

NOTIREIBA

Intercultural Bilingual Education Network of the Amazon

June 2025

reibacomunicacion@gmail.com



REIBA STORES IN THE PAN-AMAZON

WWW.REIBA.ORG

MONTHLY MAGAZINE PREPARED TO SHARE NEWS
FROM REIBA VOLUNTEERS, COORDINATORS, LOCAL
TEAMS AND THE VARIOUS COMMISSIONS



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REIBA AISHALTON - GUYANA

NARRATIVE BY: SYDNEY STEWART (REIBA VOLUNTEER)



We begin NotiREIBA by sharing that on **June 4th**, the Quality Bilingual Education Program (QBEP) team visited **the Sawariwau community** to witness the end-of-unit summative assessment for grades 1 and 2. The students confidently presented what they had learned with the help of their teachers, in the presence of parents, grandparents, and visitors.



At the end of the presentation, there was a time for questions, which were posed by the visiting team, to which the students responded, demonstrating their understanding of both Wapichan and English.





The Sawariwau teaching team and church community then organized a farewell ceremony for **volunteer Sydney**, marking her final visit to the community, demonstrating their affection and gratitude through songs, speeches, and gifts.



On **June 6**, the Aishalton community celebrated a beautiful farewell for volunteer Sydney Stewart. The elementary school celebrated with songs and heartfelt words, and that evening the Church community hosted a farewell dinner.





These were beautiful tributes of appreciation for the time and so many shared experiences. Thank you, Aishalton!



Since April, a team of four youth from our St. Robert Bellarmine Youth Group has been competing in the National Youth Speakers Debate Competition, alongside teenagers from all over Guyana. They worked tirelessly to reach the semifinal round, advancing further than any team from Region 9.



On **June 27**, they lost by just 8 points in the final round after a hard-fought debate. They will travel to the capital next month to represent themselves as members of the Youth Parliament. Congratulations, team!





On **June 17**, **Silverius Perry** and **Father Joel**, who are part of the bilingual team, visited Aishalton Elementary School to discuss the importance of bilingual education with teachers and to brainstorm together about the future of QBEP in that community, encouraging them to continue working together.



REIBA SILVAYACU-ECUADOR



NARRATIVE BY: BROTHER TIBERIO GIRALDO, FMS

Father's Day celebration, Silvayacu. On **June 19th**, 9th grade students hosted a celebration where a traditional tilapia meal (fish raised in a home-grown pond) was a delicious and hearty culinary experience, prepared with great affection by the students. They presented their meal in Kichwa.



REIBA DICARO - ECUADOR



NARRATIVE BY: ISABEL LAGUNA AND MARTHA CHÁVEZ (REIBA VOLUNTEERS)

"Sharing the cultures and traditions of each nationality." On June 21st, young people were invited to experience one of the beautiful traditions of the Andean peoples, **Inti Raymi, in Otavalo.**



They, for their part, performed as university students at **the Salesian University of Otavalo.** The play was titled "Let's Take Care of Our Mother Earth." This activity involved creating content, setting the score, placing the arrangements, and creating costumes for each character.



There was no shortage of rehearsals, and the enthusiasm to participate was always present. This spirit was shared by the **Kichwa** and **Shuar** students, which enriched the proposal they would present.



The day arrived in front of a judging panel and colleagues from other countries who had put a lot of effort into their presentation. First place was unanimously awarded to the students from the Amazon! And for Dicaro, where most of the students are from, it was the first time they had won this placement and this award. The excitement was overwhelming, and the affection of the teachers and students was palpable.

