

# Further Information on Colombia

Here are some resources to follow-up on the FMC worship service on June 26, 2022 that focused on Colombia and our 20-year long sister church relationship with El Divino Redentor, a Lutheran Church in Bucaramanga, Colombia.

Earl Kellogg is Earl Kellogg is the convener and current attendees are: Rebecca Bare, Jan Kellogg, Randy Nelson, Wilmer Otto, Jan Sabey, Greg Springer, Ruth Stoltzfus. *The group has open meetings and welcomes new attendees!*



## THE FMC LIBRARY COLLECTION

**In the FMC library, there are currently five print items in a section devoted to Colombia.** As Greg Springer mentioned in his comments during our "Sister Church Sunday" (June 26, 2022), when our sister-church relationship started in about 2000, Colombia was a dangerous, war-torn place. There were basically no tourist books, and scanty materials about Colombian history and culture. Time has changed some of the conditions. It is probably time to add some new items to the library.

## FMC VINE ARTICLES

A number of Vine issues on our website (2013-present) contain articles related to our sister church relationship: the history of our relationship, letters between our congregations, reports from FMCers on their visit to Colombia, our Jubilee Gift to our sister church, updates about events in Colombia, and calls to action. Click on these links to view articles from the past number of years.

- [July 2021](#)
- [February/March 2019\\*](#)
- [June/July 2019](#)
- [December 2018/January 2019](#)
- [December 2017/January 2018](#)
- [November/December 2016](#)
- [September 2015](#)
- [May 2015](#)
- [April 2015](#)
- [March 2015](#)
- [November 2014](#)
- [September 2014](#)
- [June 2014](#)
- [July 2013](#)

\*Note Feb/March 2019 issue - Kathy Springer, describes a portion of her visit to our sister church. She was part of a delegation of 6 people from the congregation who visited El Divino Redentor in Bucaramanga in late 2018.

## APRIL 28, 2022 UPDATE FROM SHARON MONDAY ABOUT HER DAUGHTER'S WORK WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF COLOMBIA

I [Sharon] am sending this powerful Indigenous Women's testimony which occurred earlier this week at the UN Forum on the rights of Indigenous Peoples. This panel presentation includes important prophetic messages. My daughter, Xiomara, is an ally at this forum and was able to accompany the leader of the Embera camp of displaced persons, Maria Violeta, whom Xiomara has been visiting, aiding and amplifying in Colombia in the camp the Embera people were forced to live in outside Bogota. Maria Violeta and Xiomara speak during the last segment (beginning at 1:20) of the video. Good news since then is that other Indigenous leaders in Colombia have now gathered with the Embera people at the camp to express solidarity and bear witness to the plight of the people. And, through a serendipitous meeting, Xiomara met the mayor of Bogotá, Claudia Lopez, who has authority over the Embera camp and has not visited or responded to requests for a meeting, in the restroom at the UN. Xiomara was able to secure an in person meeting with Mayor Lopez on Friday. Pray that compassionate openings and justice open for the Embera people! [View a panel discussion at the Women's Earth and Climate Action Network International Conference](#) that address some of the concerns and responses to this topic. **One of the concerns has to do with the trauma and other consequences of displacement from native lands.**

### A FEW RECENT NEWS ARTICLES

["What the first leftist leader might mean for Colombia"](#), *Time* magazine, pg. 18; July 4/July 11, 2022 [volume 200, Nos. 1-2, 2022] **Note: this article is behind a paywall, but you can sign-up to read articles for free for 30 days or check out the magazine (print or digital) at your local library.** SUMMARY: A brief article that mentions President Petro's platform, obstacles, and Colombia's continuing divisiveness.

["Gustavo Petro, former guerrilla, will be Colombia's first leftist president"](#), *Washington Post*, June 19, 2022. **If you do not have a paid subscription to the Washington Post, you can read a limited number of articles for free each month.** SUMMARY (by Greg Springer, who brought the article to our attention): Colombia has elected its first leftist president, Gustavo Petro, with a Black woman vice president, Francia Marquez, vowing to put climate change as a primary concern. "Petro proposes transforming the country's economic system by redistributing wealth to the poor. He says he'll establish free higher education, a universal public health-care system and a minimum wage for single mothers. He says he would raise taxes on the 4,000 wealthiest Colombians and boost the local agriculture industry," writes the Washington Post. His opposition candidate, the right-wing "Trump-like" Rodolfo Hernandez, congratulated Petro and accepted the results of the election.

### ENCANTO – 2021 DISNEY MOVIE

This is a delightful, beautiful -- to the ears and eyes -- animated story that is located in Colombia. It touches on such substantive topics as refugees and dislocation, personal expectations, discovering and using our gifts, family relationships, and community in the telling how a family has lived in its enchanted home for many years, but perhaps the enchantment is disappearing. How to save the magic? Wonderful music, a little bit of mystery and adventure, and lots of family interactions. Highly recommended. **Note: The motion picture (DVD) and soundtrack (CD) is available at both the Urbana Free Library and the Champaign Public Library. Hopefully, FMC will also have these items processed into its library.**