



designing a world of hope

The Quail Family – Round up of the year 2024

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 leads the EMI Nicaragua design team. Helen is the EMI communications manager and intern coordinator. Chloe and Josh are full time kids at school!

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2024 Review



As we look back and reflect on all that has been in 2024, it is hard to see beyond our deep grief at the loss of dear Pippa in October, a truly wonderful sister and auntie. Pippa was so full of kindness and love, an excellent diabetes nurse and a central figure in her church in North London. She was also an important part of our time in Nicaragua, a regular source of prayer support, often connecting us with her church to share about the work of EMI. This photo is from Christmas Eve

last year when she visited us here and we spent a very happy 3 weeks together.

She was also one of the first to celebrate with us from afar following Helen's successful operation back in January and the determination a short while later that Helen was free of cancer.

Amid the difficulties of the year there has also been much to be hopeful about. In April, having recovered from her operation, Helen traveled to the EMI designed school and community centre project called Amparo International, which is covered in the first Story of Impact that follows. Seeing firsthand the way first-time access to secondary education is impacting the lives of children living well below the poverty line was truly inspiring.

Other EMI projects this year have included the design of a children's home for orphaned Haitian children in the Dominican Republic and the detailed design of new school facilities in a challenging community in Managua, close to our office.

Chloe and Josh continue to inspire us too, with how much they are learning week by week, excelling at school in a second language whilst taking part in music, church activities and sport- often running around in 35°C heat!

Throughout it all, through the time of grief and the times of blessing, we've never been far from the reminder of the very real hope we find in Christ, that is good news for people. Whilst the side of Heaven there will always be things we don't fully understand, never has our faith been more valuable knowing that one day there will be no death and no mourning for every tear will be wiped away. It is a hope that drives us on as we look to the year ahead.

“You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy.”

John 16:20 NIV



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Stories of Impact

Five years ago, EMI Nicaragua had the opportunity to partner with **Amparo International**, an organization that serves to provide education to a remote community on the east coast of Nicaragua, a 12-hour journey by land from Managua.



Amparo International have built a school and other community buildings following EMI designs. The school is allowing local children to receive free education at secondary level for the first time.

A boarding house allows children from other nearby communities to also receive an education. They lodge in the boarding house during the week and return home to their families at the weekend. Many other children from local communities use the school bus boat to attend school daily.



Student dormitory.



Classrooms and community area.

In April, Helen had the opportunity to visit the Mango community with our architect Jan and others to see the progress of the project. Jan was a junior architect back in 2019 during the original EMI project trip and it was wonderful for him to see his designs built. Amparo International has plans to develop the site further to provide technical education and sports facilities for the local children.

If you haven't already seen it, do check out [this excellent short video](#) which gives more information about the project.



Stories of Impact

In July, EMI Nicaragua partnered with **Three Trees Ministries** in the Dominican Republic to provide a masterplan and concept design for a children's home for vulnerable Haitian children living on the border town of Jimani, close to the Haitian border.



Three Trees Ministries provide essential shelter, care, and support to children and teenagers who have left or been removed from their homes, and consequently, find themselves in vulnerable situations. The plans completed are both for a permanent home to support the children as well as a transition home, to allow those who have reached adulthood to continue to be supported, albeit more independently.



Architectural renders of the Three Trees site.

Melissa, who alongside her husband John, helps to run the current Three Trees Ministry's children home said, "We can't thank you enough for coming alongside us and developing such an amazing plan. One thing you did well was that you included the children's ideas in the plans."

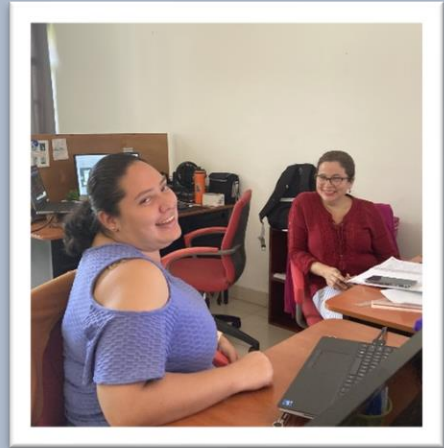


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Stories of Impact

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 have had 3 local architecture interns in the office. We shared about 2 of them last year and they continued with us until May. They were then replaced by Joyce who finished her internship this week.



Joyce was one of the team members on the trip to the Dominican Republic and had a vital role to play in the meetings and subsequent designs. Recently, as she ended her internship, she presented her reflections of the experience to everyone at the office.



One of the things she mentioned during this presentation was...

My time at EMI has been a time of significant growth, where every challenge helped me learn something new, and every opportunity brought me closer to the purpose God has for my life.

Top Right: Joyce and her professional mentor, Helenka preparing for the trip to the Dominican Republic.

Middle Left: Helen and Joyce at the end of her intern presentation to the office.

Bottom Right: Joyce leads discussions of the initial designs for feedback.



2024 projects

The following tables list the primary projects that EMI Nicaragua has worked on in 2024 and outlines their impact.

