The School will also purchase the corresponding teaching materials for this new course.

EL SALVADOR

EVANGELICAL METHODIST CHURCH IN EL SALVADOR- METHODIST SCHOOL COMPUTER TRAINING, \$10,000

This grant supported the Methodist Church in El Salvador for technological training for students and youth in the Ahuachapan Methodist School.

The problem addressed through this project was a need to keep pace with ever-changing modern technological advances. Many countries around the world are preparing for the "Fourth Revolution" in which technological changes will shape global societal advances and developed countries are preparing to develop the necessary conditions to be leaders in this change. This includes offering new well-paid jobs to their inhabitants. Sadly, El Salvador has not yet been able to adapt, and its technological lag is severe. Most existing jobs in El Salvador can be compared with new forms of slavery or exploitation. Without minimum schooling and technological understanding, workers in the country are condemned to jobs that hardly support the cost of living. Because of this, a new training platform must be developed where different people from Salvadoran Methodist schools and churches can learn new technological skills. These skills include software and application use and will allow them to enter new kinds of jobs.

EVANGELICAL METHODIST CHURCH IN EL SALVADOR- METHODIST MEDICAL SERVICES, \$10,000

The mission strategy of the Methodist Church in general is to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ through a living practice of works of piety and by the effective and transforming support to the society by performing works of mercy. Both of these together have contributed to the expansion of the Reign of God and to the growth of the Evangelical Methodist Church in El Salvador.

By a concrete presence within our communities we offer not only a tangible expression of the Love of God but also carry a message of hope to the people we reach by offering Health Care. People within our Methodist parishes are people of very limited economic resources and low formal education many of whom are resigned, in a lot of instances, just to live with diseases that could very well and easily be treated. By assisting these people in facilitating medical checkups and medicines needed to address their sicknesses our clinics not only offer healing to the person, but also give a different message in the midst of the crisis: We offer the hope that the Love of Christ remains alive.

The Methodist Medical Relief Clinics based in Soyapango and Ahuachapán have been offering health care programs for several years now, serving more than 60,000 patients in 25 communities. With high prestige and credibility the Methodist Church in El Salvador has provided social services to the Salvadoran community from a Christian transforming perspective. Recently both clinics reduced their ability to care due to the lack many of the medicines required to serve the sick.

The main goals of this project were a) to bring healing to the sick through conventional medical treatments with the use of medical products b) to strengthen the activities of both Clinics c) to strategize regarding incoming persons needing basic health care and d) to share the message of hope in Jesus Christ and consequently increase the number of members of our churches.

GRENADA

GRENCODA (GRENADA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY) – COMMUNITY BASED HEALTH CARE AND NUTRITION PROGRAM, \$9,550

Grenada Community Development Agency (GRENCODA) is a nonprofit, non-partisan, nongovernmental, rural development agency. It was established in 1985. GRENCODA provides guidance and support to rural individuals, families and communities to improve their quality of life. It does this by encouraging people's participation for Community Based initiatives which builds self-reliance, particularly among small farmers, women, low income workers and youth. The five rural parishes of Grenada depend largely on agriculture that is in decline with only a token share of the annual national budget. A second economic activity in the rural parishes is fishing, which offers some opportunity to rural folk.

Grenada is a society that is male dominated with the highest unemployment amongst women and youth, resulting in households of unemployed single women with an average of four to five children; most of whom are quite young and of school age. Young people and women find it difficult to access finance and means of production as they lack general title to land and other collateral insisted upon by banks and financial institutions. A recent health and nutrition survey done by GRENCODA with 139 rural households, revealed that of 356 children under 12 years tested, 46% were below the accepted hemoglobin blood count level.

This Health Care and Nutrition program supported about 140 rural households as they continue to seek ways to improve their everyday life situation. The objectives/activities of this program were: 1) to focus on teaching healthy eating habits through active food cultivation in backyards and garden; 2) meal preparation utilizing menus, and recipes of high local food input; 3) change/transformation in mindset which will place greater value on relevant nutritious local produce, greater utilization and consumption; 4) monitoring the health, growth, and development of children less than 12 years through periodic checking of their height, weight and hemoglobin levels; and 5) exposure to and acquisition of core values by counselors, social workers, and religious leaders.

The main beneficiaries of this program were single women who are heads of households and children and youth primarily between ages of 12 to 18. Some 140 households with over 400 children under the 12 were targeted. The wider community was also benefitted as excess household produce from the backyard gardens were shared with neighboring households, relatives, and friends. Ultimately, children's health and nutrition were sufficiently tracked and monitored to ensure their growth and development.

GRENCODA (GRENADA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY) – ENHANCING SMALL FARMERS LIVELIHOOD, \$10,000

GRENCODA provides guidance and support to rural individuals, families and communities to improve their quality of life. It does this by encouraging people's participation for Community Based initiatives which builds self-reliance, particularly among small farmers, women, low income workers and youth.

Grenada is a society that is male dominated with the highest unemployment amongst women and youth, resulting in households of unemployed single women with an average of four to five children; most of whom are quite young and of school age. Young people and women find it difficult to access finance and means of production as they lack general title to land and other collateral insisted upon by banks and financial institutions.

This program supported about 140 rural households while continuing to seek ways to improve their everyday life situation. The wider community benefitted from the excess produce of this project.

GRENCODA (GRENADA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY) – RURAL WOMEN SMALL BUSINESS CONSOLIDATION PROJECT, \$10,000

Grenada is a tri-island state and is divided into six (6) parishes. The capital St. George commands the vast majority of the commerce and trade including tourism and its spin offs hotels and guest houses, restaurants and bars, shopping malls, taxi and tour operators. The other five (5) rural parishes depend largely on agriculture that is in decline.

Grenada Community Development Agency (GRENCODA) is a Rural Development Agency. It is a non-partisan, nongovernmental agency. Over the past 30 years GRENCODA has positively impacted and touched the lives of thousands - women, youth and children, students, small business persons including farmers, fisher folks, furniture makers and more. This was done through training programs.

GRENCODA exists to provide guidance and support to rural individuals, families and communities, to improve their quality of life. It does this by encouraging people's participation in community based initiatives which will build self-reliance, particularly, among small farmers, low income workers, women and youth.

Rural women operating small businesses need to learn how to consolidate and improve their current business activities in order

to maximize profits for their homes, families and communities. They also need training on financial and business processes.

The goals of this project are to provide the following support to rural women small business owners: 1) Personal development and life skills: build self-confidence, self-esteem, good decision making and maturity to handle stressful situation, Interpersonal relationships and communication; 2) Business development - exposing women to business planning, product presentation and standards, book keeping, customer relations; and 3) Financial support for most critically needed input for the business.

The project will run for about 6 months, commencing September 2017 and running through February 2018. Implementation began with the Personal Development/Life Skills training, which will be followed by at least five (5) days of business development training with each day of at least 5 hours duration. These activities will be carried out by experts from the Grenada Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC) and of the Bureau of Standards. Included also will be sharing of experience of successful small business persons.

Upon completion of the project, each participant will have a deeper, more informed understanding of her business, its needs and viability. With that understanding the woman entrepreneur will identify and indicate her business most critical need; the project will respond by allocating financial support, which is the final component.

This projection is for fifteen (15) female participants, and the expectation is that they will be between the ages of 28 to 50 years, all having children and they will be from low income villages. GRENCODA has engaged community leaders to help identify and recruit the most suitable women and has also reached out to two (2) local NGO's: Grenada National Organization of Women (GNOW) and the Grenada National Council for the Disabled (GNCD) seeking to have at least five (5) out of the 15 come from their ranks. Negotiation has been held with the Bureau of Standards and the GIDC to have them conduct relevant sessions and assume a stake and partnership. GRENCODA Staff is liaising between community leaders to prepare reports and support and to oversee the implementation and managing of funds of the project

The direct beneficiary of this project will be the 15 women participating and by extension their households. The expectation is that each household has a size of 4 - 6 persons. The wider community will be involved as the women will be approaching them as customers and in some instances, as supplier of inputs and material for their businesses.

GUATEMALA

EVANGELICAL NATIONAL PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCH OF GUATEMALA - STRENGTHENING LEADERS IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, \$9,400

The Evangelical National Primitive Methodist Church of Guatemala is primarily focused in rural areas, where most of the population is indigenous. IENMPG members are comprised of 95% indigenous people and due to their low financial resources have limited or no access to education, including theological studies. Their low level of education affect their job opportunities tremendously, making it very difficult for them to improve their quality of life. Seeing the need and challenges faced by the community, The Evangelical National Primitive Methodist Church of Guatemala wanted to prioritize the work with Children through the development of a leadership training in Christian Education. The program was a 2-year program in the field of Leadership and Christian Education. The program included two national workshops per year, with the participation of 100 members per workshop.

EVANGELICAL NATIONAL METHODIST PRIMITIVE CHURCH OF GUATEMALA - TRANSFORMED TO TRANSFORM OTHERS, \$3,346.56

This grant funded the Evangelical National Methodist Primitive Church of Guatemala project, Transformed to Transform Others. This project was part of working towards writing and implementing a vision and mission strategy for the church as a whole. The principal goals of this project were: (1) to have a group of 20 Methodist young people committed to work with youth and the growth of their local churches; (2) to prepare six one-day encounters/workshops, every two months; (3) to motivate young people to become youth pastors; and (4) to promote activities by members of the local churches and at the same time oriented toward members of the local churches.

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LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN ECUMENICAL THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION COMMUNITY (LACETEC) – INTER-INSTITUTIONAL ECUMENICAL DEVELOPMENT, \$2,330

This grant was made to the Latin American and Caribbean Ecumenical Theological Education Community, to support the synergy between ecumenical theological education institutions and the development of a Doctorate Program in Theology and Sciences of Religion. The Latin American and Caribbean Ecumenical Theological Education Community (LACETEC) is a community of theological education institutions that brings together 22 theological seminaries from Latin America and the Hispanic Caribbean countries. LACETEC, created in 1988, has a mission to provide contextualized and quality theological education. Its task is to articulate and promote the debate and advancement of such education from an ecumenical and missionary perspective. For 29 years, LACETEC has been accompanying ecumenical theological education with different initiatives in the form of meetings, seminars, workshops, theological workshops, and publications. This allows LACETEC to provide spaces for teacher training, pedagogical exchanges that advance and

improve this service to the churches and societies where participants are involved. In order to carry out its work, it has a theological education fund for LACETC operating and administrative expenses. The rest of the annual budget must be sought through concrete projects with partners in the ecumenical world. Faced with a crisis of Latin American ecumenism, of a conciliar nature, LACETC proposes another possible ecumenism from contextual, intercultural, and interdisciplinary theological education through its seminars throughout the region.

The general objective of this proposal was to support LACETC as a community that generates, encourages and strengthens work and learning, through networks of theological seminars, to motivate the synergy between ETE institutions in matters of training and pedagogical exchange that encourages sustainability, institutional self-support, and public advocacy that the leaders of Latin American churches need for their work and mission. The specific objectives of this proposal were as follows:

1. Consolidate, through LACETC's partner institutions, the networks organized in 2018 to implement central themes which put teachers, researchers, and professionals at the service of this in synergy.
2. Design a proposal for a Latin American Doctorate Program in Theology and Sciences of Religion in Spanish.

These activities were implemented by a transnational team of experts in ecumenical education. The Pedagogy, Theological Education, and Curriculum Program is directed by the LACETC Board of Directors. Sustainability and Self-sustainability was a program headed by LACETC's Treasurer, Professor Rafael Escobar, of the Latin American Anabaptist Seminary (SEMILLA). ETE, Church and Society was led by Dr. Roberto Zwetsch and Dr. Laude Brandenburg of the Higher School of Theology, and implemented through LACETC's network of researchers. The transversal axis to all the programs, Gender Justice, was monitored by Professor Blanca Cortez from Centro Intereclesial de Estudios Teológicos y Sociales in Managua, Nicaragua. Dr. Dan González-Ortega, LACETC's Executive Secretary, coordinated the "Latin American Doctoral Program in Theology and Sciences of Religion".