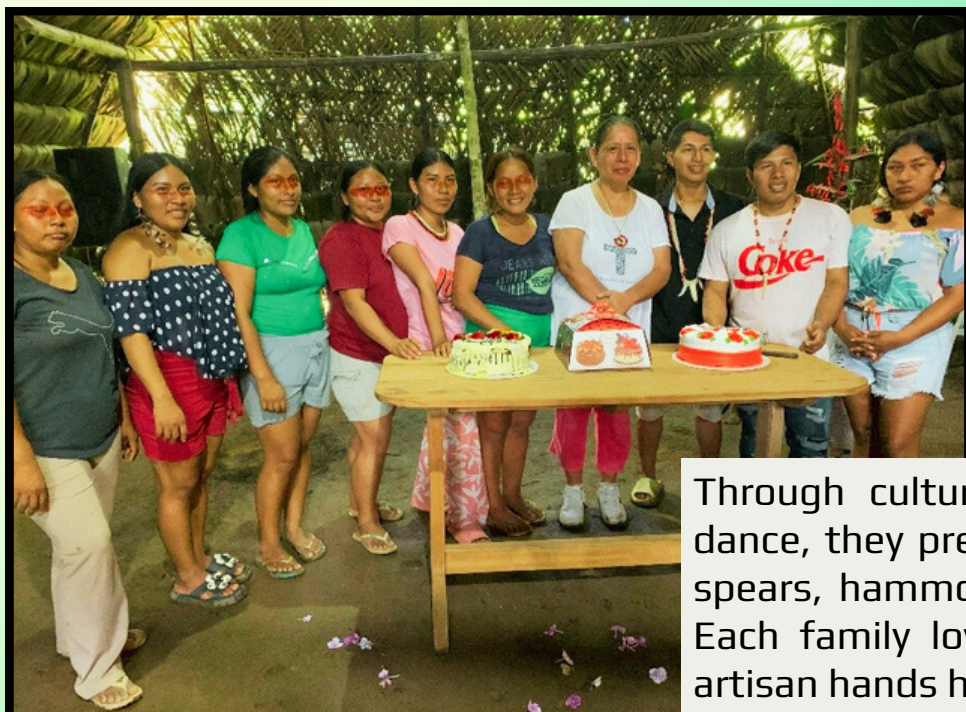
On the morning of **June 25th**, we gathered at the women's home for a festive moment, to express our gratitude for **volunteer Isabel Laguna's** presence in this community, her dedication, commitment, and shared time with the students for a little over two years.



This moment was filled with preparations, details, arrangements, gestures of affection, and gratitude. The parents organized a wonderful program that culminated with lunch. Each family shared something for the celebration.



A heart of flowers adorned the floor alongside colorful candles and a sign in Wao that expressed the affection each of the students felt for her, as well as the recognition made by parents and Waorani leaders.



Through cultural presentations, song, and dance, they presented gifts such as chigras, spears, hammocks, necklaces, and earrings. Each family lovingly offered the fruit their artisan hands had made.

The moment was very joyful, full of feelings, emotions, pleasant memories, laughter, and strengthening bonds of friendship, with trust in God that this is a process that has begun and that does not end with Isabel's departure, but that it will continue to bear fruit and that others will come to continue this journey.



The celebration culminated on Monday, **June 30**, with the graduation ceremony for the **Indigenous School of Political, Social, and Ecological Training "Achakaspi Bula"**. This has been the dream of the **Vicariate of Aguarico**, which seeks to empower young people and adults in the communities.



DREAMING OF A CHURCH WITH AN AMAZONIAN FACE

As REIBA Aishalton (Guyana), we share with you that after experiencing **"Laudato Si' Week,"** carrying out various ecological activities, on **May 31st**, we celebrated an open-air Mass (to close this Week) at the foot of **Mount Maoka Taawa**, a sacred place for the Wapichan people.



It was a unique experience! We had a great turnout from both young and old. It was a great opportunity to connect with nature and rediscover the connection between faith and God's creation.



The Lord sends us on a mission! On **June 8th**, with the **Feast of Pentecost**, the solemn celebration of Easter's Fiftieth Day, reached its culmination. The presence of the Holy Spirit was felt among the **Tsimane people of Misión Fátima (Bolivia)**. The invitation in that day's message motivated us to remove from our hearts everything that would hinder the free action of the Holy Spirit in our lives.



CENTRAL COORDINATION



On Monday, **June 2nd**, REIBA participated in the first assembly of the Amazonian University Program (PUAM). The program was conceived as a space for information, reflection, and support for the program's overall progress. Its purpose was to offer an open and diverse space to: provide feedback on PUAM processes based on the trajectories and experiences of its participating actors, exchange lessons learned, report on key progress, explore new forms of collaboration, and collectively enrich the program's identity and mission.

