



designing a world of hope

The Quail Family – Round up of the year 2025



Hi! We're the Quail family: Rob, Helen, Chloe and Josh. We live in Managua, Nicaragua where we serve with Engineering Ministries International and Nicaragua Christian Academy. Rob is an engineer and leads the EMI Nicaragua design team. Helen is the NCA school librarian and she also teaches psychology classes. Chloe and Josh are completing their 5th year of schooling in Central America.

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2025 Review

Looking back over the past year we give thanks for what has been in many ways a year of growth and flourishing. Early in the year, still processing the grief from losing Pippa, there were times, and still are, when we could relate with Thomas' words in John 14 below – God where are you going? Which way are we going? Whilst the grief and sense of loss remains real, God has been incredibly faithful.

As covered in the following pages there's been a great variety of projects at EMI this year. Rob has steered the design team with ministry partners including a Christian medical clinic near Tipitapa and a training centre for bean farmers in Jinotega, bringing the hope of Christ to some of the poorest communities in Central America.

Helen has developed the EMI Intern programme to a place where we received 5 interns last year, including the first international interns for over 5 years, and then smoothly managed the transition to working as the librarian and a psychology teacher at NCA International School, where the kids now attend as well.

Perhaps most encouraging has been seeing the growth of Chloe and Josh, in a number of ways, including both choosing to be baptized this year. One highlight was a family holiday to the remote community of Mango (pictured). It was great to see Chloe and Josh thrive in an adventurous environment, translating between the local children and a visiting team from Canada, whilst staying at an EMI designed community college that provides Christian education to kids whose previous nearest secondary school was a 4-hour boat journey away.

In a world seemingly drowning in a sea of misinformation, half truths and plain lies, there is no greater freedom than to be following Christ, Truth itself. Each year brings different blessings and battles, but common to every year in our journey here, we have been blessed in 2025 to experience life, and life in all its fullness.

"Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Jesus answered,

" I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life."

John 14:5-6



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Stories of Impact

Clinica Betesda

Clinica Betesda is a Christian medical and dental clinic serving the community of Cristo Rey, a settlement of more than 10,000 people which was created when families were relocated from living on the notorious La Chureca landfill site in Managua. Many in the community still make their living from salvaging materials from another local landfill site and the clinic regularly has patients who have injured themselves whilst sorting through dangerous, sometimes burning, waste.

The existing clinic, in rented facilities, is no longer fit for purpose, and in March, Rob led a team of designers to produce a masterplan and concept design for a new clinic and doctors' accommodation on a newly acquired plot in Cristo Rey. EMI is now progressing the detailed design and will be overseeing the appointment of a local contractor with construction due to start in mid 2026.



Avodah Farm

Avodah Farm is a ministry in the north of Nicaragua near Jinotega, run by Jessie and Jari Rodriguez. They work with local bean farmers from mountainous communities with limited resources. Avodah Farm equips the farmers spiritually, through a discipleship programme, and technically, providing training in how to increase their bean yields to better serve their families and communities. Rob led a team in July in the design of a permanent training centre, warehouse and onsite accommodation. Like Clinica Betesda, EMI is now to overseeing the appointment of a local contractor, with construction due to start in mid 2026.



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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, Helen put into practice the Early Careers training she had received in Mexico in 2024. We welcomed 3 new Nicaraguan interns this year, two in architecture (Dara and Maria-Alejandra pictured here) and one civil engineer.



She also worked to secure our first international interns for over 5 years. Sawyer, (pictured here) spent the summer with us and then we received computer engineering graduate Mathias for 4 months in August. It has been a real joy to see the interns working together and sharing different experiences as they learn from one another's culture.

The interns also started volunteering one morning a week at Tesoros de Dios, an EMI Nicaragua partner ministry, which provides education and support to children with significant additional needs and their families.

In July, Helen passed over the reigns to the new Intern Coordinator, Marcela (front) and has been enjoying watching her thrive in this new role.

In July, Helen made the transition to the full-time role of School Librarian at NCA International and high school psychology teacher. Chloe & Josh began their classes in August.

It has been a learning curve, teaching library class to PK1-6th grade students (3-12 yrs) but a lot of fun. In Nicaragua, there isn't a culture of reading at home and so it is a privilege to work with the students to develop their love of reading!



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Stories of Impact

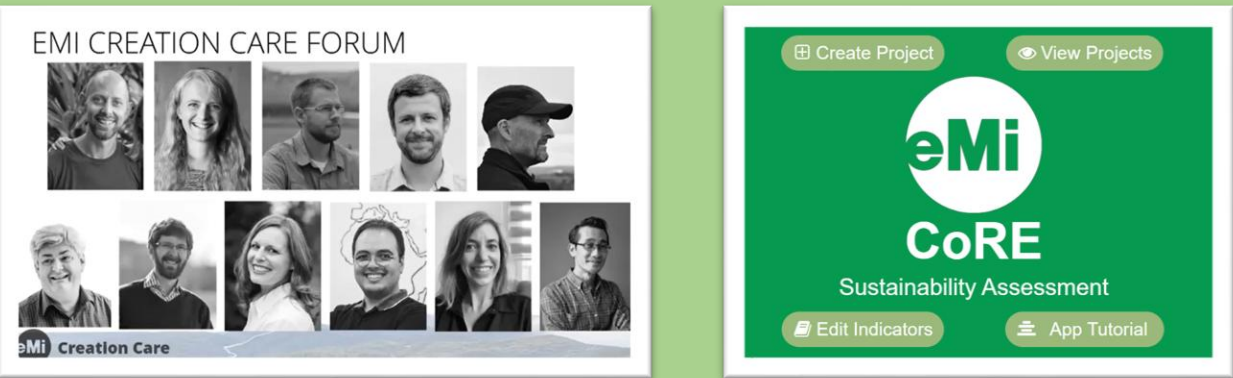
Creation Care at EMI

For the past two years, Rob has been chairing EMI’s Creation Care Working Group (CCWG). Creation Care is the biblical response to what it means to love, care for and cultivate the gift of God’s creation, which is all around us. As designers, architects and engineers, at EMI we feel a particular responsibility to ensure the facilities we design are a blessing to the community, which future generations will continue to be thankful for, and not a damaging burden to the local, regional and global environment. It is also an area where EMI is uniquely equipped to positively impact the global south design community, whilst improving funding prospects for access to the green funding programmes, which are increasing in this sector.