HONDURAS

UNITED METHODIST MISSION IN HONDURAS - JUAN WESLEY METHODIST SCHOOL IN CIUDAD ESPAÑA, \$10,000

Ciudad España is a village resettlement that arose after Hurricane Mitch in 1998. The Methodist Church has been present there since the founding of the community. Eventually, the church built a large 600-capacity temple and multiple Sunday school rooms. Over the years, this temple became underutilized. The church has been growing with renewed leadership in these last years and saw the need for more education in the community. There has been overcrowding in public schools and many children were unable to study. Seeking greater economic potential, they traveled to other villages looking for educational opportunities. The Ciudad España United Methodist Church saw this as an opportunity to serve the community by using the unused facilities of the temple. After researching the possibility, they found that this was indeed a possibility. The United Methodist Church in Ciudad España has always had Sunday school programs for about 100 children. The creation of the school did not only serve the community, but it also helped the children in Sunday school. The main goal of this project was to provide basic formal primary and secondary education to 500 children of the community. This project started in 2014 and hoped that the school would be self-sustaining by 2016 and provide quality education. This program was developed at the Juan Wesley Methodist School in Ciudad España, Honduras, with the support of the faith community and the Church of Resurrection UMC of Kansas.

UNITED METHODIST MISSION IN HONDURAS - YOUTH & CHILDREN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT, \$9,000

The churches within the Misión Metodista Unida en Honduras (MMUH) are made up of primarily women, youth, and children. Historically, churches that were founded in Honduras were planted primarily among the indigenous rural and economically deprived population. Hence, the local churches did not have strong programmatic infrastructures, educational resources for leadership development, resources to address the needs of this target group, nor could they sustain them. The MMUH sought to rectify these issues by developing an effective intentional national program to be implemented in each of the local churches, and equip the local leadership. Children's themes range from abuse to educational deprivation and extremely fractured family structures. Youth theme's range from self-esteem to drugs and sex education, basic educational skills, and future planning skills. Evangelistic and discipleship thrusts have not been emphasized in years past therefore there was a lack of a cohesive program that offered structure and cohesiveness. The belief was that since this target group made up the bulk of the church of Honduras, it was essential that the needs of this target group be addressed in order to capture and maintain generations that followed. In the long run, it is anticipated that stronger future leadership could be cultivated among this population group.

The children and youth programs involved evangelization, discipleship, and holistic ministry among the youth in Honduras. These groups targeted marginalized and economically deprived youth and children within the rural populations within Honduras where there are existing congregations. The MMUH on a national level served as a logistical and coordinating entity for the local Churches throughout Honduras. This project involved 14 local churches and/or missions (initiatives). Key program coordinators were identified on a national level to help train and develop local chapter programs within the local churches. Each local church identified, trained, and equipped a local leader within its community of faith for each of the corresponding programs, e.g., youth program and coordinator, and children's program and coordinator. Each leader was trained on membership recruitment, program implementation, and development of strategies for impacting the local communities within their context. The responsibility of the administration and ministry of each program belonged to the local church leadership. The MMUH served as a facilitator and resource. The fulfillment of this project involved recruiting and training two to three national coordinators to identify, train, and support local program

coordinators within each church.

The main goals of this project included: a) to install each particular program within the local church; b) to identify and train local leadership congruent w/each respective program; c) to address the needs of each target group, e.g., youth, and children with a wholistic approach to ministry; d) to provide evangelistic and discipleship skills giving the local churches the impetus to reach their constituents with more effective programming; and e) to make disciples of Jesus Christ to the largest population within our churches and surrounding communities.

JAMAICA

UNITED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE OF THE WEST INDIES – PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, \$10,000

This grant was made to the United Theological College of the West Indies to begin to offer a Certificate of Achievement in Professional Leadership Development for clergy and laity in Jamaica. The strategic goals of the United Theological College of the West Indies (UTCWI) are facilitating change, growth, and development while maintaining its core functions of providing contextual ministerial formation and training and theological education for men and women in ministry.

This project sought to address the demand for a more comprehensive program based on the demonstrated limitations of Lay and Ordained religious practitioners and leaders in the Caribbean for displaying responsive, innovative leadership qualities and managing projects in their appointments in a variety of cultural and geographic settings. While some of these practitioners and leaders have received training in theology, ministerial formation, biblical interpretation, and church administration, they have had limited practical exposure as leaders in the field and in managing projects. This has resulted in reduced impact and effectiveness.

This certificate program provided numerous avenues for enhancing Professional Leadership Development for clergy and laity interested in improving their impact as they engage in the Mission of their respective organizations. It helped participants to fulfill their leadership potential through the acquisition of a deeper understanding of the range of leadership styles and competencies, as well as the acquisition of skills in areas such as, team building, strategic planning, and decision making, among other things. The program provided valuable insights, proven to work in real-world situations. This connected with the Encounter with Christ program's stated mission priorities to support church and community development and the renewal of missionary activities.

The program was structured over a 10-week period. Classes were held for 4–6 hours one day per week, and each week addressed a different module. Each module included the theoretical underpinnings of the topic under consideration, and group work involving analysis of case studies linked to contemporary real-life situations. This analysis drew on the expertise of leaders from their various fields of work and will require engagement of participants in the church and hands-on engagement from leaders and practitioners drawn from a wide range of ecumenical and social institutions and organizations.

MCCA

MCCA (METHODIST CHURCH IN THE CARIBBEAN AND THE AMERICAS) - CHURCH SCHOOL CURRICULUM MATERIALS, \$7,000

This grant to the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA) supported their Church School Curriculum Materials Program. For over 30, there has been a need for church school materials for the Caribbean Christian community, especially, children and youth. A few districts within the MCCA have produced materials, however, there was a need for the development of an acceptable regional curriculum.

The main goals of the program were: (1) to produce a common church school curriculum for the MCCA region; (2) to produce materials in three languages (English, French and Spanish); and (3) to produce materials that would educate people about the cultural diversity of the Caribbean and Latin America region.

MCCA (METHODIST CHURCH IN THE CARIBBEAN AND THE AMERICAS) – CONFIRMATION WORKBOOK, \$10,000

This grant was made to the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas to support the publication and shipping of confirmation workbooks throughout its eight Districts. Over the last twenty years, the MCCA has produced its own Prayer Book and Hymnal. Over the last twenty years, the MCCA has produced its own Prayer Book and Hymnal. The teachers' confirmation manual 'This We Believe' has been approved by the MCCA's Faith and Order Commission. Its use across the region has been inhibited by a lack of funding. There is also a need for a student workbook. The cost to acquire such materials from England or the US, the MCCA's traditional sources, is prohibitive. As a result, ministers design or source their own materials from sources at hand, which is not ideal. The workbook has been prepared and approved by the Faith and Order Commission, but the Connexional Office is unable to finance its publication. This project will not only be a major contribution to the Christian Literature and Christian Education of the MCCA. In addition, it will:

- ensure that a common, approved document is available for use throughout the MCCA;
- allow the material to be a locally-produced document, which will be culturally and contextually appropriate;
- speak to the lived reality of the people, and prepare them to live and practice their faith in their context;
- permit lay persons who are facilitating classes to have physical documents to work with; and

- allow students to own the materials and have a workbook to keep for their assignments and future reference.

**MCCA (METHODIST CHURCH IN THE CARIBBEAN AND THE AMERICAS): BAHAMAS, TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS DISTRICT – (2017)
THE CHILDREN'S CLUB, \$10,000**

The Children 's Club is a Community Outreach Program which was formed to help meet the needs of the less fortunate children between the ages of 3 to 16 years living in Quackoo, Peter, Brougham, Fowler, Market Streets and Fritz Lane. It was established by the Methodist Church and is housed at the Methodist Center located on Quackoo St.

**MCCA (METHODIST CHURCH IN THE CARIBBEAN AND THE AMERICAS): BAHAMAS, TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS DISTRICT – (2020)
THE CHILDREN'S CLUB, \$10,000**

This grant was made to the Methodist Church of the Caribbean and the Americas' (MCCA) Bahamas, Turks, and Caicos District to assist with programmatic needs to provide education to children and youth in the community. The Children's Club ("the Club") is a Community Outreach Program which was formed in 2008 to help meet the needs of less fortunate children in the immediate surroundings of the headquarters of the Bahamas, Turks, and Caicos District ("the Church"). This includes the Quackoo, Peter, Fowler, Brougham Street, and Market Street areas near to the Police Station in Nassau, Bahamas. Following Hurricane Dorian in 2019, the Club grew as a result of children relocated from Grand Bahamas. The Club meets at The Methodist Mission Center, a building that was donated to the Church specifically for outreach and charitable work to be done for children in the community. This Program falls under the purview of The Mission, Evangelism, and Outreach Committee of the Church.

This project aligns with the Church's established strategy for congregational growth through supporting youth educational and emotional development, as evidenced by its Mission and Outreach Committee dedicated to the same. The goals of The Children's Club are to provide effective ministry as follows:

1. To assist and equip the children to develop reading and academic skills.
2. To provide a loving environment where children can socially interact and bond with each other.
3. To promote their self-confidence, both recognizing their rights and accepting responsibilities in the realm of family, society, and church.
4. To promote literacy skills, which will enable them to earn their own living and compete in broader community classes (English, math, reading, arts and crafts, computer, knitting, and crochet are offered). A wide range of topics are addressed, including anger management, conflict resolution, bullying, incest, rape, etiquette, and grooming.

Several organizations are involved in implementing these activities. The Children's Club is run by a committed group of volunteers from the Mission and Outreach Committee of the Church who have extensive experience in working with children and youth in the church, school, and the community. Police officers from the community Police Department and health professionals are brought in to lead sessions on anger management and conflict resolution, social ills, and health issues, and members of The Kiwanis Key Club of New Providence lead sessions on etiquette and grooming.

**MCCA (METHODIST CHURCH IN THE CARIBBEAN AND THE AMERICAS): GUYANA DISTRICT – ZION METHHODIST MISSION GRACE
GROWTH PROJECT, \$3,500**

Zion Methodist Mission (fellowship) started in 2009 in the Berbice Circuit of Guyana District Conference, Methodist Church of the Caribbean and the Americas. The Mission is located in the Heathburn community on East Bank Berbice. This fellowship is in an emerging community yet to be fully organized according to local government regulations. The small membership is made up of 3 adults, 6 youths and 4 children. Over the years, Zion Methodist Mission, with the aid of the wider Berbice Circuit, has organized many activities in the community geared towards general and Christian education, health awareness and stewardship.

Issues of poverty, substance abuse and low employment often times overshadow the potential and opportunities for human development within the community. This project seeks to address these root causes in an effort to reduce the instances of poverty, substance abuse and low employment.

The goal of the project was to improve the socioeconomic status of the Heathburn community through literacy skills development programs, agriculture and hydroponics (the cultivation of plants in water and mineral solution). The objectives for the literacy program was to improve basic reading skills and encourage an appreciation for reading in general within the community. The objectives for the agriculture and hydroponics included creating awareness of planting for subsistence and economics as well as productive use of land, recycling techniques and mulching.

Resource persons were sourced from within the Berbice Circuit. Additional resource persons, particularly for the agriculture and hydroponics activities, were sourced from the Guyana based field officers of the Partners for America since links had already been previously established with this organization. Five women, 10 childrenyouth, and 2 men were direct beneficiaries of this project.

The expected results were: the reduction in the number of deficit readers within the community; improved homework and other assignment interaction between adults and school-aged children; emergence of ongoing agriculture evangelism between the Church and community; and creation of small plant/crop business endeavors by individuals and families.

Sustainability of this project will continue to be ensured through the utilization of locally based resource persons in the Berbice Circuit. Further, key persons from the Berbice Circuit and the community were trained in the hydroponics techniques to ensure

continuity in the application of the same. Also, agricultural plots have been developed and used within the church compound as this provides a direct opportunity of stewardship by the members of the Zion Methodist Mission.

