

HEGARTY



Sue
Hegarty

COSTA RICA

LANGUAGES

Spanish

MINISTRY PRIORITIES

Peace and Justice,
Training and Capacity
Building

BIRTHDAY

4/8



LOCATION

Costa Rica



ABOUT

Sue's ministry in Costa Rica is two-pronged. The Pastoral Care for Women program specializes in courses that help women, especially those in abusive situations, find hope and personal growth from a liberating Christian perspective. Many of the program graduates go on to minister to others. Sue develops and

teaches courses for this ministry and is revamping current class content and materials for republication.

With the Baptist Federation, Sue works to strengthen the ministries of churches and their pastors by teaching classes, Bible studies and workshops. She is a liaison with American Baptist mission teams that visit Costa Rica to develop fraternal relationships and assist with ministry projects.



Maria and her five children, immigrants in Costa Rica



MINISTRY STORY

Maria messaged, "Can you help me?" She explained that she had finally worked up the courage to leave her abusive partner after taking the course "Being a Woman Is Wonderful." She had often brought her children to class with her on Saturdays, which I later discovered was in order to get them away from their father, who binged drank after being paid on Fridays.

Now she was faced with supporting her five children on her own. She had found a job as a maid, put a restraining order against her now-stalker ex, and gotten her paperwork together to be in Costa Rica legally—but her visa would be running out soon.

That was how I began a new phase of working with women on a more personal level, giving them support as they faced the challenges of daily life. I assisted Maria with pulling together documents in order to apply for permanent residency in Costa Rica, took her to Immigration and other offices, listened to her struggles,

encouraged her to get counseling, prayed with her, and supported her.

God has been present throughout this difficult time. María received approval for permanent residency, her counselor has helped her, her employer provided her with medical insurance (an unusual benefit in Costa Rica!), her family attends church with us, and we continue to develop a friendship.

Maria, in turn, has offered advice, a listening ear, and a place to stay to a friend who also suffers domestic violence. She recognizes God's love in her life and is passing it on to others.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for my daughter Katy as she chooses her studies and career path.

Pray for women in Costa Rica dealing with domestic violence.

Pray for Nicaraguan women immigrants in Costa Rica who are trying to give their children a better life, often without an elementary school education.

Pray for me to have wisdom in my ministry, to inspire personal and spiritual growth and independence in the women with whom I work.

SCRIPTURE

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

James 1:22 (NIV)

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