

NOTIREIBA

Intercultural Bilingual Education Network of the Amazon

August 2025

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REIBA STORIES IN THE PAN-AMAZON

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



NOTIREIBA

August 2025

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REIBA FATIMA MISSION - BOLIVIA

NARRATIVE BY: NERY CHAMORRO (REIBA VOLUNTEER)



We begin this NotiREIBA by sharing that on **August 5th** we were invited along with the Lauritas Sisters to the Tsimane Naranjalito Community (in San Borja) to participate in the civic event for Bolivia's bicentennial. We took advantage of the opportunity to share the REIBA project with that community, given that the REIBA 2026 volunteer candidate, Ignacio Chuve, is a teacher there and has begun training for the 2025 period. At school he is accompanied by teacher Fermín, of Tsimane-Moseten origin, and together they work with more than 50 children who have been learning with a bilingual teaching methodology.



Professor Ignacio Chuve, an enthusiastic educator of Chiquitano origin, is currently working alongside the Tsimane people.

On Tuesday, **August 12**, we visited the Tsimane authorities in San Borja. Sister Cecilia and I also visited **the Tsimane Language and Culture Institute (ILCT)** to continue the process of transcribing and translating indigenous songs. We were welcomed by **Mr. Nelson Nate and Professor Manuel Iza**, who pledged to complete the process and then implement them in the classrooms.



Taking advantage of the opportunity, we stopped by to greet the President of the Tsimane Grand Council, **Don Maguin Gutiérrez**, with whom we shared the latest developments in REIBA.

Research on Tsimane Language and Culture: During the week of **August 14-20**, anthropologists **Azaruj Justel and Agustina Morando** of the **National Scientific and Technical Research Council of Argentina (CONICET)** conducted ethnographic research with the Tsimane people of the Maniqui Alto River.



During the anthropologists' stay, I also went up to other communities along the river to continue this field work.

REIBA AISHALTON – GUYANA

NARRATIVE BY: REIBA LOCAL COMMUNITY



As REIBA Guyana, we are pleased to announce that work on the Wapichan ecological calendar continues. Sessions were held in two communities with knowledge holders and community members to update and review the calendar and then work on developing knowledge cards to complement the calendar.



We are so encouraged to see community members come together and carry this project forward!

Ready for the new academic year! On Monday, **August 25th and Tuesday, August 26th**, we held a workshop for our Intercultural Bilingual Education Program teams. This workshop brought together intercultural bilingual educators from **Aishalton, Sawariwau, Maruranau and Karaudarnau** to evaluate the past academic year and prepare for the new one.

It was an excellent opportunity for teachers to share their experiences and learn from each other about best practices to implement in the classroom.



Teachers were able to share their experiences teaching IBE classes using inquiry-based approaches. The workshop focused on modeling lessons, designing assessment tools, and sharing best practices. The purpose of education and our holistic approach were also reflected upon. We are very proud and grateful to all the teachers and parents who are embracing this new educational model, which is now in its seventh year and is bearing fruit.



REIBA SAN ANTONIO DE LOMERIO - BOLIVIA

NARRATIVE BY: TEACHERS OF THE E.U. JUNE 13



On the morning of **August 8th**, the District Director of Education, **Mr. Ignacio Sumami**, met with Ms. Ana Gabriela Jimenez to update us on the progress of the EFT projects we have been implementing at the "June 13" Educational Unit and to find the best way to motivate the team in developing the Ecological Calendar module to ensure its continuity.

In the afternoon, **Professor Ignacio Pocoena** and **Professor Pedro** from the IBE materials team also met with her at the school for an in-person workshop on how our IBE materials fit into the curriculum. They also reviewed the workbooks to correct, modify, and further develop them.



Later, the linguistic revitalization group held their workshop, where **teachers Juana Pocoena, Petrona Guasace and Luisa Suárez** decided to use numbers in Bes+ro as a common theme for the following strategy, coordinating it with mathematics and social sciences.



These two workshops sought to help integrate the IBE materials developed with the curriculum's own subjects and their respective phonetics and playful teaching through the revitalization strategies already shared by Lic. Karina Sullón.

On the morning of **August 9th**, a meeting was organized by the municipality and the Catholic Church where **Fr. Adalid Ordóñez**, Chancellor of the Bishop of the Apostolic Vicariate of Nuflo de Chávez, together with **Fr. Roberto Tomichá**, Director of the Department of Missiology at the Bolivian Catholic University, and **Mr. Juan Urañavi Yeroqui**, member of CEAMA Bolivia, presented to the authorities about the importance of the Cabildos in the preservation of indigenous cultures, knowledge, and identity.