MCCA (METHODIST CHURCH IN THE CARIBBEAN AND THE AMERICAS): GUYANA DISTRICT – LIFELINE COUNSELING MINISTRY, \$9,900

This grant was made to the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas' (MCCA) Guyana District to begin their "Lifeline" family counseling program to provide therapeutic care for congregation and community members. Guyana is a multi-ethnic country located in South America. Be that as it might, it is identified politically as a Caribbean territory. It boasts a rich history, owing to a diverse fusion of ethnic groups. The primary source of income for most Guyanese people is agriculture. The plural nature of Guyanese society impacts family dynamics to an extent, resulting in the need for social intervention. The Methodist Church in Guyana, which is made up of six Circuits and forty-two congregations, has been an agent of change in the country. The Church, through its various ministries, seeks to work

The goals of the Lifeline ministry revolve around the aspiration to be a counseling ministry that exists to provide a God-centered, safe, and therapeutic environment for families to express challenges, as well as be empowered towards identifying and implementing healthy coping solutions. The ministry's goals align with the Guyana District's prioritization of providing family support, and they are to:

1. Select and train four counsellors per Circuit.
2. Establish a District monitoring body for the Centers.
3. Establish policy guidelines for the Centers.
4. Establish a Counseling Center in each Circuit.
5. Commission the Counselors for work.

MCCA (METHODIST CHURCH IN THE CARIBBEAN AND THE AMERICAS), HAITI DISTRICT- DELMAS 54 BOYS HOME, \$7,500

This grant to the Methodist Church of the Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA), Haiti District, supported the Delmas 54 Boys Home. The Delmas Boys Home began several years ago for a number of boys who were rescued by the Church from a facility where abuse prevailed. There are currently 23 boys residing at the Home.

The main goals of this project were to continue to provide the boys with a safe and stable environment and a Christian education, while learning to live together in a spirit of cooperation and that they are cared for and loved.

MCCA (METHODIST CHURCH IN THE CARIBBEAN AND THE AMERICAS): JAMAICA DISTRICT – JAMAICA METHODIST DISTRICT SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAM, \$10,000

The Jamaica District of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas has a total of 172 congregations across Jamaica and is directly involved in the operations of over 80 schools and manages two children's homes. This puts the Church in direct and indirect contact with tens of thousands of citizens on a regular basis. From this vantage point, the Church is seeing signs and indications of the abuse of children and vulnerable adults across the country. Consequently, with the assistance of the Methodist Church in Britain they have employed a Safeguarding Officer whose role is to develop a Safeguarding Policy for the District and to undertake the training and sensitization of all those who are involved or intend to be involved in working and associating with children and vulnerable adults in the church or wider community.

The reported incidences of child abuse in Jamaica are not limited to any socioeconomic groups or gender and recent reporting indicates that it is rising rapidly. Statistics show that abusers are often not strangers but rather well known to the victims, such as family members, teachers, or youth leaders. Pedophiles are often active members of churches (elders, deacons, Sunday school teachers, camp Counselors, pre-school teachers and workers). Added to that is the emergence of pedophiles on the internet, and children with low self-esteem are likely to fall prey to these predators. Reported incidences include physical, sexual and emotional abuse. Reports also indicated that many children and young adults are exhibiting behavioral problems in school and society because of this abuse.

To ensure that all children are cared for in a family setting requires the provision of specific programs and services. Existing examples include supporting parents to prevent separation of the child, such as providing material, financial, technical and psychosocial assistance and where the parental system fails, establishing formal foster care systems. These programs and services however depend on the support of social welfare practitioners within government and civil society organizations who in turn need the commitment of policymakers, external international agencies and other influential actors for authorization, coordination, enforcement of standards of care, and sustainability of resources. The responsibility for children without parental care therefore rests on a number of different bodies at many different levels including the church.

This grant has enabled the Jamaica Methodist District to provide training and sensitizing sessions on the Safety of Children and Youth with representatives from 172 congregations and 80 schools. Sessions included: 1) Keeping Children Safe - an essential part of the training as it establishes the aims, objectives, boundaries and relationships within the group - Children and Childhood looks at how we see childhood, children and their experiences, and what you hope to learn about how to protect them; 2) Understanding Child Abuse - what do we mean by child abuse, in general and in your own country?; 3) Recognizing and Responding to Child Abuse – looking at the signs of child abuse (whether it is happening or has happened), and how we can respond when we think, or someone tells us,

that a child has been abused; and 4) Making your organization safe for children identifies the key steps that our church will need to take to protect children and keep them safe; why it is important to have child protection standards; identifying the strengths and weaknesses within our churches; and provide a basic awareness and understanding about the nature of sexual abuse and how people who may be a risk to children operate.

Jamaica Methodist District organized the training and sensitizing sessions according to the six zones in the Jamaica District. They had three training in each zone. One training for those in church organizations. One for parents and guardians and the other for workers of their institutions. Approximately 500 men and women and about 5000 children participated in the program.

The results are that all those who have been trained will have a better understanding of ways to promote child friendly environments; identify signs of abuse (through verbal and non-verbal communication) and how to respond. That parents were sensitized on how to relate and nurture their children and information on agencies and organizations that they can turn to when the need arises. On the preventative side, it is hoped that those dealing with children in and outside of the church will be better equipped to protect themselves and their children.

MCCA (METHODIST CHURCH IN THE CARIBBEAN AND THE AMERICAS), JAMAICA DISTRICT - JESSIE KERRIDGE CONTINUATION SCHOOL - KINGSTON, \$10,000

This project consists of a school of the Methodist Church in Jamaica, which began as a mission project of the Deaconesses of the former Wesley Deaconess Order, that is exclusively operated to target female dropouts from the regular school system. With the school population of over 50 pupils, the ultimate objective was for these young women to realize and comprehend their full potential, allowing them to attain the fundamental goal of being able to enter into the job market. In view of the fact that this project was a Conference conceived effort, there was full local involvement as well as local management. The students benefitted from this school by being given the opportunity to attend and learn from such subjects as: English, Mathematics, Data Entry Operations, Food & Nutrition, Clothing & Textiles, and Religious Education. The school offered these subjects over a two-year period, and attempted to help all students as they implemented a special needs program in order to assist those that were slower learners. The school was confident that the students, families, and communities from which they come would benefit from the program they offered. This program aimed to leave the students with a sense of hope and belonging, appreciation, love, and an enhancement in social skills in order for the students to leave in a better position to positively influence their peers and community. The one obstacle the school faced was the hardship of limited accommodation that it shared with the Methodist District Office, which hindered the schools' considerable potential for growth.

MCCA (METHODIST CHURCH IN THE CARIBBEAN AND THE AMERICAS): JAMAICA DISTRICT – SAVANNA-LA-MAR METHODIST CIRCUIT MUSIC PROGRAMME, \$8,000

The Savanna-la-Mar Methodist Circuit is located in Jamaica and is a member of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA- Jamaica Methodist District). The Circuit is made up of six congregations: Wesley, Mearnsville, St. Patrick's, Little London, as well as Sheffield in the parish of Westmoreland and Hewitville in the parish of Hanover. Currently, their membership is 354 and is growing rapidly.

Throughout the parish of Westmoreland and Hanover and by extension the western part of Jamaica there is a scarcity of church musicians. Music not only enhances worship but it is an important tool the church uses to engage and attract young people as it seeks to respond to the needs of the communities. This project operated primarily in the six communities where the chapels are located and in two other communities in Westmoreland where there is a high concentration of at risk children and young people. Westmoreland is considered one of the poorest communities on the island of Jamaica and suffers greatly from the migration of the skilled persons to urban centers.

The first stage of the project was for two (2) years. The Circuit has been in a partnership with St. Stephen's UMC in Norman Oklahoma and they provided trained musicians from their area to travel two times each year to Jamaica to carry out an intensive music training camp. The trainings took place over the summer of 2015. The Circuit has also established links with the Dominica Circuit of the Leeward Islands District of MCCA who provided trained personnel to participate in these trainings. They also created a network of local church musicians who joined them throughout the year to continue the program that was established by St. Stephen's. The second stage of this project was centered on participants graduating and becoming tutors as well as inviting participation of other Circuits in the region to attend the annual training.

The Circuit trained thirty (30) people from target groups mentioned above with the help of international and regional partnerships already established. Although the program was designed to cater to all who were interested, the specific focus was with children and young people from local congregations. The program also organized around outreach to at-risk children and youth in the Whitehall community in Negril and New Market Oval community in Savanna-la-mar. Participants were trained initially in music reading, choral singing, keyboard, guitar, drums and recorder.

Funding was needed for the setting up of a studio at the Sheffield Methodist Education and Resource Center which was the base for the program. Through a partnership with PAPAS (a Non-Profit Ministry Opportunity) the Center, which was formerly a school building, was renovated as a multi-purpose center. It has the capacity to accommodate up to fifty (50) people. Funding aided primarily in the purchase of instruments, for travel and general accommodations. The goal was that with regional and international partnerships, participants would be proficient in three (3) years and then able to become tutors. In 2017, the program opened to other circuits in

Western Jamaica and the District. A small fee was charged to sustain the ministry program.

MCCA (METHODIST CHURCH IN THE CARIBBEAN AND THE AMERICAS), JAMAICA DISTRICT - OPERATION SAVE 50, \$8,500

The Mission strategy was for each of the 27 circuits of the Jamaica Methodist Church, to identify at least 50 "children at risk" in their immediate communities (church, school, and neighborhood). The main mission was to reach out to these children and, with their parents' consent, register and interact with the children in groups as well as on a one to one basis to get to know them, learn about their living experiences, introduce them into the love of God, love them and encourage them, and embrace the God who loves them. This project/ministry was one of the many Jubilee activities organized by the Methodist Church of Jamaica in recognition of Jamaica's Fifty years as an Independent Nation and in keeping with the District sub theme, "Nurture the Children, build the Kingdom". It was an intentional outreach thrust to S.A.V.E. (secure, appreciate, value, encourage) at least 1350 children under the age of 18 years in the congregations and communities surrounding the 27 circuits of the Jamaica District by encouraging them to have a meaningful relationship with Christ and to foster activities that contribute to their holistic development.

This project/ministry helped parents and children develop better social, and interpersonal skills. They built self-awareness and a determination to be the best that they could be. Although Operation S.A.V.E. 50 focused on the holistic development of children, it certainly contributed positively to the development of adults and ultimately to Nation building.

MCCA (METHODIST CHURCH IN THE CARIBBEAN AND THE AMERICAS): JAMAICA DISTRICT – YOUTH OUTREACH PROGRAM, \$10,000

This project was to empower the children and youth of Kingston, Jamaica, through bible study, discipline, and music. Coke Memorial Methodist Church, from which the Circuit gets its name, is situated in the heart of downtown Kingston and is the oldest congregation in the Jamaica District, celebrating 230 years of ministry. Over the years, members have migrated from urban to suburban areas and to foreign countries. Consequently, the membership has declined drastically as the profile of the communities in which they are situated and to whom they minister have dramatically changed. The people are poor, housing is inadequate, and this has led to much overcrowding. This is also compounded by the fact that there is urban drift by the rural poor who have found themselves in a state of joblessness, homelessness, and hunger. Many of the children the project is seeking to support come from this setting and are in need of a renewed mindset if they are to escape the cycle of poor socialization and inadequate financial resources.

The goal of the project is to build a family among the youth where they feel safe, protected, and loved and where they are taught how to foster strong healthy relationships through respect, responsibility, and dependability. This connects to the MCCA's mission of making disciples by reaching, nurturing, empowering, and demonstrating the love of Christ to all.

The project will start with a three-day discovery of themselves and Jesus Christ. The first two days will be done in-house at the church and the final day will be at Hope Botanical Gardens where they will explore their identity and confront issues that relate to youth. Through it all, Jesus will be presented as their Savior, hope, and model for successful living. This part of the project is already sponsored.

