



# **FAROS International**

# **Annual Report**

# **2023**

**The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness has not overcome it.**

**John 1:5**

# Letter from our Founders

“ Now to Him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us—to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Thank you for walking with and being part of our FAROS international family. Your friendship, prayers and support are sowed into good ground.

Together with your partnership we have achieved so much this year.

We are excited to share with you the highlights of 2023!

During this first year, we have together been following the footsteps of Jesus in the nations: sharing the Gospel, building His kingdom, and investing in His children. It has been an extraordinary experience to watch our Father open new doors to Israel, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and Mexico.

He continued to give grace to serve in Colombia with native leaders in the Magdalena, Bolivar and Sucre regions.

We continue by taking one step at a time, listening to His voice and obeying as more of the path forward becomes clear.

Our beloved partners joined in co-laboring to make many things possible, some of which include:

- Key friends invested on a monthly basis which allowed us to respond to invitations to equip indigenous leaders with our FAROS Leadership & Missions Curriculum in 5 nations!

- We hosted international volunteer teams provided opportunities for community outreaches including establishing a partnership with local school administrators in Palenque, Colombia to bring Parents & Students workshops on Girl's & Women's Menstrual Health & Bullying Awareness
- 3 Church plants were started including Lighthouse NTX, FAROS Palenque, & FAROS Santa Marta in Colombia
- Maintenance and preparation for the construction completion continues at Casa de Luz in Palenque, Colombia
- Mentorship & equipping resources have been provided for over 150 native pastors & leaders in different nations.
- We facilitated strategic leadership meetings and provided pastoral care for church leaders in different nations.

We thank God for each of you! Your generosity has had a great impact on many lives. Thank you for being an invaluable part of our ministry family.

We hope you enjoy seeing the fruit of this past year in our Annual FAROS International Report 2023

*Many Blessings,*

*J. Bell*



# Our Vision

To see:

**NATIVE LEADERS:** equipped, trained & sent

**COMMUNITIES:** transformed by the Gospel

**GENERATIONS:** loved, celebrated and empowered

**NATIONS:** reached for Jesus Christ



# JURMILS UOL

**Gather & Cultivate Safe Spaces**

**Equip & Empower Leaders**

**Create Opportunities for Growth**

**Develop Skills & Mobilize Access**

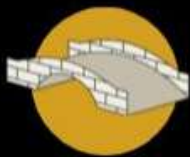
# Our Values



**Formation**



**Adoration**



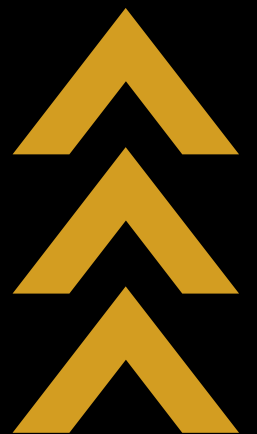
**Reconciliation**



**Obedience**



**Sonship**



# Our LOGO

Is our declaration...



## The Bow & Arrow:

We are His sent sons.

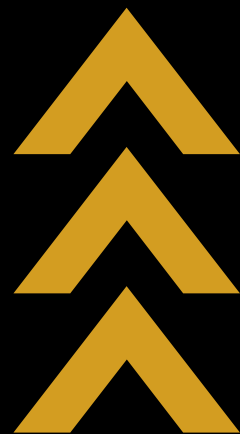
**Psalm 127:4** "Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are children born in one's youth."

**The Lighthouse:** We will shine His presence in the nations.

**Isaiah 60:1-3** "...the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn."

**The Compass:** We will follow Him.

**Matthew 4:22** "...and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him."



# Our Board



Combined we have over 23 years of international service & community development experience. We founded and pioneered FAROS International this 2023 as a continuation of projects that began in Colombia, South America in the village of San Basilio de Palenque in 2010. Casa de Luz in Palenque is the South American FAROS campus, Vida Ranch in North Texas is our homebase. From these sites we travel to nations in Latin America, Africa, UK & Europe and beyond teaching and mentoring native leaders equipping them to serve in their challenging contexts. We say, "Yes" to Jesus' Commission to the Nations!



We love the nations of the world. We understand the great commission that causes us to go into Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and into the end of the Earth, preaching the gospel to all creation. Any opportunity that we have to impact the nations for Jesus we give our best to say "Yes" to the call of God. The nations belongs to Jesus.



