



designing a world of hope

The Quail Family – Round up of the year 2023

Serving with Engineering Ministries International in
Nicaragua and across Latin America



Hi! We're the Quail family: Rob, Helen, Chloe and Josh. We live in Managua, Nicaragua where we serve with Engineering Ministries International. Rob is a professional engineer and project manager, he leads EMI design projects. Helen is the EMI communications manager and intern coordinator. Chloe and Josh are full time kids at school!

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Our year



As we reach the end of 2023 and look back we're reminded of how it's been a year of contrasts. We have been so encouraged to see the growth of the EMI design team and God at work in the delivery of several hugely inspiring projects. The kids have also been growing: in confidence, their language skills, the way they pray, their friendships and also, physically!

However, it has also been a uniquely challenging year. As many of you know, Helen has been facing, and overcoming, a very serious health issue, with more challenges ahead in the year to come. We've also had to say good-bye to friends and team members who have needed to move on to new chapters elsewhere this year.

Underpinning it all has been a year where we have grown in faith, where we have had to learn to truly trust God through the challenges we have faced and in so doing have come to appreciate the blessings of life and family afresh in new ways.

We are so thankful to so many people who have supported us prayerfully, practically, emotionally and financially during this year. The following year round-up describes the impact of some of the work that we've been privileged to play a part in, featuring a therapy centre for children with additional needs, a bible institute and the development of 2 of the local office interns. We hope you're encouraged, as we are, to see the generational impact of the work you are supporting.

My flesh and my heart may fail but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever

Psalm 73:26



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Stories of Impact

Over a number of years EMI has had the privilege to partner with a local ministry here in Managua, **Tesoros de Dios** (Treasures of God) to provide designs and consultancy services as they have developed their site.



Tesoros de Dios is a Christian non-profit organization that believes in partnering with families, schools, churches, and communities to promote the holistic development of children with disabilities in Nicaragua. There are very few facilities like those offered by Tesoros de Dios in Nicaragua and they provide essential services to the families they support.

140 children attend the centre but outreach activities mean that many more families are being served by this ministry.



Architectural renders of the new vocational centre.



Work begins on Phase 1 of the new vocational education building.

The current project is the design of a vocational centre which will allow TdD to expand its facilities and outreach to older children. The vocational centre will allow a space for students to learn practical skills which will enable them more independence. For example, the vocational centre will be equipped with a kitchen to allow students to receive cooking classes.

*“Working with EMI allowed us to have peace in the process and to lift the burden of carrying a construction project. We are so thankful for EMI!”
Wendy Gomez, Director.*



Stories of Impact

Instituto Bíblico Central Ebenezer (IBCE) is a bible training centre in Managua which works to provide training to pastors. Many pastors in Nicaragua have not received formal training and work their ministry responsibilities around full-time jobs. The training provided by IBCE ensures that pastors have a solid biblical foundation for their teaching.



Prior to the pandemic, EMI Nicaragua provided a master plan and concept design for new classroom facilities for IBCE. This year we provided the detailed designs which have achieved the necessary planning permissions and work has now begun on site. The designs provided by EMI will allow IBCE to have its own home and the freedom to grow.



EMI plans are presented at the site of the new IBCE facility in Managua.

IBCE director, Dan Klaen comments: "EMI has served IBCE very well in that it has "lead us by the hand" through the necessary steps and understanding in the Design and Construction phases of the project. EMI has helped with our Concept Designs, Architectural Plans, and has led us up to the Construction phase of our Project. When there was no one there to help us understand what we needed to do, the Lord led us to ministry and professional "servants" of EMI to take us where we needed to go. We feel this was the will of God for those phases of our Project, and we are grateful in the Lord for the work EMI did on our behalf. We consider EMI our friends and brothers in the Lord.



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Stories of Impact

One of EMI's core values is Discipleship, and one way that this is achieved is through the intern programme. EMI offices have both local and international interns. This year, we welcomed 2 local architectural interns who will be in the office for almost a year to gain professional experience but also to learn how they can use the skills they have to serve God.



Helen recently added the role of Intern Coordinator to her work responsibilities and has been supporting the interns through the programme.



Above: Architectural intern Javiera taking some measurements with staff architect (and former intern!) Jan at Centro ABEM.

Intern Javiera had the following to say about her experience of being an intern at EMI Nicaragua:

Having the opportunity to serve others through architecture in a unique and special way is what EMI has taught me during my internship. I have enjoyed working with and learning from professionals and seeing how they serve God through the work they do.



Right: Architectural intern Keren leads the team in an interactive bible study.



2023 projects

The following tables list the primary projects that EMI Nicaragua has worked on in 2023 and outlines their impact.