Following this, they will meet on Saturdays for four hours each time, where they will begin with devotions and biblical teaching. The majority of the time will be spent on music lessons and learning the discipline of the Boys and Girls Brigade. After six months, there will be an evaluation by the Boys and Girls Brigade and participants will be issued certificates. Based on the evaluation over the six-month period, participants would choose to participate in further training to be part of a Brigade marching band and/or music ministry in the Church. Each day participants will be provided a snack break and a meal at the end.

MCCA (METHODIST CHURCH IN THE CARIBBEAN AND THE AMERICAS), LEEWARD ISLANDS DISTRICT - REACHING OTHERS FOR CHRIST THROUGH VOCATIONAL AND EDUCATION TRAINING, \$6,000

This grant supported "Reaching Others for Christ Through Vocational and Educational Training" of the Christchurch Methodist Church in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. The program supported ministries with Hispanics on the island. The Methodist Education and Outreach Services (MEOS) is a faith/community based non-profit organization of underprivileged children and families in the community. It is the outreach arm of the Christchurch Methodist Church and commenced operations in September 2003.

These programs included computer literacy and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for approximately 25 Hispanic students. A direct outgrowth of these classes were the initiation of weekly Saturday evening worship services, which has evolved into a vibrant ministry for the Hispanic population in the community.

MCCA (METHODIST CHURCH IN THE CARIBBEAN AND THE AMERICAS), PANAMA/COSTA RICA DISTRICT - LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR PASTORS AND LAY LEADERS, \$3,200

This grant was made to the Methodist Church of the Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA), Panama/Costa Rica District, for a leadership training in Ngöbe-Bugle Region, Valiente Circuit.

The goal of the leadership training for local pastors and congregational lay leaders was to develop the participants' reflective and hands-on abilities so that they can provide counsel, give direction, and effectively lead their local communities to be more just and equitable during rapidly changing times. Three training cycles were implemented between August 2019 and August 2020 to offer the skills to local pastors and congregational lay leaders to help them create or support local programs for income generation and self-sustainability, increased participation of women and girls in church leadership and decision-making activities, creation of safe spaces

for discussion of marriage, human sexuality, etc., development of culturally-relevant worship experiences and mission initiatives, and stewardship of the environment and a critical perspective on so-called transcultural mission models offering prepackaged congregational life models that deny the relevance and authenticity of Christ's presence already within their communities.

MCCA (METHODIST CHURCH IN THE CARIBBEAN AND THE AMERICAS), SOUTH CARIBBEAN DISTRICT - EVANGELIST OF MCCA METHODIST SCHOOLS, \$10,000

The Caribbean society has been facing several complex social economic issues that have been impacting negatively on people in general but more-so on children and young people. The educational institutions have had to contend with challenges such as the use of illicit drugs and violence, incest and presumably human trafficking, promiscuity, poverty, and all the other challenges that single heads of households face. The Methodist Church manages several primary and one secondary school in the South Caribbean Region. This created an excellent opportunity for evangelistic work that we have taken for granted. With all the challenges facing the region, it was an opportunity for the Church to try and rescue some of the children and youth. Clearly, the mandate of the Gospel is applicable in this situation.

The Mission strategy of this project was: Through a program of teaching and witness to intentionally make disciples of children and young people and through them reach their parents; to offer a full time evangelistic ministry catering to the social and spiritual needs of all in and around the environs of school administered by the Methodist Church; to provide guidance in social and spiritual matters to students, teachers and other staff members; to bridge the gap between school and church through organized evangelistic programmes; and to help in the development of well rounded individuals who would be able to make a positive input in the Caribbean society.

MCCA (METHODIST CHURCH IN THE CARIBBEAN AND THE AMERICAS): SOUTH CARIBBEAN DISTRICT – TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH MISSIONS, \$10,000

The James Street Speightstown Circuit is one of the ten circuits in The South Caribbean District of The Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA). It is made up of ten (10) churches which are comprised of three (3) Itinerant Presbyters, one (1) Deacon and four (4) Local Presbyters. The church communities are riddled with many social ills such as unemployment, drug usage, domestic abuse, low education attainment, young parents and single mother families. As such, the Church has embarked on an exciting and new approach to ministry which includes being more intentional with their approach to children, youth and adults especially those who are the disadvantaged in society.

The project focused on understanding the needs of the vulnerable members of the communities. In so doing, and with the assistance of Government agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's), this project was able to address these issues and persons were able to acquire knowledge and skills that strengthened their resources thereby eliminating their dependency on handouts and welfare while enabling them to positively contribute to the social landscape of the Barbadian society.

Implementation and activities of this project were that the church provided a safe environment for learning and development; technical support (transportation, wheel-chairs, etc.); volunteers (retired teachers, nurses, guidance counsellors, university students, and local missionaries). Programmatic details of the project were the Missions Department of the Church was concentrating on three areas of ministry: 1) Training: - in education: skills training, remedial classes and personal development; mission: mission courses, evangelism courses, retreats, workshops (parenting, wholistic health, are of the elderly, gender); 2. Outreach: visitation; evangelism; hospitality; basic health checkup; and 3) Crisis Management: - prayer hotline, counseling and disaster relief.

The primary beneficiaries of this project were the disadvantaged and vulnerable persons in the environs of the ten (10) churches in the circuit primarily the youth, young adults and single parent homes. The project will continue to be self-sustaining through: fundraising (bazaars, tea parties, fish fries, flea markets and concerts); donations from the churches and their members, businesses and other missions agencies (local and overseas); sponsorship programmes; and creating unique items to sell, such as notebooks, calendars/diaries, pencils, pens, bags and post cards.

MCCA (METHODIST CHURCH IN THE CARIBBEAN AND THE AMERICAS): SOUTH CARIBBEAN DISTRICT – METHODIST SCHOOLS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, \$10,000

The District comprises 10 Circuits in 5 island nations. It serves approximately 10,200 members (adults, youth, and children) through its churches and provides educational opportunities for thousands more (Methodists and non-Methodists alike) through its 6 early childhood schools, 15 primary schools, and one secondary institution. The Church has actively engaged in general education for over 200 years, and was at the forefront of providing access to education for enslaved peoples, and then to general society in the Post-Emancipation era. The schools are public schools with a dual system of management – State and Church, through School Boards, providing education predominantly in rural areas in the developing countries of the Caribbean.

The goal of the project was to engineer the renewal of the Church and Schools. Specifically, it aimed to:

- to provide high-quality general and Christian education by offering the best support possible to principals, teachers, students, parents, and the wider community;
- to ensure safe schools;
- to motivate all staff and build teacher efficacy;

- to encourage parental involvement; and
- to demonstrate the church's interest in the schools' development

These goals were achieved through several activities. Firstly, a survey instrument developed and piloted by persons on the District's dedicated Project Team was implemented. The survey was administered by team members, and then analyzed by a contracted professional researcher. Secondly, a three-day training retreat for all school leaders was held, which was led by a consultant with a team of professional facilitators. Thirdly, a consultant visited each territory in the District and spent a predetermined period of time in each Methodist school during the first year of the project. The consultant's activities at the schools will include on-site "brown bag" trainings, class visits, modeling of teaching efforts, and interaction with boards of management. Fourth, one or two outreach activities were organized for parents of each school visited. Fifth, an online Professional Learning Community of Principals was created for their professional and spiritual nurturing. Sixth, each school was adopted by a congregation in the District.

MEXICO

METHODIST CHURCH OF MEXICO RA, MEXICO CONFERENCE – AN OASIS ON THE ROAD, \$10,000

The Methodist Mexico Annual Conference has been serving the country for 143 years. The Annual Conference of Mexico has a 96 year old temple in Apaxco, in the State of Mexico from which a service ministry is being carried out to passing migrants. This ministry is supported by the local church with additional support from other churches and organizations. Migrants are provided meals and the opportunity to spend the night in their facilities. They are also offered toiletries and clothing and bathroom facilities for showering.

The membership of the local church in Apaxco is only 12 families, however, they are committed to this ministry which is growing in terms of increasing numbers of passing migrants being served. Most of the migrants are from Central America who have been away from their homes and families for at least 25 days. They have either been walking for a very long time, have used land transport, or the train. The local congregation has served these people in their own home for many years. Three years ago, they decided to carry out this ministry in their Church facilities.

On an average day, the Church receives at least 15 people. There are some days that over 50 people are serviced, and in special occasions close to 100 in one day. They are open daily at 6pm. Upon arrival, the family responsible for the activities that evening shares about their work, and the rules of staying and participating in the ministry - which includes a time of prayer, a Bible reading and a devotional commentary. After the dinner, mattresses and futons are extended and blankets offered for spending the night. In the morning a breakfast is offered served by volunteer members of the congregation who receive a small payment for their support every day of the week. The passing migrants are also offered an opportunity to make phone calls to their home country or the United States for a small fee.

This ministry reaches out to approximately 500 persons on a monthly basis - including children, women, pregnant women, families, and men (who make up 95 percent of the total). This ministry is critical to help passing migrants who are exceedingly tired, escaping horrendous situations in their home country - of being persecuted, arrested, raped, beaten etc. This local church ministry provides rest and place of security - an Oasis on the Road.

METHODIST CHURCH OF MEXICO RA, MEXICO CONFERENCE - TLALAMAC COMMUNITY CENTER AND MEDICAL CLINIC, \$10,000

This grant was made to the Maurilio Olivera Medical Clinic, belonging to the Methodist Church of Mexico. Maurilio Olivera is the civil association of the Methodist Church of Mexico (IMMAR). Their mission is to provide the means to develop socially sustainable projects for the communities where their churches are located. They fulfill basic needs such as food, clothing, housing, and health, and support vulnerable groups such as children, women, and elderly people, providing them with the means to improve their quality of life.

This project serves to address the challenges that Tlalamac faces as a community. Tlalamac is a small impoverished town in the State of Mexico, about 90 kilometers from Mexico City. There is a Methodist church in the community with additional facilities used for a medical clinic. Tlalamac has 3,500 inhabitants, mostly women and children. The town has drinking water, free public education, and transportation and road infrastructure, but health services are either nonexistent or very limited for most residents. Residents do not generally have the economic means to care adequately for their own health. At the present time, the clinic only offers dental health services and basic medical services. Medicines for simple illnesses are sold at a very low cost. About 1,000 people are treated per year.

The town does not have adequate facilities for physical, cultural, and artistic development activities. The Methodist Church in Tlalamac is not currently involved in the medical services provided by the clinic, so they look forward to the opportunity to share their gifts and ministry through this mission, taking advantage of the facilities that they already have in the town.

The clinic's primary goal is to offer comprehensive health services for children, young people, adults and the elderly, including people with special needs. Their second goal is to take advantage of the existing facilities, to create a community center that will provide cultural and artistic activities, including craft-making workshops, with the participation and leadership of church members.

METHODIST CHURCH OF MEXICO RA, MEXICO CONFERENCE - PASTORAL, CONGREGATIONAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, \$9986

This grant was made to the Gonzalo Baez Camargo Seminary in Mexico to support a seminarian program developing faith communities in rural areas and urban neighborhoods.

The Dr. Gonzalo Baez Camargo Seminary (Seminary) is located in Mexico City, and uses Methodist Church of Mexico (IMMAR) facilities. It is supported by church, student, and alumni donations. The Seminary provides room and board, given that most students come from the center and south of the country to pursue their Theology Degrees. Specific programs require external support. Beginning in their second year, seminarians are assigned to pastoral work in rural and urban working-class and impoverished neighborhoods in areas around Mexico City.

The key problem that this program will address is that seminarians need accompaniment and support when ministering in the churches and communities where they are sent to be trained as pastors who contribute to community and ecclesiastic development. The mostly poor congregations where seminarians are pastoring also need ecclesiastic development. Finally, the communities surrounding Methodist congregations need to see the contributions of these congregations to community development.