PARA FORTALECER LOS CABILDOS INDIGENALES CHIQUITANOS

- 1.- Reconocer y dinamizar el nexo de Cabildos Chiquitanos con la Iglesia Católica en el contexto del Sínodo, como organizaciones e instituciones más antiguas de las comunidades.
- 2.- Ayudarles a hacer vida a los documentos existentes de la Iglesia Católica referente a los pueblos nativos y las normas civiles.
- 3.- Documentar a los Cabildos Indigenales para sus funciones en las comunidades.
- 4.- Brindar apoyo para su mejor organización y acción en la comunidad.
- 5.- Brindar formación Integral para el buen desempeño de los Cabildos en la sociedad.



As a Church, we began the season of **First Communion**, where many of our students received the body and blood of our Lord for the first time. This year, to highlight our identity, everyone was required to wear traditional Chiquitano attire for this significant occasion.

REIBA KIRIGUETI - PERU

NARRATIVE BY: MARIA HILDA OLIVA (REIBA VOLUNTEER)

In the Kirigueti community, various activities were held from **August 15 to 21** to commemorate **the anniversary of the Monsignor Javier Ariz Educational Institution**.



Various events were held, including a marathon, soccer games, a food fair, drawing and painting exhibitions, dances, ancestral games, poetry, singing, a torchlit parade, and an entertaining knowledge competition attended by both primary and secondary school students and teachers. The event concluded with a Mass and a fellowship lunch.

REIBA DICARO - ECUADOR

NARRATIVE BY: MARTHA CHÁVEZ (REIBA VOLUNTEER)



From **August 4th to 7th**, bilingualism and mathematics workshops were held with professors **Montaluisa** and **Catalina** from the Salesian University, with the participation of Waorani, Shuar, and Kichwa students. They participated in various activities related to their spirituality, thereby strengthening their personal commitment to their own teacher training.

Also with Salesian students, an in-person English workshop was held from **August 7th to 10th** with Professor Christian. It was an opportunity to continue strengthening English pronunciation and writing skills.



Professor Apauki Flores (a professor at Amawtay Wasi University) arrived in Dicaro on **August 9th** and took the opportunity to get to know the community. In the afternoon, he introduced himself and spoke about the **importance of educating young people and protecting culture and territory, as well as education as a form of resistance**.

We are pleased to share that student **Néstor Huepera** submitted his community project on **August 10th** as part of the Amawtay Wasi University curriculum. These educational spaces, consisting of in-person community activities, aim to enable students to learn in, with, and for the community, in addition to permanently and respectfully connecting students with their cultural knowledge and the content they receive at the university.



Professor Apauki Flores participated in the exhibition of Nestor's work on **August 10th** at the "**Ayebe**" women's home, which will be graded by the women's board and Professor Apauki Flores.

Professor Apauki participated with the community through cultural activities, including songs, dances, the history of the formation of the "Ayebe" association, and their work in craft making. This activity concludes the third semester of the Sustainable Rural Community Tourism program.



Egamo students **Magaly Tega** and **Were Laura Baihua** have completed their leveling course at Amawtay Wasi University and are successfully moving on to the first semester of their Community Communications degree.



We thank God for this new experience and for the boldness of these young women who continue working to defend their territory and culture.

This month, we had the blessing of having two Lauritas sisters come to the community, **Sister Consuelo** and **Sister Libia**. With them, we were able to organize several activities, such as meeting with the children's group, a space where we shared our faith, values, and Waorani myths, and strengthened cultural elements.



A group of pre-adolescents was also invited to reflect on the value of responsibility.

We gathered for a prayer with the community, giving thanks to God for the gift of life, illuminating this moment with the Word and wisdom of our grandparents.

From **August 25th to 27th**, we held our **"vacation course"** in the mornings, a meeting with the children of the community.



With great joy and enthusiasm, they participated by reading a myth and then sharing their reflections. Then, we drew, listened to music, and enjoyed games which sought to strengthen teamwork.



These activities were made possible through the artistic creativity and energy of the Waorani children. It was a space to encourage them to continue valuing their culture, their roots, and what their elders have told them.

CENTRAL COORDINATION

The **Extension Course on Indigenous Peoples and Territoriality began on August 1, 2025**: This is a training space for Indigenous Causes and Traditional Communities. It began with a virtual master class taught by **Dr. Silvio Bará**, anthropologist, researcher, scientist, ecologist, and postdoctoral fellow in social anthropology.