Project	Location	Type of Ministry and Project Summary	Impact
Ileana School of Hope	Managua, Nicaragua	In 2023 we wrote about the masterplan and concept designs that EMI Nicaragua completed for Ileana School of Hope. This year, we were contracted to complete the detailed designs and permission gaining. Recently, the partner ministry, Love, Light & Melody released a documentary which talks about the inspiration for the project. The purchase of the documentary film 'Ileana's Smile' will raise funds for the ongoing building project, we recommend it if you have a chance to see it.	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	Another project mentioned in 2023 was the IBCE project which provides facilities for a bible institute, allowing training for local pastors. In October, we were invited to be part of the inauguration services as the new buildings have been finished and are now in use.	The new facility will serve over 100 students annually.
Three Trees Ministries	Jimani, Dominican Republic	EMI Nicaragua provided the master plan and concept design for a new permanent children's home and transition home for vulnerable children living in Jimani on the Haitian border.	The new facility will provide a permanent and adequate home for 16 children and a transition home for teenagers once they reach 18.



2024 projects continued

Project	Location	Type of Ministry and Project Summary	Impact
Past Project Eval. and Toolkit (PPET)	Internal office project	Continuing on from last year, this project provides 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.
Pachama ma collaboration with EMI Canada	Ecuador	Design of a new birthing centre in a rural Ecuadorian Amazonian community.	Will provide safe birthing training and midwifery facilities serving hundreds of women each year.



Prayer

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

For Praise

- Being able to travel to England at short notice and be with Rob's parents, Pippa's friends and community in the weeks after her death.
- Helen's successful surgery and continued good health this year.
- For the recent insurance company pay out which covered all of Helen's surgery and chemotherapy costs, following more than a year of appeals with our insurance provider.
- For the projects we have partnered with this year and the opportunities there have been to engage with new projects and reconnect with older ones.
- The children's learning and growth this year; at school, in their language skills, in their friendships and extra-curricular activities.

For Prayer 2025

- We appreciate your ongoing prayers as we continue to mourn the loss of dear Pippa.
- Pray too for the processes and practicalities that follow Pippa's death.
- Chloe and Josh will be starting their 4th academic year here in Nicaragua at the end of January, please pray for a happy and productive year of schooling for them both.
- Please pray for EMI Nicaragua and for the projects and people we've shared here in this update.
- Pray for more projects in 2025, the office is currently light in projects and we are currently redoubling our efforts in project development.



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



The EMI Nicaragua team at the office this month

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



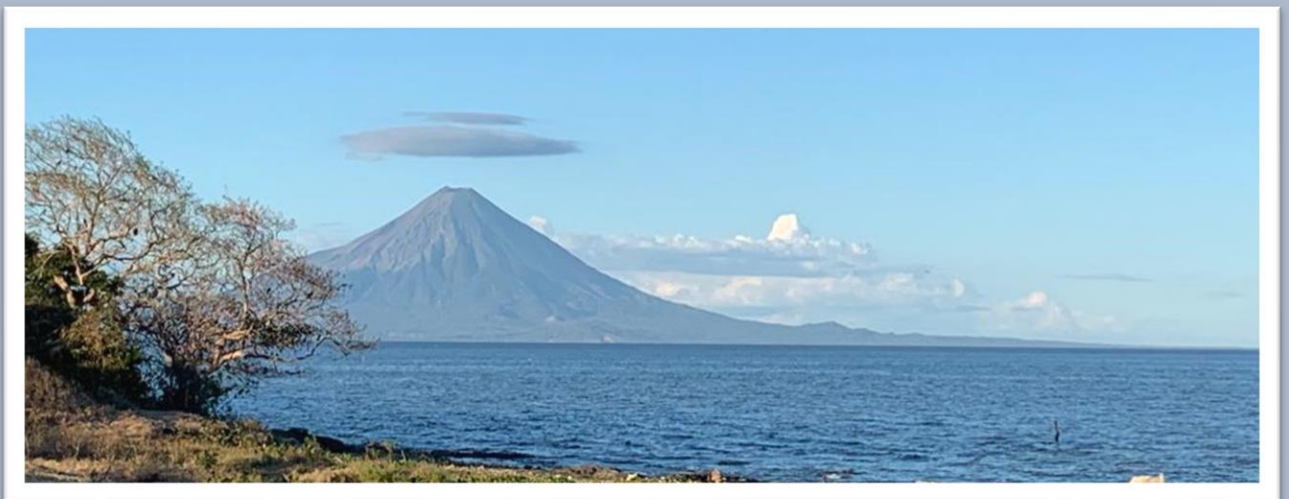
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About Nicaragua

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.

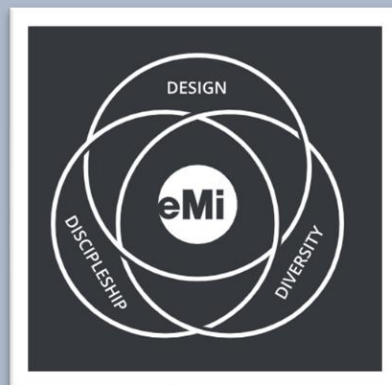
Core Values

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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