METHODIST CHURCH OF MEXICO RA, MEXICO CONFERENCE - STRATEGIC PLAN OF EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP, \$10,000

The Methodist Church of Mexico (IMMAR) sought the mission of extending the Kingdom of God by strengthening and promoting a holistic Christian life for its members as well as for the community. IMMAR recognized that a fundamental task to fulfill such a mission was to evangelize and disciple. The Central District of the Mexico Conference of the IMMAR has more than 138 years of presence in central Mexico and takes as a basic duty to respond to the mandates of Jesus Christ in seeking to grow so that more people may find salvation and spiritual fulfillment.

The Central District consists of 24 congregations that are in the central part of the greater metropolitan area that includes the Federal District and the whole State of Mexico. In this District, the population is of more than 20 million persons. However, the membership of the District is about 2,000 and the worship attendance is about 4,000 persons. Methodists in the Central District, clergy and laity have a great desire to proclaim the Good News of Salvation but they all needed to sharpen their knowledge, skills, tools and expertise to advance the task of evangelization following due discipleship.

The main goal of this project was that the Central District of the Mexico Conference, after three years of implementation of a strategic plan for evangelization and discipleship, grow at least 10% in its membership (about 200 full members). The second goal was to be instruments of Jesus Christ for a greater number of conversions (about 400 persons). Training session in a congress of evangelization and discipleship was offered to clergy and laity and a strategy of evangelization and discipleship was implemented.

METHODIST CHURCH OF MEXICO RA, NORTHWESTERN ANNUAL CONFERENCE - ARTS AND CRAFTS SCHOOL, \$6,200

This grant supported the Methodist Church of Mexico and their Arts and Crafts Trade School. Mexicali is at the border with the USA where the main source of employment is the Maquiladoras in which the majority of people employed are women. As a result, children are left alone in the homes. The Methodist Church of Mexico started this program of service in 1997 with the purpose that women would learn an art or a trade from home and contribute to the family income without leaving their children alone.

The main goals for the school were to receive official acknowledgement from the government so that the school would be characterized as an educational institution and social support, as well as being economically self-sufficient.

METHODIST CHURCH OF MEXICO RA, NORTHWESTERN ANNUAL CONFERENCE - JEHOVÁ JHIRÉ HOME, \$10,000

This grant was made to the Methodist Church in the Mexico Central North Annual Conference (CANCEN) to support the "Casa Hogar Jehová Jiré" program. CANCEN has been supporting Raramuri girls in getting quality education in the high mountain areas of Tarahumara for over 25 years. The Methodist Church of Mexico has a joint effort among congregations in Chihuahua to sustain the Jehova Jhire Home (the Home).

The problem to be addressed through this project is a lack of access to education among Raramuri girls. They need support to continue their studies due to the constraints of the distance between their homes and schools, tuition costs, and lodging. During the academic year, the Home responds to the girls' need for lodging assistance, meals, study materials, hygiene and medical assistance, arts, and development.

The Home provides academic support for the Raramuri girls. A tutoring program is offered in collaboration with the Secretary of Public Education. The Home provides a dignified and comfortable home for 40 girls with a kitchen, dormitories, and a study space. The Home provides spaces for artistic expression and spiritual reflection under the guidance of designated personnel. The Home responds to the girls' different academic levels in coordination with other educational institutions. The programming of the Jehova Jhire Home is overseen by its presiding committee, whose head is Violeta Gallardo de Bethel. Ludivina Cortez Pérez leads the daily operations of the home in Creel.

METHODIST CHURCH OF MEXICO RA, SEPTENTRIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE – FORMATIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL - QUERETARO, \$8,000

The Methodist Church of Mexico has placed a programmatic emphasis for the advancement of the Reign of God in three aspects: Christian Development; Christian Witness; and Finances and Administration. In 2004 the Committee for Christian Formation of the Septentrional Annual Conference presented a project called "Formative Sunday School" to the plenary. The program proposed to utilize an interdisciplinary curriculum developed by the Methodist Church of Cuautla, Morelos under the direction of Rev. Manuel V.

Flores. This curriculum offered a wholistic approach to educational formation and a rich enrootment in the Mexican context. The challenge was that the only available resource was the Teacher's Manual. Thus, a team of teachers and educators was organized to produce resources for the students. This team worked for two years and in 2006 three thousand (3,000) copies of the First Year Booklet (first level) were printed. The theological approach of the curriculum is based on the basic Christian call to preach the Gospel and act accordingly, as taught by the Methodist perspective of social transformation. Being that most of the churches are located in rural communities or popular neighborhoods, this type of formation is imperant. The intention of the program was, therefore, to revise and reprint materials for the 2nd and 3rd formational years.

METHODIST CHURCH OF MEXICO RA, SOUTHEASTERN ANNUAL CONFERENCE - HOME FOR INDIGENOUS STUDENTS, \$9,618.92

This grant to the Methodist Church of Mexico RA helped fund program expenses related to the Home for Indigenous Students in Oaxaca. The Southeastern Annual Conference of the Methodist Church of Mexico RA has been committed to be involved with low-income indigenous communities. Their vision to build a home where indigenous students are housed and receive an education has been accomplished. The grant helped fund program expenses related to the operation of the facility.

METHODIST CHURCH OF MEXICO RA, MEXICO CONFERENCE THE UNIVERSAL COMMUNITY, \$2,000

This grant was made to the Methodist Church of Mexico (MCM), to benefit the Annual Conference of Mexico (ACM) to provide discounted foodstuffs and clothing to vulnerable community members in Cuernavaca, Mexico. Cuernavaca is the capital and largest city of the state of Morelos in Mexico. The city has a population of 366,321 people and is about a 90-minute drive south of Mexico City. 67% of the population is employed in the retail and service industries, both of which depend on tourism and have already been badly impacted by COVID-19. An important number of neighborhoods are marked by poverty, with a consequent lack of access to basic education, unemployment, broken-up families, abuse, and drug addiction.

The aforementioned marginalized neighborhoods are where the ACM's Christian Testimony Department has implemented a food security program called The Universal Community (hereafter, the 'Program') over the past four years. The Program works alongside the Cuernavaca food bank to pay for half the cost of foodstuffs and clothes, so that impoverished residents may purchase these necessities at half the market price. The Program provides a pillar of stability in these challenged communities. The ACM has suffered unforeseen economic setbacks recently, leading it to pause the Program, but as COVID-19 continues to erode economic activity in the community, access to affordable foodstuffs and clothing is now more critical than ever, so restarting the Program is urgent. The Program's goal is to provide quick access to foodstuffs and clothing to vulnerable residents, utilizing the Program's name recognition and established processes for fast-tracked but safe distribution to these communities through discounted sales.

THEOLOGICAL COMMUNITY OF MEXICO – CTdeM ECUMENICAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING AND ADVOCACY PROGRAM, \$9,800

The Methodist Theological Community of Mexico (CTdeM) is made up of institutions of Christian and Ecumenical communities. Its mission is to provide biblical-theological, pastoral and spiritual formation, ecumenical, interdisciplinary and intercultural alternative courses of action for the transformation of society in keeping with the values and commitments of the Kingdom of God.

For five decades the CTdeM has been committed to the construction of peace in different areas of the continent. Particularly in Mexico it has been an institutional partner that has accompanied processes such as the search of agreements in Chiapas in 1994 and in 1997, together with other agents of civil society, religious and Christian churches, formed the movement for peace with justice and dignity. By 2015, one of the bloodiest events in recent history of Mexico awoke the conscience of a large part of the country. The CTdeM immediately put their resources at the service of the families and colleagues of the missing persons.

Mexican and Latin American Methodism is today one of the focal points of greatest opportunity for services and the academic life of the institution of theological education in Mexico. This project's intention is to consolidate the Methodist participation in the CTdeM, visualize and design capabilities of the Baez-Camargo seminar, as well as benefit from the gifts that the Latin American Methodist world can bring to the theological development of Mexico.

These funds supported an Ecumenical Leadership Training and Advocacy program featuring Latin American Theologians with Methodist background who shared their knowledge and skills in educational programs in a week of intensive course of studies. The theologians who participated were Dr. Guillermo Hansen, Dr. Harold Segura, Dr. Claudio Carvalhaes, Diana Rocco Tedesco, and Dr. Tercio B. Junker. CTdeM handled all logistical responsibilities.

This program benefitted 100 students of the Theological Community of Mexico and 200 people from churches in Mexico City, pastoral communities in the country, the Theological Community of Mexico, the Methodist Church of Mexico A.R., the Methodist Seminary "Gonzalo Baez - Camargo ", and churches for peace and family movements. This program also provided high visibility to the Methodist Seminary as part of a serious and powerful effort of theological education in Mexico and Latin America.

THEOLOGICAL COMMUNITY OF MEXICO - METHODIST PARTICIPATION IN THE "COMUNIDAD TEOLOGICA" OF MEXICO, \$6,100

In 2013, with the new strategic planning of the Theological Community of Mexico, the Methodist Church of Mexico decided to engage more effectively in the life of CTdeM. This project invited 5 well known Latin American Methodists teachers: Nestor Miguez, Simeí Monteiro, Elsa Tamez, Horacio Vivares and Tercio Junker to share their knowledge and skills in educational programs of the

Theological Community of Mexico. These teachers taught master classes, throughout the course of the year 2014 for approximately 100 students per class, and visited 5 different Methodist congregations giving workshops for approximately 200 people.

The symposiums included "New Testament Gender Perspective", "Composition Seminar for Master Liturgical Production" and "Instrumental Greek Reading in the Letter to the Hebrews". Visit to the local Methodist churches was part of the workshops as well.

THEOLOGICAL COMMUNITY OF MEXICO - ECUMENICAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING, \$8,500

This grant was made to the Theological Community of Mexico to provide pastoral and human rights training for women, musical training for children, and missional training for youth leaders of area churches. The Theological Community of Mexico (TCM) is currently in an acceptable situation, owing to the entrepreneurial attitude that allowed it to identify and address potential economic niches in the churches it serves. New opportunities are forthcoming in the short and medium term which, together with the academic and administrative reengineering that the TCM has in process, open up new horizons for theological education in Mexico and throughout Latin America.

The TCM's vision to be a paradigm of biblical-theological formation in constant construction that affects the realities of societies in Mexico and Latin America with a sense of cooperation, integrity, respect, justice and gender equity, compassion, and living in koinonia in a sustainable way. Its mission is to offer biblical-theological, pastoral and spiritual formation that is ecumenical, interdisciplinary, and intercultural, and to propose action alternatives for the transformation of reality, in accordance with the values and commitments of the Kingdom of God.

The general goal of the program was to train women, children, and youth for leadership in Mexican churches with a theological, pastoral, diaconal, evangelistic, and missionary perspective, with deep ecumenical commitment.

Through the program, TCM aimed to achieve the following:

1. To train women to develop skills for service in their churches with an ecumenical perspective: leadership, theology, pastoral ministry, diakonia, mission, and human rights.
2. Train girls, boys, and adolescents in musical skills, in a context in which they select an instrument of their choice, and provide a theology for worship which privileges values of peace.
3. To train young people as leaders in their churches, who are sensitized and trained to carry out a diaconal mission in an ecumenical setting.

To carry out this program, the TCM organized 4 semester subjects for the Diploma program in Critical Gender Studies and Theology (CGST). Each teacher will implement a 16-week course per semester for the CGST. TCM will also organize the semester program for the Diploma in Musical Initiation with emphasis on Christian Worship (DMCW). Each teacher will implement a 16-week course per semester for DMCW. Finally, TCM will collect medications, organize a medical service team and a forest team, and implement a missionary journey of ecumenical formation of youth leadership.

NICARAGUA

EVANGELICAL METHODIST CHURCH OF NICARAGUA-- CLASSROOM FOR METHODIST KINDERGARTEN, \$8,050

The Evangelical Methodist Church of Nicaragua (IGLEMEN) argues that investing in the education of children will result in a society with less gangs, violence, and drugs in the community. Consequently, the strategy of the Church was to contribute to the community development with the children as priority. The proposal was to start with work of integral education for children from pre-school level (3/5 years) in neighborhoods "Germán Pomares", "Villa de la Cruz" and San Antonio, that are the poorest in the city of Jinotega, and one hundred children from these neighborhoods received integral education at preschool level.