CURSO DE EXTENSÃO POVOS ORIGINÁRIOS E TERRITORIALIDADE:

FORMAÇÃO PARA AS CAUSAS INDÍGENAS E COMUNIDADES TRADICIONAIS

AULA MAGNA 01.08
VIRTUAL 18H

DR. SILVIO BARÁ

Anthropologist, Researcher, Scientist, Ecologist, Postdoctoral Fellow in Social Anthropology

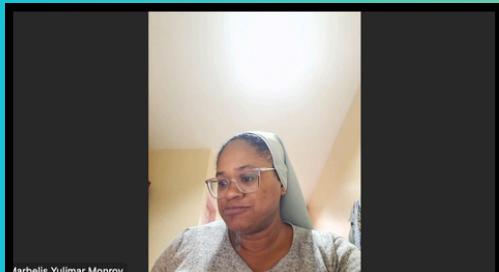


The course is a joint initiative of the Archdiocese of Manaus, the Amazon Service for Action, Reflection and Socio-Environmental Education (SARES), the Indigenous Missionary Council (CIMI), the Coordinator of Indigenous Peoples of Manaus and Surrounding Areas (COPIME), the Indigenous Pastoral Ministry (PIAMA), the Integral Ecology Commission, the Observatory of Socio-Environmental Law and Human Rights of the Federal University of Amazonas (UFAM), the Pan-Amazonian Ecclesial Network (REPAM), the Amazonian Intercultural Bilingual Education Network (REIBA), and the Lauritas Missionaries.



It is aimed at individuals who wish to learn about the reality of Indigenous peoples and traditional communities in the urbanized context of Manaus. Its main objective is to train volunteer workers to support the struggles of Indigenous peoples and traditional communities in the municipality of Manaus and its surrounding areas. The course will be certified by the Catholic Faculty of Amazonas (FCA). Classes are held in person every Saturday in August and September, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Manaus time, in the auditorium of the Catholic Faculty of Amazonas.

CENTRAL COORDINATION



Marbelis Yulimar Monroy



Ana Gabriela - REIBA

Sister Marbelis Monroy and Ana Gabriela Jimenez met on the afternoon of **August 13** to organize the materials to be shared about REIBA during the Meeting of Bishops of the Amazon, with the goal of encouraging more people to join the mission in one way or another.

The materials included: informational brochures about the network, the thematic training meetings, and the projects they carry out.

MEETING OF BISHOPS OF THE AMAZON BOGOTÁ - AUGUST 18-20

On the first day of the Meeting, during the small group sessions, the bishops, religious sisters, and guests shared the progress, difficulties, and challenges experienced in their ecclesial jurisdictions with a view to gradually finding solutions or responses to these challenges, with the intervention of the Holy Spirit.

In the sharing spaces included in the meeting's agenda, Sister Marbelys Monroy was able to meet with all the bishops of the vicariates where REIBA carries out missions to share a little about the current situation of both the local teams, volunteers, and the support for strengthening the education that is being provided.



CENTRAL COORDINATION



During the second day, we were able to share the previously organized materials, which specifically explained our mission, objectives, and the projects we are carrying out. These documents were distributed in Spanish, Portuguese, and English. Many of the bishops expressed interest in learning more about the network and its involvement in the Amazon.

Our president, Bishop David Martínez, who is also a member of REIBA Kirigueti, participated in the meeting. Other bishops representing other REIBAs also participated, including:

Bishop Adalberto Jiménez (REIBA Dicaro)
 Bishop Moacir Goulart (REIBA Silvayacu)
 Bishop Eugenio Coter (REIBA Misión Fátima)
 Bishop Francis Alleyne (REIBA Guyana)
 Bishop Raimundo Vanthuy (REIBA Iauaretê)
 Bishop Joselito Carreño (REIBA Colombia – Vicariate of Inírida)

Among the topics shared by the bishops, the importance of the work REIBA has been doing in various areas was highlighted. One of these was the recovery of ancestral knowledge, especially through the development of the Ecological Calendar.

The need to learn native languages through appropriate methodology, such as AICLE (Content and Language Integrated Learning), was also emphasized, in order to achieve greater closeness to local communities and thus be a true living gospel for all.