As a missionary kid, I was able to join in and serve the nations. God's mission is deeply ingrained in my heart. Opportunities to minister and serve people happen all over the world if we are willing to say "Yes" to God! Our FAROS family says " Yes!"



# LIGHTHOUSE NORTH TEXAS



Our community gathers to worship, intercede & fellowship on a monthly basis. We believe that intimacy with Christ is imperative and that prayer is a priority. From a place of deep personal relationship with Jesus, we are enabled to go forth as His Ambassadors to the Nations (including Native American nations of the Americas).



# NEW MEXICO: Mescalero Apache



We had the privilege of being invited twice this year to visit families in Ruidoso & the Mescalero reservation. It was an honor to go deeper in relationship. We shared the Word & love of Christ to the Mescalero Apache Nation. We ministered alongside our friends Shirley & Jamie Estes ( Ruidoso) Elizabeth & Ian( Tongva nation/ Scotland), Deb & Cindy ( Cherokee Nation), Rita ( Cree nation), Robby C. (Cherokee nation) Janice & Hjalmar ( Mescalero & Inca nations).

We went to bless the people and the land. It was an honor to be welcomed to the land by some of the elders of the community. We also were able to pray for the elections which would take place later in the year. It was a special time to learn some of the culture as well.



# COLOMBIA: Emergent Pastors & Native Leaders



**Catalina Tejedor**  
Emergent Pastor & Casa de Luz  
Director  
Church Plant: Palenque

We are grateful for your unconditional support during the year 2023. It was a great blessing as a new pastor to have constant follow-up and debrief time with the ministry directors Pastors John and Susie. Through your donations, I also received funding for children's church weekly meetings, our first couple's retreat, and our women's health retreat. I was also blessed as a pastor with a monthly offering for my own personal needs. We are grateful for the support of the church and volunteer staff. We at the Lighthouse in Palenque hope to continue to count on your prayers, friendship & support for God's work here. Thank you very much for everything, your faithful servant, sending blessings



**Jesús María Navarro Ditta**  
Emergent Pastor &  
FAROS Colombia leadership  
Church Plant: Santa Marta

Blessings to all the supporters of the FAROS International from Santa Marta. I extend my gratitude for all the support we have received through your donations. Your generosity is allowing us to help extend the kingdom of God to those communities and families in need of Him and on many occasions also to be blessed to form native leaders and attract those who are to be added to the kingdom. We yearn with all our hearts that God's blessing be upon you so that you continue to support every initiative, project, church, family, community that needs to know and grow in Jesus. Joy and peace.



**Elemir (Mincho) Herazo**  
& Marilus Pedraza,  
Coordinators Maintenance  
& Grounds

Blessings to the family of God in the Nations. We are ever thankful for your generosity as we care for and steward what the Lord has given us here in Casa de Luz. My wife & I love to serve Him in the details of maintenance of the house and grounds. This year we have new doors, floors & fences because of your generosity. We also love to stand in intercession for all the Lord is doing. We could not do it without your prayers and support.



**Yusneidis Maria Nunez**  
Casa de Luz Volunteer

Casa de Luz has become the refuge, and the covering, which my son and I needed. I am very grateful to God for his care, and faithfulness. It is my joy to volunteer with Pastor Catalina and the family of FAROS.

# Casa de Luz Church Plant Activities

Pastor Catalina and volunteer team lead various activities on a weekly, monthly and annual basis including:

- Early Morning Prayer
- Children's Church
- Family meetings
- Fellowship Meals
- Birthday celebrations
- Couples' & Women's retreats
- Home visits: families, elderly, sick, widows
- National & International mission teams



During the children's church services, we sing, dance, play, and paint. We even cook together, wash dishes, and share jokes. We read the Bible together, we meditate on it, pray, cry out to God, and we celebrate one another's birthdays. Our year was simply full of a very good learning adventure, mutually for the children and volunteers. There is a genuine and natural flow of the Holy Spirit during this time. The children have been so touched and ministered to by the Holy Spirit, the truth is that I had not seen a revival, so great and so supernatural! They were so impacted that they wanted to tell their experience to their teachers, parents and to the adults who come to gatherings. It has been incredible.





# Couples Outreach

The Casa de Luz team has been creative in their evangelism amongst the village.

This year we invited 13 couples to come and learn God's original intent for marriage & family.

Each couple received their own Bible. ( Donated by a church in Barranquilla)

Pastors John & Susie Bell shared quality teaching on Types of Fruits we can bear & Communication in Marriage.