CENTRAL COORDINATION



On Wednesday, **June 18**, the various coordinators met to update information from their respective committees during the first half of 2025. Highlights include:

Volunteer Committee: Completion period for new applicants. Departure of three volunteers upon the completion of their agreements.

EIB Committee: Current progress on the training modules.

Communications Committee: REIBA participation with a display stand during the meeting of the bishops of the Amazon.

Management and Administration Committee: Accountability of outgoing volunteers.

On **June 18th**, Martha Chávez, Isabel Laguna, and Sister Marlene shared the news regarding the new internal organization of REIBA Dicaro, due to Isabel's departure upon the completion of her contract.

This meeting also served as a brief opportunity to express gratitude for Isabel's service and the gifts she has given to the Waorani people.





CENTRAL COORDINATION

MEETING WITH THE EXTENDED COMMISSION



On **June 25th**, a meeting of the **extended commission** was held with the presence of: Sister Mildre and Nery Chamorro from REIBA Misión Fátima, Sister Maruja from REIBA Wijint, Fr. Joel REIBA from Aishalton, Sister Martha Ardila from REIBA Colombia, Pablo from REIBA Dicaro, María Oliva from REIBA Kirigueta, Brother Tiberio from REIBA Silvayacu, Sister Maricarmen, JoAnn, English-speaking Liaison, Sister Marbelis, General Coordinator, Sister Lisette, Volunteer Coordinator, and Ana Gabriela, EIB/Communication Coordinator.

Important topics were discussed, such as **the importance of the local team for motivating teachers and the community** with whom the **Thematic Training** projects are carried out. They also discussed the need to generate ideas on how to **support REIBA processes**, e.g., different ways of inclusion of local, national and international volunteers. It was also announced that there are currently **15 new applicants** for REIBA'S volunteer formation program, which begins in August, and that former volunteer, Alfonso Franco, will now be part of the Volunteer Committee. Sister Marbelis briefly commented on the trip she took along the Brazil/Colombia/Venezuela border, with the itinerant team of **Fe y Alegría Internacional**, in view of finding ways to support the highly isolated communities in that region.

CENTRAL COORDINATION

At the invitation of **the Association of Indigenous Women of the Upper Rio Negro in Manaus (AMARN)**, we participated on **June 29** in the event "I Ajuri for the renovation and construction of the Numiã Kurá house -AMARN."



This activity aimed to raise funds for the renovation and construction of AMARN's new headquarters. During the event, an entrepreneurship course for Indigenous women was also launched, in collaboration with the Don Cabral Foundation. Bingo, traditional food and handicrafts, and dances and songs from the various Indigenous communities were also offered.



IBE COMMISSION

1ST VIRTUAL MEETING OF EFT ADVISORS 2025 – REIBA / CEAMA



On **June 20th**, the **first virtual meeting** was held among the advisors accompanying the 2025 Thematic Training Meetings: Prof. Grimaldo Rengifo (ecological calendar), Sister Inés Ochoa (EIB materials design), Msc.Lic. Karina Sullón (linguistic revitalization), together with our General Coordinator, Sister Marbelis Monroy, Marcelo Lemos (Vice President of CEAMA), Fernando Rueda (CEAMA Communication Coordinator) and Ana Gabriela Jimenez (EIB/REIBA Communication Coordinator).

The meeting was held to **evaluate the first semester of personalized consulting services, including challenges, opportunities, and progress made by the various REIBAS**. It also established guidelines for continuing the consulting services in the second semester of 2025.

After learning more about each module, Marcelo expressed his pleasant surprise at the progress made so far with these training sessions and considers some possibilities for seeking better on-site support from experts.



IBE COMMISSION

3RD PERSONALIZED CONSULTATION 2025 – LINGUISTIC REVITALIZATION MODULE



REIBA SILVAYACU (ECUADOR)



On **June 6**, Brother Tiberio and Mr. Fidel Castro from the municipality of Silvayacu shared about the cultural activity held at the University of the Basque Country, where children and young people sang and made riddles in Kiwcha. The brother expressed his surprise at the response. They also mentioned that they continue working with grandmothers to immerse themselves in Kiwcha from home, thanks to the strategy provided by Lic. Karina Sullón.