CENTRAL COORDINATION

Visit of the General Coordinator, Sister Marbelis Monroy, to **the REIBAs of Sarrapia, Pueblo Nuevo, Átana and Sejal in Colombia.**



From **August 22 to 27, Sisters Martha Ardila** (REIBA Colombia coordinator) and **Marbelis Monroy** visited the communities of **Sarrapia, Átana, and Pueblo Nuevo, located in the department of Vichada, municipality of Cumaribo, Colombia.** It was a time to listen, evaluate, and plan new ways to support the Indigenous peoples living in these territories.



The **Lauritas missionaries** provide comprehensive support to these communities, including special attention to Intercultural Bilingual Education.

CENTRAL COORDINATION

During these days of sharing and learning, they participated in religious celebrations and community meetings to evaluate the support provided by REIBA over the years. We thank everyone for these meaningful and hopeful days.



On **August 29th**, the **Sejal Intercultural Educational Institution** organized a kite festival with its students. The event provided an opportunity to interact with students and teachers from different classes, as well as to exchange knowledge and share experiences. We congratulate all the teaching and administrative staff for this important initiative in the learning process.

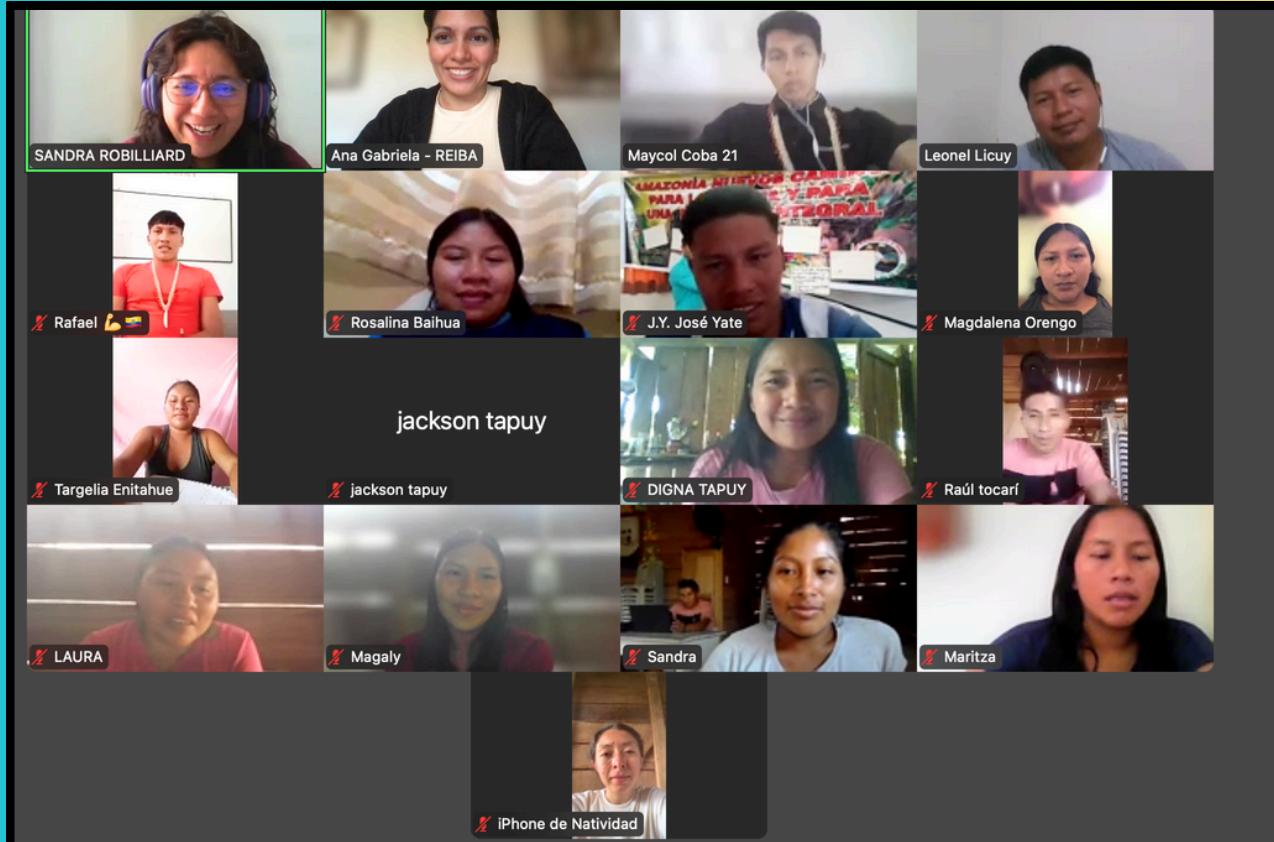


IBE COMMISSION

SPANISH CLASSES – JULY 2025



REIBA DICARO (ECUADOR)



On **August 1st**, Waorani and Kiwcha students from REIBA Dicaro learned about connectives and their uses in oral and written narratives during Spanish classes taught by Lic. Sandra Robilliard. As in previous classes, participatory activities were held to assess everyone's understanding.