EVANGELICAL METHODIST CHURCH OF NICARAGUA - TECHNOLOGICAL CLASSROOM METHODIST SCHOOL IN JINOTEGA, \$10,000

This assisted the Methodist Church in Nicaragua (IGLEMEN) for the development of a computer science classroom at the Methodist School of Jinotega.

Educational work has always been part of the ethos of Methodism in Latin America and the Caribbean. This education-centric approach is based on values and uses a curriculum which includes English language, sports, and technology. This type of educational offering in Jinotega is limited, and the Methodist School in Jinotega is presenting an opportunity for a more holistic development of children in the surrounding communities.

EVANGELICAL METHODIST CHURCH OF NICARAGUA - GOOD SAMARITAN MEDICINE PROGRAM, \$3,000

This grant to the Evangelical Methodist Church (EMC) in Nicaragua supported the Good Samaritan Medicine Program in the Hialeah neighborhood of Managua.

The EMC in Nicaragua has a local congregation located in the Hialeah area in Managua, Nicaragua, which is a very poor neighborhood with many social problems such as a high crime rate, lack of education, unemployment and lack of health care services. The local church has developed programs oriented to children, youth and women to respond to the health needs of the community. One of the most urgent needs identified was to provide access to medicines for children, youth and adults.

The EMC in Nicaragua worked in collaboration with "Accion Medica Cristiana" (Christian Medical Action), another General Board

of Global Ministries mission partner, to provide medicines at a minimal cost for the Hialeah community. The medicine cost 50% less than it did in any of the private pharmacies. The program works with a medical doctor who provides prescriptions on a voluntary basis. "Accion Medica Cristiana" agreed to collaborate with the church in the implementation of this project.

PANAMA

EVANGELICAL METHODIST CHURCH OF PANAMA - WOMEN'S HEALTH ORIENTATION CLINIC, \$8,500

This grant helped support the Evangelical Church of Panama in the development of a preventive health program for the women's health orientation clinic in "Panama Vieja."

Panama Vieja is the colonial city of Panama, which is very attractive for tourists but is also a very poor community where women face high-risk situations. The Evangelical Church of Panama developed a prevention health clinic to serve women in the Panama Vieja area. This project addressed the health needs of single women, victims of sexual harassment, victims of domestic violence, pregnant teenagers and abandoned elder women. The goal was to enhance the quality of women's life.

EVANGELICAL METHODIST CHURCH OF PANAMA – EVANGELIZATION & CHURCH GROWTH OF THE VALIENTE METHODIST MISSION, \$10,000

The Evangelical Methodist Church of Panama has been present in the Valiente Peninsula for more than 95 years, carrying out ministries across many communities primarily through the work of missionaries. The Valiente Peninsula is an area where the economy is centered on small scale farming, fishing, and some emerging commercial activities. Since 1916, the Methodist Church has been preaching and teaching the Gospel mainly among the indigenous people known as the "Ngobes".

Over the years, very little local leadership had been developed, but then there was an opportunity for the Church to develop leadership for evangelization and church growth. The goal of the Church in Panama was to establish 10 small faith communities throughout the area. In order to meet this goal, the Church provided leadership development and training to local leaders. Training included interreligious dialogues and meetings with various groups in churches and communities.

The project had activities that gathered more than 450 people in total. Each activity was carefully evaluated by a local team led by the Superintendent Minister. The training program was carried out through the participation of communities at seminars and workshops for evangelization training; meetings and consultations with local leaders, women, youth and children.

EVANGELICAL METHODIST CHURCH OF PANAMA – MUSIC MINISTRY & PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS, \$10,000

The Evangelical Methodist Church of Panama requested support for the Music Ministry and Program of a Methodist Church located in Pedregal where there is a high rate of juvenile delinquency, broken homes and family structures. This program was part of the Evangelical Methodist Church of Panama overall strategy for church growth and development - which has been accomplished through its ongoing work around evangelization programs, worship, Sunday school, discipleship and leadership training, visitations and meetings in homes.

The Church in Pedregal had been used only once each week for worship and upon review of their space the congregation saw a great opportunity to develop the music school project, thereby creating space for children and young people to socialize and develop their character to be of service to their communities and society as a whole.

The music school is already in operation with a music professor teaching classes to children, youth and young adults of the Church membership. The strategy was to expand the school's operation by providing opportunity for children and young adults of the community who were not members of the Church. In order to do so they needed to purchase additional musical instruments and improve their sound equipment quality, space (additional furniture) and also find volunteers to help the music professor.

The target was 15-20 additional children and young people from the surrounding community ages 8 - 19. The Church promoted this new opportunity through their evangelization programs (house meetings, worship sessions and Sunday school activities) and the congregation, local church board and Bishop were fully involved and supportive of this ministry. Current students (and their parents) were subsidizing the ministry through small fees and fund raising efforts. The evaluation process of this project has been conducted every six months by the local church board.

PARAGUAY

EVANGELICAL METHODIST COMMUNITY OF PARAGUAY - METHODIST CHILDREN'S FEEDING PROGRAM, \$10,000

The Evangelical Methodist Church of Paraguay understands that working with children will have a positive effect on both the present and the future, shaping their lives according to the principles of the Gospel. We recognize that Paraguay has a large population of young adults, teenagers, and children therefore focusing the efforts in this age group has been very useful and productive for the growth of the church. Many of the local churches do not have enough resources for this kind of work. This project sought to supply food to children in the poor communities where EMCP has been working as local churches. At the same time, gave the children the opportunity to know Jesus, through different activities and teaching the Bible in each local church. The intension of the program was to strengthen children's ministry in each of the local churches and encourage children; and in conjunction with the National Children's Ministries teachers, to create evangelistic programs for children, provide educational materials, Christian movies, etc.

EVANGELICAL METHODIST COMMUNITY OF PARAGUAY – SOCCER PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN, \$9,480

A grant was made to the Evangelical Methodist Church of Paraguay (EMCP) to develop a children's soccer program in the town of Ñemby, part of the greater Asuncion metro area. Paraguay is a poor country, and its biggest issues are in the areas of education and health. The EMCP is committed to and focusing on both areas; this program responds to the fact that many children are out on the streets outside of school hours. The EMCP needs outside support for many social projects like this one, since it still has gained a strong enough participation to make the projects self-sustaining.

Their classes either follow a morning shift or an afternoon shift, but not both. The existing soccer field is in poor condition and is currently an underutilized community resource, both for school children and for members of the local church. The goal of this project will be to care for neglected children who are often on the street outside of school hours, reaching these children for Christ by providing a space that promotes a healthy lifestyle, social inclusion, and moral teachings. It also presents youth evangelism opportunities for the local church. This coincides with the EMCP's focus on health and education and is an opportunity to encourage lifelong healthy habits and educate about social integration through sports.

The current soccer field will be upgraded, to make it a more adequate place to play soccer and to gather. A physical education instructor will be hired and will guide the training sessions. This professional will be accompanied by the pastor and his or her local clergy, providing spiritual and social care to the young participants and their relatives accompanying them to soccer training. Sessions will be held four times a week, and healthy snacks will be provided for the children afterwards. The physical education instructor and clergy will hold periodic educational workshops for the accompanying relatives, and sometimes psychologists and doctors will be present at these workshops.

EVANGELICAL METHODIST COMMUNITY OF PARAGUAY - TOBA QON WOMEN HANDICRAFTS CENTER, \$8,000

The Toba Qon indigenous community is about 50 kilometers from the capital of Paraguay. This community strives to sustain itself by hunting; yet, since this activity is very restricted, they live under poverty levels. On the other hand, women have the great ability to produce arts and crafts. Therefore, the vision of the Evangelical Methodist Community of Paraguay (EMCP) was to reach the Toba Qon indigenous community with the love of God and the Gospel by the development of projects that would help this community live in a more dignified manner. To be able to help the community, the EMCP rebuilt the Center for Arts and Crafts. The Center carried the goal of being a space in which Toba Qon women could sell their arts and crafts so that they could strengthen their family economy. This project started with the construction of a small room. However, this room was in need of repairs and expansion. The goals of this project were: (a) to repair and expand the existing room to be able to serve a greater number of women; (b) to establish a center for the sale of materials; (c) to encourage the Toba Qon women to maintain the cultural traditions and transmit the same to future generations; and, (d) to expand the market for the sale of Toba Qon Arts and Crafts.

EVANGELICAL METHODIST COMMUNITY OF PARAGUAY – WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT THROUGH DRESSMAKING, \$8,500

The Evangelical Methodist Community of Paraguay (E.M.P.C.) was started in 1988, and is currently made up of twenty seven churches with five new mission centers. They have also established educational institutions across the country - nursery schools and a college. The Church was seeking financial support for one of its programs which would help women in the local community in Asunción, Trinidad neighborhood to learn a skill and thereby improve their economic situation. Many of these women are single parents and are very much in need of income to sustain their livelihood and families.

The E.M.P.C. had an unfinished building which became a Center for dressmaking classes. They also had some sewing machines which were in need of repair and would need to purchase fabrics and other sewing tools for the start-up. It was anticipated that this location would offer as many classes as they are able to, depending on how many teachers would be available.

The teachers were staff from the National Social Promotion program and volunteers from churches. Each class was carried out with groups of five to ten women at a time, depending on the availability of sewing machines. As part of the responsibility for the project, the graduates contributed towards the project as they gained their own independence in the economy. The collection of these fees were used for maintenance of the premises and the project.

EVANGELICAL METHODIST COMMUNITY OF PARAGUAY – INDIGENOUS YOUTH BIBLE STUDY, \$9,500

This grant was made to the Evangelical Methodist Church of Paraguay to support the development of Bible study clubs. The problem addressed through this project is the indigenous children and adolescents who are in need of spiritual attention and biblical teachings, in order to cultivate Christian character. This filled a gap left by many families and communities which fail to cultivate this character.

The goal of the project were to make disciples of adolescents and youth, providing bi-weekly Bible studies which will include teaching materials. It is a Christian Bible club which also creates healthy opportunities for community and recreation for these young people. Attendees are registered to create accountability and encourage active participation. There is systematic teaching of the Bible, Bible knowledge contests based on their studies, memorizing Biblical texts, and musical activities. A system of incentives were developed for participants to reward participation.

PERU

METHODIST CHURCH OF PERU – CAPACITY BUILDING & TRAINING OF INDIGENOUS PASTORS & LAY LEADERS, \$10,000

The Methodist Church of Peru (MCP) has been very active in the promotion of the Gospel among the Andean and indigenous sectors of the country. In the last three decades, it has developed churches and ministries in these sectors which have led to the creation of three districts: Sierra Center district, South Andean Inca, and new hope southern Puno. In these three districts, the Church works primarily with the Aymara and Quechua populations. As a result of instability and poverty in the country, there is a continuous high flow of migration from the countryside to the city, creating even wider social gaps and urban poverty. High rates of unemployment and marginalization are characteristics of the social reality in cities.

The mission work of MCP is focused on communities that are in the process of transition and social and economic mobility. The Church currently has 167 congregations with approximately 8,000 members, in all districts nationwide. MCP engages with communities through programs and ministries for the development of personal spiritual and church growth. The Church is actively engaged in the task of evangelizing and mission service opportunities as well as providing for leadership development. The Church is faithful to its tradition of Wesleyan theology and seeks every opportunity to integrate evangelization work with works of mercy and service.

The Church is in the process of establishing a new mission in the Northern jungle city of Tarapoto - Region San Martín and Amazonas Region, Condorcanqui province. Funding assisted with training of pastors and lay leaders, providing them with the tools to be effective in ministries which ultimately impacted the overall goal of church growth and development.

This project aimed to develop a program that gathered and mobilized leaders of local churches, in a common understanding of the integrity of the gospel and mission, incorporating in its design, planning and execution, people and resources, and allowing churches to be significant actors in local social processes such as development agents, promoter of rights, and forming responsible citizens.