# Women's Health Retreat

Our Women's Health Retreat was a way of sharing the Gospel & get educated on topics often not spoken about!

20 women attended & participated.

Our guest speaker was: Bernice Gaspard, Social Worker from NY. She shared about her life stages & faith journey.

*"My experience with FAROS taught me essential life skills that are transferable to my professional and personal development. Not only was I able to immerse myself in the culture and community that FAROS serves, I was able to contribute and bring awareness to the people, by educating them about period poverty. This experience that FAROS afforded me, confirms that small actions can have huge impact. I am forever grateful for the hospitality of the FAROS team and for making me feel like family."*



# Community Outreach & Education



## Period Poverty



is a health and human rights issue, especially when you live on less than \$2 USD a day! Our FAROS International team will gather Girls, parents, & teachers to learn and access resources for the village schools of Palenque

Every girl & woman deserves access to period education, sanitary products, and dignity when it comes to her monthly menstruation. Let's make safe spaces for the conversation.

*This October 11th or FAROS International team will be donating 250 families period panties for the village girls & women!*

In the month of October 2023, we held the first Girls & Women's health workshop on Period Poverty in the community, as a way to bring the dignity of Christ to the hearts of women in an area of much taboo, shame and lack.

On this occasion it was addressed to the parents of the community institution and was logistically scheduled by the directors of the institution, we had the attendance of about 150 parents and teachers. This did include some men (fathers) and this was in itself a victory, because historically the woman has been seen to lead in these spaces and the man little to be included in these topics of their daughters' lives.

We had the participation of different professionals to cover the different aspects of the areas of life impacted such as anatomically, emotionally & socially.

The school administrators asked us to return in 2024 and give a workshop to students & parents on Bullying & Period Poverty.



# New Doors & a Fence...What's next?



Elemir ( Mincho) and the Casa de Luz team have been doing an amazing job taking care of the infrastructure and the grounds. The first floor is where teams currently stay and where activities are held. This year with your donations we were able to put doors on both bathrooms and all 3 bedrooms! It was also awesome to be able to secure the land by putting in a fence for more safety and privacy.

In March 2024, we received a donation to build a water tank for the first floor & purchase a water pump so that we can have more constant use of water.

We continue to dream with finishing the second floor for Family Counselling & small group area. Our goal for the backyard is to build a storage cabin, a two bedroom 1 bathroom tiny home, and a kiosk in the center garden area. We are praying for the Lords provision & timing.



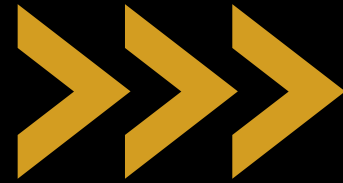
# 10 Year Celebration for John!



This year we celebrated John's 10th year of serving in Colombia. There are so many memories and moments to give God glory for!

FAROS family from all around the nation shared their words of encouragement throughout this year

We pray many more years of service to come.



## International & National Teams

International teams represented @ Casa de Luz this year: St. Lucia, UK, Canada, Cherokee nation, USA, Mexico & Brazil. National teams from regions of Bolivar, Sucre, Magdalena, Atlántico & Antioquia. We are grateful for each team & volunteer that gave so generously of their time and talents.





# Guatemala & Honduras:



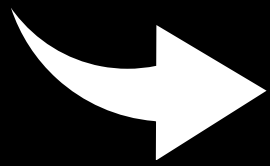
## Native Leadership & Missions Training

The Lord opened a beautiful door to Central America. We have enjoyed co-laboring with long-term Missionaries Larry and Marla Johnson in Chiquimula. They have been there for 30+ years and help native pastors with the construction of their own churches, biblical training of rural pastors, and establishing feeding centers for children in arid areas. We are honored to serve alongside them to help train their native pastors and leaders. We were able to implement FAROS Module 1: Identity & Sonship to over 150 pastors in various regions.

Our FAROS teams went three times! John went first to establish the relationship. Then, our FAROS staff member Jesu was also able to go on his first international outreach to serve in the feeding centers and on a prayer assignment with John. Finally, John, Susie, and our dear friend Rita Bear Gray from Canada joined forces to teach Mod 1 to native leaders and pastors. They were refreshed and many healed from wounds of the heart. Please help us pray so we can return and give Module 2: Fruit & Character.



# Ways to Connect



Pray | Gather | Give | Go



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# Ways to Give



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