On **August 29th**, students learned about simple and compound verb tenses through the professor's explanation and an exchange of self-made sentences to help them recognize when to use each tense. Lic. Sandra recommends they continue practicing during their vacation time so they can resume classes in October to deepen their understanding of the subjects of their university programs.

IBE COMMISSION

PERSONALIZED CONSULTATIONS – ECOLOGICAL CALENDAR



REIBA SARRAPIA (COLOMBIA)



On **August 4th**, the Kuawai I.E. faculty, along with Sister Carmenza, coordinator of the Local REIBA, received feedback from Professor Grimaldo Rengifo on their work coordinating information from the Piaroa people's ecological calendar with the curriculum. The work was very enriching, and the results of this initial collaboration are expected to be shared in early September.



REIBA MISSION FATIMA (BOLIVIA)



On **August 27**, Alfonso Franco, representing REIBA Mission Fátima, shared with Professor Grimaldo the activities carried out in the community to transmit knowledge to Tsimane children and youth. As this is a mission with a significant lack of teachers, the decision was made to form a communal organic committee structured to implement the ecological calendar.

IBE COMMISSION

PERSONALIZED CONSULTATIONS – IBE MATERIALS DESIGN



REIBA SAN ANTONIO DE LOMERÍO (BOLIVIA)



On **August 8**, Ana Gabriela Jimenez held an in-person workshop on the development of bilingual primers (Spanish - Bes+ro) and their implementation. Professor Ignacio Pocoena and Professor Pedro Chuvéz hosted this workshop, allowing them to continue working on the entire alphabet of their native language using the same format.



REIBA KIRIGUETI (PERU)



On **August 15**, Mary Oliva receives feedback on the work done on the Matsigenka alphabet's generative words. Sister Inés also outlines the steps to follow to complete the bilingual booklet, with a view to its future implementation in the classroom.

IBE COMMISSION

PERSONALIZED CONSULTATIONS - LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION



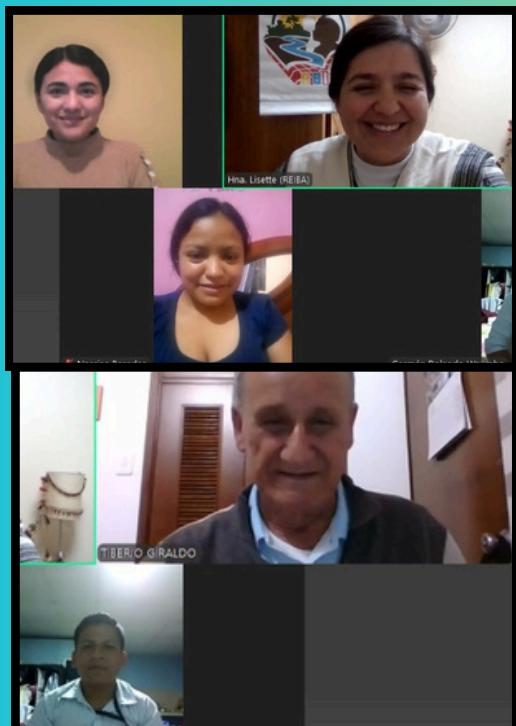
REIBA SAN ANTONIO DE LOMERÍO (BOLIVIA)



On **August 15th**, teachers Juana Pocoena, Luisa Suarez, Petrona Guasace, and Carmen Pocoena, along with local coordinator Victor Hugo Figueroa, discuss with Lic. Karina Sullón the implementation of the strategy for teaching colors at Bes+ro and the first integration with mathematics using the phonetics of numbers in the native language.



REIBA SILVAYACU (ECUADOR)



On **August 18**, Brother Tiberio, along with Professor Narcisa and Mr. Rolando, who is in charge of the bilingual schools, received their first consultation on strategies for linguistic revitalization in the classroom. During this first meeting, a brief discussion was shared about the linguistic reality and how it is addressed by the Educational Institute. We hope that for the next consultation, a greater number of teachers can join the project so that it can have a greater impact on the revitalization of Kiwcha.