3RD PERSONALIZED COUNSELING 2025 – AICLE MODULE



REIBA KIRIGUETI (PERÚ)



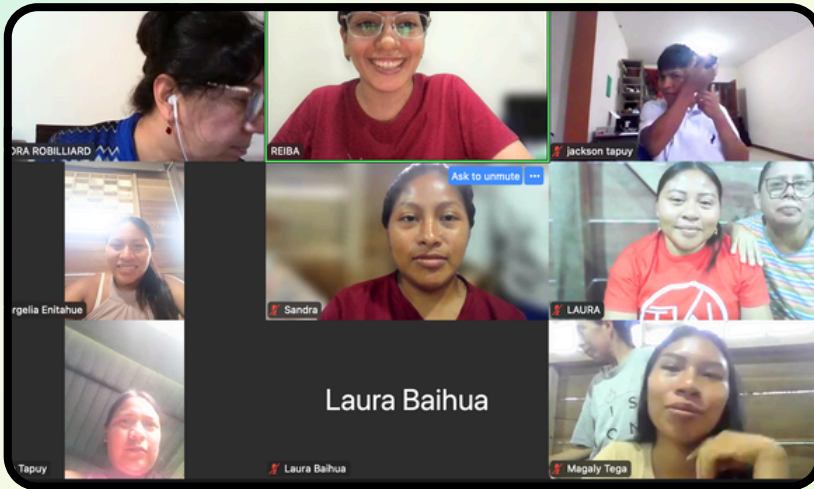
On **June 20th**, Ana Gabriela gave an introduction to CLIL to teachers at the Monseñor Ariz Elementary School, both primary and secondary school teachers. They joined for the first time to be mentored by Sandra Robilliard, an expert in the module. We would like to thank REIBA volunteer Mary Oliva for the motivation she generated in such a short time!

IBE COMMISSION

SPANISH CLASSES – JUNE 2025



REIBA DICARO (ECUADOR)



On the **6th and 13th**, Spanish classes were held with Waorani and Kiwcha university students from Dicaro. This time, they learned about articles, visually-based oral expression, and engaged in recreational reasoning activities. It's important to remember that Spanish, along with Waorani and Kiwcha, is also very important. One reason this support is provided is because the university only offers courses in Spanish.

VOLUNTEER COMMISSION

We thank God for the lives and testimony of **volunteers Isabel Laguna** and **Sydney Stewart**, who, for more than two years, accompanied the communities in both **REIBA Dicaro (Ecuador)** and **REIBA Aishalton (Guyana)** respectively. Isabel and Sydney "became one of them," being very much loved and valued. They shall be missed.



Thank you for your dedication, given so lovingly. May God bless your lives and your new missions.



VOLUNTEER COMMISSION

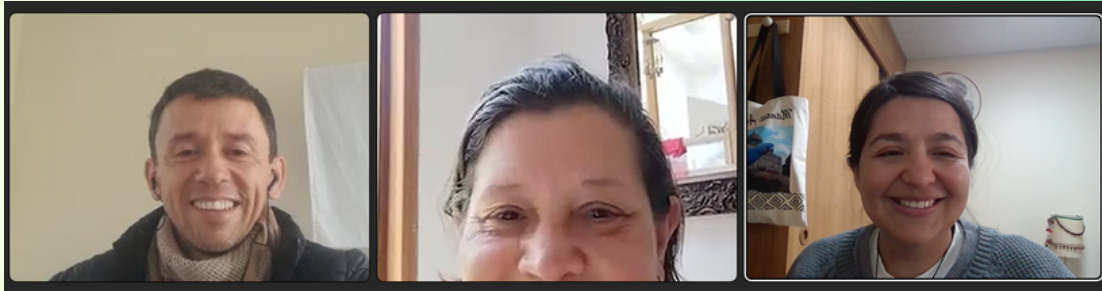
On **Tuesday, June 17**, we met as the Volunteer Committee to finalize the modifications and agreements regarding the REIBA Volunteer Formation Program for this year, 2025.