The activities listed for the development of this project are: three (3) district workshops with pastors and leaders on leadership development; three (3) district workshops with pastors on institutional communication and organizational development; preparation for participation in national meeting of pastors and leaders.

The direct beneficiaries of this project were the pastors and leaders of local churches, (approximately 90 participants) of which 60 are from districts in the Andean territory and other areas from which there will be representation of indigenous people. Indirect beneficiaries were the members of the local church (pastors and Aymara indigenous leaders of the New Hope southern Puno district and district South Andean Inca Quechua) who were also trained to develop their ministry in a more effective manner, with tools enabling them to implement comprehensive church growth and development ministries for the mission of the church.

METHODIST CHURCH OF PERU - EVANGELIZATION & MISSIONARY PROJECTS COSTA SUR, \$8,000

There is a permanent need for evangelization, wholistic discipleship, and missionary work that speaks to the contextual realities in the different regions of the country. The intention was to expand the church locally, regionally, and nationally. Part of the strategy of the Methodist Church of Peru has been to develop teams for evangelization/discipleship and mission at the local, district and conference levels. Moreover, the strategy has been to send these teams to open at least one new ministry per district. Thus, the development of new congregations is part of the vision. This was accomplished through the promotion of personal and whole-family evangelization. Part of the approach was to develop social programs to serve the communities and present them with the opportunity to encounter Christ. The training of women, children and youth in transformational ministries permitted this vision to move forward. In the last 15 years, the Costa Sur District has demonstrated its capacity to grow through the work of Lay and Clergy leaders. This has been the plan in spite of the fact that resources have been scarce. The established local churches continue to be called to act in mission teams to work together with leaders coming out of the new ministries.

METHODIST CHURCH OF PERU – LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING FOR PASTORS & LOCAL LEADERS, \$10,000

The Methodist Church in Peru has been engaged in ministries for more than 130 years. The Church is organized by 6 districts and has 165 congregations nationwide with more than 8,000 active members. Peru has 30 million inhabitants and has benefited from a stable market economy in the last ten years. However, despite having succeeded in reducing poverty, inequality is still very prominent especially in indigenous areas of the Amazon and Andes regions. In the last 20 years, the religious context has greatly changed, becoming more diverse. For example, many other Christian denominations, as well as the presence of the Jewish, Muslim and Buddhists have helped to establish interfaith dialogues for the improvement of the quality of life of Peruvians. The Methodist Church, with its Wesleyan tradition, has been an important factor in this dialogue as well.

The Methodist Church of Peru requested support for a leadership development training program for their pastors and local leaders in order to strengthen the Life and Mission of the Church. This also enabled the Methodist Church presence for interreligious dialogue as a witness for good service in the society. This program was carried out through 6 District workshops, with the participation of 30 persons from each District and a national workshop for 180 local leaders and pastors.

The goals of the workshops were: to develop diagnostic capabilities of social and spiritual needs of communities; plan implementation and evaluation activities for the growth of the Life and Mission Districts; and the deepening of the theological, biblical,

and pastoral reflection.

METHODIST CHURCH OF PERU – MINISTRY VOCATION PROMOTION FOR PERUVIAN YOUTH, \$10,000

A grant was made to the Methodist Church in Peru to develop the "Promotion of Ministerial Vocations" program in three regions of the country. The Methodist Church of Perú (MCP) is actively promoting the Gospel in the Andean and indigenous regions. In the last three decades, churches have developed in the aforementioned areas, resulting in the establishment of three districts which are currently in development: Selva, Sur Andino Inca, and Nueva Esperanza Sur Puno. In these three districts, the church is engaged in working with Quechua and Aymara indigenous communities. The previously-existing districts include Lima-Callao and North and South Coast. The church is currently developing a new mission in the North Forest, in Tarapoto City, San Martin Region, and in the province of Bagua in the Amazonas region. In the Amazonas region, the church's work is being led by communities of Awajun people.

The overall goal of the Promotion of Ministerial Vocations program is to encourage 16- to 30-year-olds to explore a call to ministry. It will be implemented in a four-stage process to address the realities of the Methodist Church of Peru. By 2025, they expect to have young men and women with theological training serving in pastoral ministry at the national level.

A pre-meeting was held on March 1-2, 2019 with 30 young people to make them aware of the importance of the proposal, to mobilize leaders in their districts, and to encourage them to take charge of the macro-regional meetings. Later, 250 young people will attend the three macro-regional ministry vocation meetings targeting young people between 16 and 30 years old. After those meetings, 10 mentors who accompany young people in each district will be recruited to accompany young people in their process of discerning their ministerial vocations. Finally, the church will hold a six-day national gathering in Lima for 100 young people to reinforce their sense of calling as a result of the macro-regional gatherings. These gatherings will be followed by efforts to strengthen the level of investment by local churches in the young people's ministry.

PUERTO RICO

METHODIST CHURCH OF PUERTO RICO - I AM SURE! CHILDREN'S PROJECT - SAN JUAN, \$10,000

There has been an increasing realization of the high incidence of drug abuse, increase in crimes, child violence, abused women, neglected elders, increase in unemployment, and the amount of people that are undocumented in Puerto Rico. Children are more often than not affected by these events going on in the environment around them. This project consisted of a program which attempted to aid children 4-12 years of age who came from low-income areas, with special priority to inner city and deep rural areas. Each project covered an estimated 50 children who were divided in age groups. The local churches were exceedingly involved with this project by: (a) providing area facilities that were needed for the success of this project; (b) providing volunteers from the churches who were in charge of the activities for the children; (c) providing young leaders from the churches who were hired to work with the children; (d) providing special celebrations and the sharing of gifts to the children through financial gifts from the local congregation; and, (e) providing a policy of open doors with the surrounding neighbors by the local congregation. With the anticipated involvement of the local churches with this project, the children were expected to be impacted immensely. This program aimed at: (a) allowing the children to process social disasters from their own perspective; (b) helping the children identify the tools they needed and how to deal with the situation; (c) subsequently teaching the children how to use these tools properly and effectively; (d) bringing the children the Christian message of faith, hope, and love of Christ into the process of survival from social disasters; and (e) strengthen the commitment of the church in this quest. With the successful implementation of this program the child, family, community, and the church without a doubt benefitted from the services that were offered.

URUGUAY

METHODIST CHURCH IN URUGUAY - CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS AT RISK, \$6,000

Teniente Rinaldi is a community at the periphery, with hygiene risks, thefts and prostitution. The community is experiencing high levels of pre-teen pregnancies among young girls under the age of 18; low self-esteem; domestic violence; and depression among many adolescents and children. The life expectancy is much lower in this community compared to other areas.

Several attempts have been made by the Church to establish a faith community. Since 2015, a deacon serving with such community has managed to establish a program to address the above mentioned challenges and opportunities for mission and ministry with a program with children and adolescents to learn how to overcome drug addiction, raising the awareness of the dangers of these practices and helping to raise self-esteem through faith as well.

METHODIST CHURCH IN URUGUAY - EVANGELIZATION AND EXPANSION IN ARTIGAS, \$4,500

The grant to the Methodist Church of Uruguay funded their Encounter with Christ project, Evangelization and Expansion in Artigas, Uruguay. The purpose of this grant was to support the growth and development of Bella Union congregation and the redevelopment of the Bella Union Polyclinic. Through a series of setbacks, the Bella Union Church nearly disappeared during the last 10 years. Recently, however, through the efforts of a layperson familiar with the city and a National Deacon trained in Rural/Urban Ministries, the Bella Union Church experienced remarkable growth and the Polyclinic took on new vitality resulting in a renewed presence of the church in

the community and a greater appreciation of the church and its ministries by the civil authorities. This grant expanded the efforts that were underway to revitalize the church and the Polyclinic.

METHODIST CHURCH IN URUGUAY- LITURGY POPULAR RENOVATION, \$6,000

There has been a discovery of youth and reintegrated active members with great musical talents. The time to articulate the fruits in a practical way arrived with the hope that this experience would go farther than Uruguay. During the last 50 years, a liturgical renovation started in Rio de la Plata. In 1961, Bishop Pagura said: "The time is ripe to produce a liturgical and musical renovation in the midst of the Church in our Latin America which would make our worship service an act of joyful and solemn adoration". This process was supported by many others. Many have offered their talents to the service of the Church and to evangelization. Homero Perera, composer and arranger, has composed more than 15 Christian tangos. The final concert of the 2006 Assembly of the Methodist Church of Uruguay was a Tango concert by Homero. This had a very strong impact in the society which surrounds the Church. This was repeated at another event in May 2007. This project benefitted congregations which had little or no musical infrastructure; congregations interested in evangelization, trying to communicate faith in codes which are natural in the people hearing the Gospel; and congregations interested in renewing their liturgical repertoire.

METHODIST CHURCH IN URUGUAY- METHODIST INSTITUTE OF PEDAGOGICAL AND PASTORAL STUDIES, \$4,200

This grant supported the Methodist Church in Uruguay with their Institute of Pedagogical and Pastoral Studies Program which main goals have been: (1) to develop leaders to work with the marginalized of the society; (2) to have a "critical actualization" in theology; (3) to face the work formation challenges of the Methodist Church in Uruguay and its testimony in the diverse areas of the social and ecclesiastical life; and (4) to call the members of the Methodist Church in Uruguay and the general public to analyze and debate present issues and develop leaders who are committed to social change.

METHODIST CHURCH IN URUGUAY – REHABILITATION AND EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS ON DRUG ABUSE, \$5,000

Uruguay has a high alcohol consumption per capita. As a result of this large scale addiction, the government has established laws of "zero tolerance" for drinking under the influence of alcohol. However, a law was established in 2015 which allows for the planting of Cannabis (marijuana) for personal consumption and the purchase in pharmacies in small doses for "recreation." The theory is that consuming a drug that can cause minor damage will replace a drug like cocaine which is much more dangerous to the body and society. In reality, the consumption of either recreational or other drugs is harmful, resulting in addiction among both adults and young people. The most vulnerable of this addiction live in the North of the country (bordering Brazil) where it is easier to get access to drugs being trafficked into the area. Drug abuse is a reality among the communities in Artigas, Bella Union and Jacare.

The Methodist Church in Uruguay has been seeking to address this issue through a series of activities, beginning with the leadership of the Church, pastors and then the communities. The first step was diagnosis of the addiction problem, then gathering of information and preparation of a map for referral. This begun with three workshops, which brought together congregations from all over the country. One workshop was held on October 24, 2015 in the center of the country, another on November 28, 2015 with the churches in the north, and the third on December 5, 2015 in Montevideo.

The next step was a workshop for educational institutions within the two cities of the north, Bella Union and Jacare. The purpose of this step was for the Church to hear from pastors, deacons and lay people of the communities affected and find out about their strengths and weaknesses, thereby enabling them to prepare a series of training workshops. Funding through this proposal assisted with financial resources to help participants from poor communities travel to the location where the workshops took place.

The beneficiaries of this project are addicts, who are mostly young people and their families. The Church hopes to create a network of persons who are rehabilitated and will become agents of recruitment and referral of cases.

METHODIST CHURCH IN URUGUAY - STUDENT HOUSING PROGRAM, \$10,000

During the XX General Assembly it was determined that it was essential to prioritize the need to provide young students that come to college in Montevideo from other parts of the country with homes, due to the issues of security and assimilation they continuously face. The available space at the parsonage of Aguada allows room for 12 students. It was also decided that the space at the church facilities would be a center of evangelism for 200 young students from Crandon the Methodist School. The Center would provide young adults a space of containment, with the development of activities to support the growth in their faith, discipleship, and a healthy life in society. The goals of this project were to provide young adults with a place of integration; to build a center that would deal with the major concerns of young adults, such as, their vocation, society challenges etc.; to provide living spaces for students that come from other parts of the country; and to repair a church property for use it as Student Home and youth center for evangelization.