IBE COMMISSION

PERSONALIZED CONSULTATIONS - AICLE



REIBA WIJINT (PERU)



On **August 28**, teachers from the Noimiat Achuar Educational Institute, along with Sister Maruja, received their first AICLE mentoring session from Lic. Sandra. She used questions to identify the current language barriers, identifying that understanding Spanish is the greatest difficulty for Achuar students. She also presented the AICLE methodology as a tool for teaching Spanish through curriculum development.



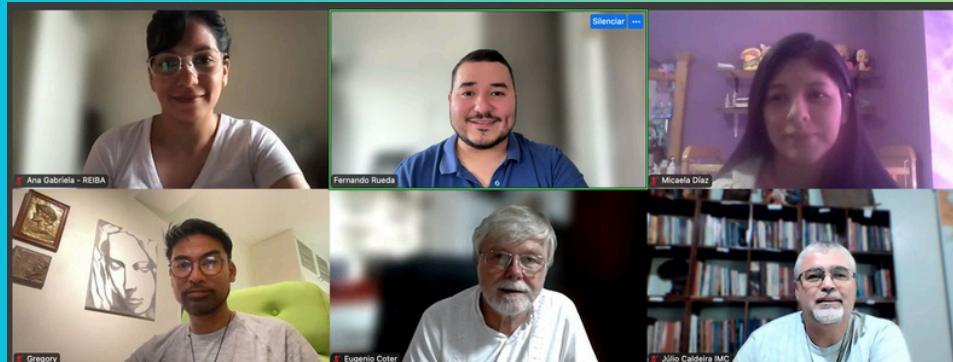
REIBA KIRIGUETI (PERU)



On **August 29**, Mary, along with several elementary school teachers and a secondary school teacher, received instructions on how to develop an AICLE lesson, starting with basic vocabulary, a comprehension check, game dynamics, and finally a short assessment. We are hopeful that they will be able to share their experience through videos at the next consultation.

COMMUNICATION COMMISSION

On **August 1**, continuing the joint work with CEAMA-REPAM, Ana Gabriela Jimenez of the Communications Commission held a meeting with Fernando Rueda of CEAMA, Bishop Eugenio Coter, Father Julio Caldeira of Brazil, Micaela Díaz of Bolivia, and Gregory of Suriname to finalize the designation of roles and responsibilities for the Meeting of Bishops of the Amazon, which took place in Bogotá from August 18 to 20.



During the month of August, posts on REIBA's official social media channels focused on photographs showcasing the recovery of knowledge that has been shared across the various REIBAS since the beginning of the Thematic Formational Sessions (EFTs).



COMMUNICATION COMMISSION



On **August 13th**, the communications commission, composed of Sisters Marbelis Monroy, Lisette Escárate, Ana Cristina, JoAnn., Sydney Stewart, and Ana Gabriela Jimenez, met to evaluate the first semester and, in turn, to plan and coordinate the work of this second semester with a view to maintaining the dynamic of posting on social media and on the website in three languages. We are grateful for the voluntary and generous work of all the committee members. May God continue to illuminate their paths in spreading the mission!



From **August 18th to 21st**, the Meeting of Bishops of the Amazon was held, where Ana Gabriela Jimenez, communications coordinator, participated. Together with Fernando Rueda of CEAMA, representatives of REPAM, CLAR and the AEC, they formed the communications team for this meeting, with the sole purpose of reporting on what was happening at such a significant moment for the Amazonian Church through newsletters, photograms, videos and others.



TOGETHER WE WEAVE THE WEB



DONATIONS FOR REIBA

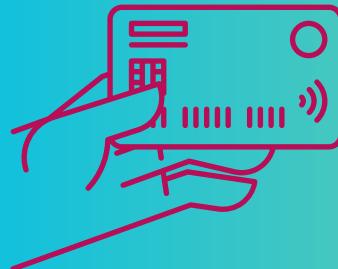
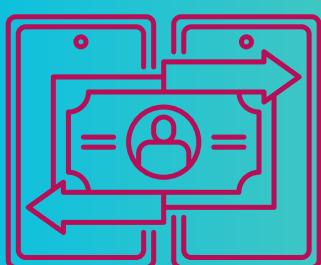


Completing 5 years, REIBA continues to weave our network and expand our impact on Amazonian indigenous education.

Help us in our mission for indigenous education!

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