The monthly preparatory meeting with applicants for the 2026 Volunteer Program was held on **Tuesday, June 24th**. This event was held in two time slots to allow everyone to participate.

VOLUNTEER COMMISSION

Starting June 26, we've been discussing video calls with all volunteer applicants. We hope to begin the personalized support process. These rather informal conversations help us get to know each other and strengthen our bond.



COMMUNICATION COMMISSION

On **June 4**, the monthly meeting was held with communications representatives from **CEAMA, REPAM, and REIBA** to discuss continuing their social media collaborations. These have served to increase followers and interest in the various organizations. Planning ideas are also being offered to the global communications committee for **the Meeting of Amazonian Bishops, to be held in Bogotá from August 17 to 20 at the CELAM offices.** Fernando (CEAMA) mentioned that informational booths from REPAM, CEAMA, PUAM, and REIBA will be available at the meeting to publicize their mission work.



This month, our social media posts focused on quotes from Pope Francis (+) in his **POST-SYNODAL APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION, "BELOVED AMAZON,"** accompanied by photographs of activities carried out in the various REIBA communities, in order to share with our new followers our origins and our Mission in the Amazon region.





COMMUNICATION COMMISSION

We remind you that the **REIBA 2026 VOLUNTEER APPLICATION PERIOD closed on July 15th**. Therefore, the digital application form, accompanied by informative videos in Spanish, Portuguese, and English, has been and will be shared through our social media channels.

We invite you to participate in these final days and help us spread these posts so we can reach more people who, like you, can offer their gifts in the Amazon, supporting our Indigenous brothers and sisters!

Visit our website: **www.reiba.org** to learn more about us. You can also find the online form there so we can contact you. Or you can copy the following link, which will direct you to it:

Link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeG3AO0-9OTL30ft_BJVISXEPzUuFL214nqyWztVPyGVlfgUA/viewform

AVISO IMPORTANTE!!

El PERIODO DE POSTULACIÓN al **VOLUNTARIADO REIBA 2026** está próximo a concluir!!

ÚLTIMO DÍA: 15 de julio

REQUISITOS →

Formulario de Interés sobre el Voluntariado REIBA // Formulário de Interesse no programa de Voluntariado da REIBA // REIBA Volunteer Interest Form

¿Quieres ser un voluntario de REIBA? ¿Tienes preguntas sobre el proceso o nuestro trabajo en la Amazonía? Llena este formulario breve para ayudarnos a conocerte y contestar todas las preguntas que tienes. Después de que recibimos tu respuesta, alguien de nuestro equipo te comunicará contigo. Asegúrese de revisar su carpeta de correo no deseado por si nuestros mensajes acaban allí (busque voluntariado.reiba@gmail.com). ¡Ojo! Esto no es una solicitud, solo un formulario de interés preliminar. ¡Gracias por tu interés en REIBA!!

Quer ser um voluntário ou uma voluntária da REIBA? Tem dúvidas sobre o processo ou sobre o nosso trabalho na Amazônia? Preencha este breve formulário para que possamos conhecê-lo melhor e responder a todas as suas perguntas! Após recebermos sua resposta, alguém de nossa equipe entrará em contato com você. Não se esqueça de verificar sua pasta de spam, caso nossos e-mails acabem chegando lá (procure por voluntariado.reiba@gmail.com)!

Observe que este não é um formulário de inscrição, apenas um formulário de interesse preliminar. Agradecemos pelo seu interesse pela REIBA!!

June 2025

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TOGETHER WE WEAVE THE WEB 🙏



DONATIONS FOR REIBA

Completing 5 years, REIBA continues to weave our network and expand our impact on Amazonian indigenous education.

Help us in our mission for indigenous education!

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS TO THE CURRENT ACCOUNT OF THE APOSTOLIC VICARIATE OF PUERTO MALDONADO:

CREDIT BANK OF PERU- BCP
CUENTA: 485-26442571-6-4

CCI: 002-48500264425716417
CÓDIGO SWIFT DE 8 LETRAS: BCPLPEPL
CÓDIGO ABA: 026006127
TIPO DE CUENTA: CORRIENTE



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