In 2025 the CCWG worked with the EMI Global Office is delivering a Creation Care webinars series, raising awareness for a variety of creation care themes including energy use, landscape architecture and disaster risk reduction. Rob has been hosting the webinars and will be presenting the final session of the series on the theme of Holistic Sustainability (Feb 12th – details will be available [here](#))

The CCWG also developed a CC White Paper in 2025, to be published soon. In June, EMI Nicaragua delivered a hugely successful SPeAR sustainability assessment for Santiago Christian School and, working with our Computer Engineering intern Mathias, Rob has led the development of EMI’s in-house sustainability assessment tool CoRE (Communities, Resources and Environment) which will be applied for the first time in the upcoming Kids’ Discipleship Camp master plan and concept design project in Belize. Exciting times ahead for Creation Care at EMI!



2025 projects

The following table lists the primary projects that EMI Nicaragua has worked on in 2025 and outlines their impact.

Project	Location	Type of Ministry and Project Summary	Impact
Clinica Betésda	Tipitapa, Nicaragua	Master plan and concept design for new medical and dental clinic in Cristo Rey, one of the poorest communities in Nicaragua	Quality Christian health care for 6,500 + people per year on completion
Avodah Farm	Jinotega, Nicaragua	Training facilities and warehouse for a ministry that trains farmers through improved farming techniques and discipleship helping them grow in their spiritual walk with Christ	Impacting the lives of 80 farmers from 6 rural communities in Jinotega
Santiago Christian School	Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic	Master plan, concept design and sustainability assessment for extension of an excellent but oversubscribed Christian academy that teaches children aged 3-18.	The new school facilities will double the school's capacity to 1200 students and will provide improved and more sustainable facilities.
YWAM Nicoya VIZ Package	Nicoya, Costa Rica	Architectural fly-through videos to support YWAM's fundraising campaign to purchase new land. YWAM (Youth with a Mission) provides discipleship and outdoor activity programmes worldwide.	The YWAM fundraising campaign was successful. EMI design project coming in 2026!
Steps of Hope	Santa María de Jesús, Guatemala	Design review of proposals for a new Christian learning and community center building. A significant series of earthquakes in July put a spotlight on the structural design and foundations.	The new facilities will provide much needed educational support to 250 children a year.



2025 projects continued

Project	Location	Type of Ministry and Project Summary	Impact
Living Water International	Tecpan, Guatemala	Community Water Supply Feasibility Study in the highlands of Guatemala, evaluating the potential for restoring and expanding water supply to rural communities	Repair and expansion of safe drinking water supply to 4 remote Guatemalan communities
Ruby Ranch	Leon, Nicaragua	Christian retreat centre serving local churches, schools and communities. EMI designed a new worship space in follow up to a 2018 master plan	New events and worship space to be enjoyed by 1000+ visitors each year
Ileana School of Hope	Managua, Nicaragua	Managing ongoing permitting and contractor tender process for Ileana School of Hope. Construction due to start in 2026	The new facilities will allow expansion through to 6 th grade as well as specialist classrooms for IT and Art. Benefiting 300+students/yr
Past Project Eval. and Toolkit (PPET)	Internal office project	Continuing on from last year, and involving extensive work from Helen and Rob, this internal office 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.



Prayer

Here are some areas to lift to the Lord in prayer in 2026:

For Praise

- The children's spiritual development and decision to be baptized
- A smooth transition for Helen and the children to a new role/school
- The EMI projects that have come through the Nicaragua office in 2025 and the growth in EMI's work in Creation Care
- The interns we have had and being able to restart receiving international interns
- The encouragement of new and increased supporter donations in the past three months– we are now over halfway towards our mid-2026 fundraising target.
- A lovely visit from Helen's sister, niece and cousin at Christmas
- Overall good health
- The timely provision of new tenants for our flat in London

For Prayer 2026

- The upcoming projects in 2026 – particularly a project trip Rob is leading to Belize in a couple of weeks' time
- New personnel to join/fill vacant positions
- Our UK visit in June/July and the chance to connect with family, friends and churches
- The additional funds required to meet out 2026 fundraising needs
- Chloe transitioning to secondary school in August (same school, same campus) but new routines and teachers



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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



*Above The EMI Nicaragua team retreat in December
Below Independence Day Celebrations in September*



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; however, the country's average salary is one of the lowest in the Americas at around \$2,500/yr. The climate in Managua, where we live, 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.

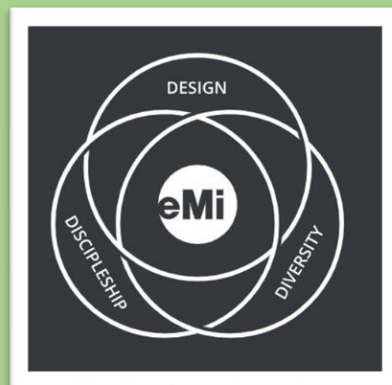
Core Values

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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