METHODIST CHURCH IN URUGUAY - TRAINING AND RENEWAL OF THE PASTORAL BODY, \$4,950

The Methodist Church in Uruguay is undergoing a comprehensive review of its working strategy since their Assembly in August of 2012 where they changed their statutes to adapt to a more simple and flexible institution. One of the Church's priorities is the identification and training of the generation between 35 and 55 years of age. Within this age group, the need for more support for pastoral staff, as they are the key element in mobilizing congregations. The pastoral body did not have an opportunity for renewal in their pastoral training. The result of this was evident in the breakdown of the exercise of the pastorate and the need to reach new

motivations and respond to challenges in their lives and ministry.

The National Board of Life and Mission of MCU decided to develop a course of two training days per year (mandatory) for all pastors as a way to activate and renew the pastoral staff. These training conferences took place in the fall and spring of each year for three years with presentations from teachers and professors from neighboring countries. The training conferences covered topics on Pastoral Theology, Bible, Music, and Liturgy Systematic Theology. Time was provided for debate and dialogue sessions that were inspiring and motivating.

METHODIST CHURCH IN URUGUAY – TRAINING MIGRANT COMMUNITY FAITH DEVELOPMENT, \$10,000

This grant was made to the Methodist Church in Uruguay, to ensure the material and spiritual welfare of the immigrants arriving in communities supported by the Church. The problem addressed through this project was immigrant material and spiritual vulnerability, particularly amongst Cubans who have migrated to Uruguay. Most arrive without a visa or other residency paperwork, and after challenging trip by land across South America, they arrive with little savings. In many cases, they are single women or with families with young children. Due to the increase in residency applications received by the National Directorate of Migration, paperwork processing has slowed down, which further depletes their meager financial resources. In addition, the economic recession due to the pandemic has reduced employment possibilities for obtaining a livelihood.

Migrants, particularly Cubans, have approached Methodist communities in the capital and communities in the poorest outlying areas, where they often have precarious housing, participating in Sunday services and other activities. Many of them are Afro-descended and their religious heritage is often Pentecostal (conservative with an individualistic character), while others are atheist or agnostic.

The community of the Central Methodist Church, located in the center of Montevideo, not only provided pastoral accompaniment to the group of migrants who began to participate in Sunday services, but also a space for their own meetings and celebrations during the week. The MCU provides support in the form of warm clothing and non-perishable food that was most recently collected in a 'Winter Campaign in support of the Migrant Population', emergency financial support (approximately USD \$1,000) and guidance in terms of social services, for job hunting and health concerns. In order to provide emergency shelter, the MCU set up a pastoral house with the capacity to accommodate two families, with the church assuming all costs.

In alignment with the MCU's stated priority to 'address a constant reduction in membership', the program goals Were as follows:

- a) Contribute to providing food, health, emergency shelter, and social services guidance for new migrants.
- b) Build a Methodist faith community, promoting the participation of the migrant community in meetings of the Methodist Church, and basic theological and ecumenical training for people with leadership abilities.

The program activities were as follows:

- a) Providing material support to migrants. Given the country's recession which is exacerbated by the health crisis, it is necessary to assist the migrant population in the church environment with emergency food baskets, medicine, and shelter items. Only a small part of the resources can be obtained through donations, given current mobility restrictions and the effects of the economic crisis on the Uruguayan church members. Most of the food, medicine, and some clothing will have to be purchased by the MCU.
- b) Spiritual support both for the personal edification of the migrant population that participates in Methodist celebrations (and of the celebratory space itself), as well as for missionary activities oriented towards those migrants who seek a religious response to their life, it is necessary to elaborate evangelistic materials.
- c) Spiritual support for teenagers and young migrants experiencing cultural uprooting, on the one hand, and much suffering on the other. They need to integrate new cultural identities, which will be made possible by participating in meetings of the church and meetings of an ecumenical character to promote their integration and provide them with the necessary elements to develop their capacities.

YOUTH FOR CHRIST - VACCINATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE MISTREATMENT OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS, \$10,000

The Campaign "A treatment by good treatment" was created in 2002 in Uruguay by a group of adolescents and adults following a consultation on "good treatment and abuse" by adolescents to various members of the legislative, judicial and artistic groups, under the coordination of the CLAVES program. The awareness campaign emerged from a need to respond to incidents of abuse to children and adolescents in different areas of society. The symbolic vaccine which teens decided to call "antipegánica" was created. The campaign grew during its eleven years of service in Uruguay, and had the support of the government, civil society, culture, international organizations and private entities. It had also grown among groups of adolescents from diverse groups and socioeconomic sectors. The awareness through vaccine reached 70,000 people per year. The methodology of the campaign was shared in 13 countries in Latin America. "Latitrato" took place to form a Regional Network of good treatment to children and adolescents, creating rich experiences. This project aimed to promote good treatment and prevent abuse and sexual violence against children and adolescents through the expansion and consolidation of the regional public awareness campaign "A treatment by good treatment" in

Latin America.

The goals were to: strengthen and consolidate the campaign in countries where it was being implemented through the signing of agreements, organization of national tables/networks, training and materials development; to encourage the creation of a regional network to promote good practice and to define a common agenda between the different experiences of the campaign; to increase public awareness in the region through circulating information promoting good practices related to the Campaign; to develop materials that contribute to the strengthening of campaigns, that would facilitate implementation in new countries to reach greater capacity; and to create a virtual course on Adolescent awareness to provide member organizations of the Network.

VENEZUELA

METHODIST CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY OF VENEZUELA - CCMV EVANGELIZATION AND CHURCH GROWTH, \$10,000

The CCMV is established in a neighborhood of the town of La Puerta, as a mission with limited staff and resources. La Puerta is a very small neighborhood and counting, with the presence of a Baptist church, it was decided at the outset not to establish a Methodist church, but to work with the Baptist Church in diakonia, mainly in the area of holistic health. Over a year ago the Baptist church closed its doors and its members attend a congregation of another church. Given this reality, the CCMV decided to establish a place for a weekly service with a vision to starting a church. This project is working out very well with the increasing participation of people, but since it is set in a very humble community there is a lack of leadership for discipleship and diakonia (service). Therefore a great deal of training is required. This grant will support the development of leadership and a new community of faith. This project is based in two missionary areas, San Pedro and Las Malvinas. This project seeks to develop a new community of faith providing integral evangelization, with an emphasis on women, youth and children in a very poor area, through weekly activities, camps, recreational programs, and special support in the area of holistic health.

METHODIST CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY OF VENEZUELA – COMMUNITY BASED PRIMARY HEALTH CARE, \$6,000

The grant to the Christian Methodist Community of Venezuela supported their Community Primary Health Care project in training health care workers to manage small health centers in the isolated Andean communities of Carorita, San Pedro, El Alto and Horno. These communities are located at least a two-hour walk from the closest health center. The main emphasis in the training was given to teenage pregnancy, sexual transmitted diseases, prevention of sexual abuse and domestic violence.

METHODIST CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY OF VENEZUELA - EMPOWERING CHILDREN AND TEENS, \$10,000

Since its founding in 1988, the Methodist Christian Community of Venezuela has worked on evangelization and transformation of lives of children, adolescents and women in a holistic manner. The Church has planned and implemented many worships and workshops to achieve these goals. Through the recovery of self-esteem and skills empowerment, children and teens have been empowered to be more productive in school, their communities, and with their families.

The Church is helping in the eradicating of (so often) individualistic and sexist attitudes. They have offered space for personal growth of children and teens, empowering them to personal transformation and that of their community.

This programs' activities included: workshops on music, handicraft, art, Christian Education, and self-esteem workshops. These activities benefitted 20 children and 10 teens (and 8 mothers) in two neighborhoods in Maracaibo.

METHODIST CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY OF VENEZUELA - NETWORK OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND CHILDREN AGAINST DRUGS, S.T.D.'S & TEEN PREGNANCY, \$8,000

It has been more than 10 years since the Christian Methodist Community of Venezuela (CCMV) was established in the Island of San Carlos. Due to the fact that San Carlos belongs to Venezuela, there are spectacular Caribbean beaches about 45 minutes away from the city of Maracaibo. Due to tourism that the beautiful beaches attract, there has been a frightful introduction of sexually transmitted diseases (STD's), illegal drugs, and a high incidence of teenage pregnancy. Because of this epidemic, a project was developed that included workshops in the areas of the empowerment of women, teenage pregnancy, domestic violence, and evangelization. The people that were trained by the CCMV, as well as the organization personnel, participated in this project. This project aimed at: empowering women in order to implement a network of women organizations, implementing a workshop with youth in attempts to prevent teenage pregnancy and STD's. Another workshop that was implemented was for the awareness of drug abuse and the organization of a network of youth to work at the prevention of drug abuse. In addition, this project also gathered in moments of natural disasters in order to assist those in need, with the support of UMCOR and the United Methodist Women. The women, youth, and children of the Wayuu and Wnuu Tribes from the Islands of San Carlos, Sabaneta, and Zapara are sure to continue to benefit from the knowledge that these workshops provided.

COUNCIL OF METHODIST CHURCHES OF VENEZUELA – "SAVE CARLITOS WITH LOVE" NOURISHMENT PROGRAM, \$9,678.55

A grant was made to the Council of Methodist Churches of Venezuela (CIEM VE) to support the program "Save Carlitos with Love" to supply daily breakfasts for 5- to 12-year-old children that are malnourished. The problem to be addressed through this project is the humanitarian crisis of food shortages in Venezuela. In recent years, CIEM VE has developed a series of evangelization programs focusing on social holiness in response to problems which include the current food crisis. These programs depend exclusively on

personal investment from CIEM VE congregations, who strive to bring about the Kingdom of God on Earth, while showing solidarity with each other and their community.

CIEM VE provides soup, arepas, medicine, and other necessities in the city of Puerto Ordaz. CIEM VE congregants go to town squares, hospitals, and prisons, demonstrating the love that God has placed in their hearts and providing a healthy space for the physical and spiritual needs of afflicted community members. CIEM VE congregants witness malnourished children not only when lining up for plates of food in the street, but in hospitals and schools as well. Congregants want to combat malnourishment among children of the community by providing a decent breakfast for 5- to 12-year-old boys and girls. They call this program "Save Carlitos with Love."

METHODIST CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY OF VENEZUELA– SAL DE LA TIERRA, \$10,000

Since its founding in 1988, the Methodist Christian Community of Venezuela (CCMV) has worked on evangelization and transformation of lives of children, adolescents and women in a holistic manner. The Church has planned and implemented many worships and workshops to achieve these goals, as through the recovery of self-esteem and skills empowerment, children and teens are empowered to be more productive in school, their communities, and among their families.

This project was seeking to address issues of drug abuse by youth, early pregnancy, sexually transmitted disease, and malnutrition of children in the Maria Angelica de Lusichhi and other communities in the southern area of the city of Maracaibo. These societal issues are a result of failing economic situation and lack of adequate education for poor children living in these communities.

The SAL de la TIERRA Project goal has been to create spaces for human and spiritual growth for young women and children in the communities. The following activities were carried out to address these issues of drug abuse, malnutrition, early pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease: 1) workshops for young people to discuss the problem of drugs and early pregnancy; 2) workshops to make homemade pasta, bread and other meals; 3) setting up two dining rooms to serve children in situations of extreme poverty; 4) organize sports activities for children and young people; 5) workshops for parents to discuss home and family issues; and 6) evangelization and liturgy workshops.

CCMV pastors were responsible for the project as well as volunteers, members of the congregations, and the community. The church also considered having more specialized facilitators to lead these workshops and activities.

This project benefitted 200 women, 800 children and young people, and approximately 60 men. It is expected that there will be a considerable decrease in drug abuse among children and young people who benefitted from the program. Malnutrition of children is expected to be reduced through direct beneficiaries of the canteens. The church also anticipates that many women and men will be empowered to face economic challenges and that they will also experience spiritual growth in congregations as well as an increase in membership.

The CCMV has already been working on the subject of tithes and offerings in addition to the voluntary contribution of its members as indispensable steps for the maintenance of the project, and the communities have been challenged to be co-participants in the project management and share co-responsibility for the continuity of the project through voluntary work and monetary contributions.