Project	Location	Type of Ministry and Project Summary	Impact
Ileana School of Hope	Managua, Nicaragua	Ileana School provides preschool and primary education for children in one of the poorest neighbourhoods in Managua. As well as providing a Christian education for the children, they are fed twice daily. There is also a scholarship program that helps high school students. Sports, music and arts classes are also offered.	Currently they only have adequate facilities up to 4 th grade. The new facilities will allow expansion through to 6 th grade as well as specialist classrooms for IT and Art.
IBCE	Managua, Nicaragua	This project has worked to produce plans for the construction of new facilities that are used to train pastors to teach and disciple both in Nicaragua but also the wider Latin American region. Currently, the institute uses rented facilities.	The new facility will serve over 100 students annually.
Centro ABEM	Managua, Nicaragua	Centro ABEM is a multiuse ministry centre in a relaxed atmosphere which provides a space for leadership training, youth camps, retreats and events to equip and build the body of Christ. The EMI project is working to design improvements to the dining room which currently gets too hot to use!	Centro ABEM holds 150+ events annually hosting around 12,000 people.



2023 projects continued

Project	Location	Type of Ministry and Project Summary	Impact
Arbor Christian Academy	Dominican Republic	A Teach Beyond School providing Christian Education for Dominican and Haitian school children. The EMI team worked to produce a master plan and concept design for the new school facilities.	Currently the school teaches 100 children. The new facilities will allow for them to expand to 300 with future phases providing for 600.
Deeply Rooted Grounds	Jinotega, Nicaragua	A therapy and rehabilitation centre serving children with physical disabilities. The new Miracle House will provide facilities for 80 children and 10 staff. The project will also provide a feeding centre and the plans also include storage for 100 food pallets.	Currently serves 30 children. The new facilities will almost treble that.
Tesoros de Dios (TdD)	Managua, Nicaragua	A centre to provide education and physical therapy for children with physical and learning difficulties. The new facilities will allow older children to learn vocation and life skills to enable greater independence.	140 children attend theTdD centre and outreach activities reach many more.
Past Project Eval. and Toolkit (PPET)	Internal office project	An opportunity to celebrate and learn from previous EMI projects in the Latin America region over the past 20 years.	Will allow for improved provision to all future projects.



Prayer

For those who pray here are some areas to lift to the Lord in 2024:

For Praise

- Helen overcoming cancer! Helen had a tumour removed in June of this year and following 4 rounds of chemotherapy was declared cancer-free – Praise God!
- For the great medical care that Helen has received and the blessing of community here that has supported us in so many ways during Helen's recovery.
- The project work has been plentiful and varied this year, with both local and international projects keeping us busy.
- Rob completed leadership training which is equipping him as he stepped into the office deputy director role this year.
- Helen's new role as intern-coordinator builds on her previous experience of developing early career professionals.
- The children's learning and growth this year; at school, in their language skills, in their friendships and extra-curricular activities.

For Prayer 2024:

- Helen will require surgery, we hope in early January, for a stoma reversal procedure. Please pray for the procedure, recovery and finances. We are currently appealing an insurance claim denial but have been reminded of God's provision as we reached the target of our fundraising campaign for the costs for the upcoming surgery.
- Chloe and Josh will be starting their 3rd academic year here in Nicaragua at the end of January, please pray for a happy and productive year of schooling for them both.
- We plan to travel to the UK in June/July 2024, please pray for the logistics and finances for this.
- Please pray for EMI Nicaragua and for the projects we've shared here in this update and for those that will be completed during 2024.



Find out more

If you would like to know more about our ministry you can check out our website www.emi-quails.com or write to us at quails.emi@gmail.com

We plan to visit the UK during June/July 2024. This visit will be shorter than our last trip back to the UK and we are looking forward to spending time with family and friends who have felt far away during the health emergencies of this past year. However, we also plan to spend this time connecting with our supporting churches and individual supporters and would be delighted to meet and share more about the work of EMI in Nicaragua. If you would like us to visit your church or community, please contact us at the email address above.



The EMI Nicaragua team at our Christmas party

Thanks for taking the time to read about how God's been working through our ministry here in Latin America!



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About Nicaragua

Nicaragua is the largest country in Central America by area and is home to around 6.3 million people. Known as the 'land of lakes and volcanoes', it is a country of beautiful landscapes and dramatic scenery.

Nicaragua enjoys a rich heritage in literature, music, dance and cuisine and relative wealth exists in the capital Managua; however, the country's average salary is one of the lowest in the Americas at around \$2,000/yr. The climate in Managua is tropical, with an average daily high of 31-34°C.



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About EMI

Engineering Ministries International (EMI) is a Christian NGO made up of architects, engineers, surveyors, and construction managers. Since 1982 the worldwide mission of EMI has been to develop people, design structures, and construct facilities which serve communities and the Church. Together, we are designing a world of hope.

EMI's Vision

People restored by God and the world restored through design.

Mission

To develop people, design structures, and construct facilities which serve communities and the Church.

Core Values

EMI revolves around the person of Jesus and serves the global Church to glorify God through:

Design: EMI works within the local context to design and construct culturally-appropriate facilities that are sustainable, affordable, and transformational.

Discipleship: EMI develops people spiritually and professionally through intentional discipleship and mentoring.

Diversity: EMI builds the Church by connecting people of diverse backgrounds, abilities and ethnicities to demonstrate our love for God, our love for the nations and the unity we share in Christ.



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