BAITS



Mylinda Baits

LANGUAGE

Spanish

MINISTRY PRIORITIES

Training and
Capacity Building,
Peace and Justice,
Health and Wellness,
Abolishing Global Slavery

BIRTHDAY

9/28







MYLINDA is a pastoral artist and trainer. Serving as a global consultant for training through restorative arts, she partners with International Ministries' colleagues, national church leadership and social change organizations to seek justice, healing and transformation through restorative art and creative expression.

Compelled by Jesus' prayer that the kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven, Mylinda creates spaces where servant leaders and those who do the hard work of rescue, relief and restoration can be nurtured and renewed. As sinner and saint, she sees beauty in broken places, wonder in wounded people and life in loving God and others.





Raul, Kendall, and Katy, participants of our Encrucijadas training program, enjoy body movement exercise as they explore collaboration and nonverbal communication.



MINISTRY STORY

Singing, dancing, storytelling and playing games may not sound like a serious training event to some, but many of the participants who attend our arts-based trauma training courses would disagree. Kendall, a seminary student and lead program director for a youth program serving undocumented asylum seekers, mentioned that he had never experienced so many powerful "aha" moments and connections with others during a capacitybuilding workshop. Together we explore the impact of trauma on the body, mind, spirit and relationships and how the arts can help us reconnect with ourselves, others and God.

The arts can remind us of the good and beauty of which humankind, together with God, is capable. Art comforts us. By surrendering to the beauty of poetry or music, we give our wounded psyches a much-needed break from our communal anxiety. Art can help us understand and express our own emotions, and making art reminds us of our own agency when we feel powerless. Art can give us hope. The arts transcend boundaries of language, nationality, and religion, helping us see beyond ourselves and connect with

others. Singing and dancing together confirms our sense of community. The training courses are oftentimes loud and silly, and they are also a place where significant learning and reflection happen as we explore how partnering with the Divine Creator in transformative acts can both hold and heal us. I'm honored to serve, sing, move, play and praise God with God's beautiful, diverse and resilient people around the world.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for the leaders in Cuba, that their expressive arts ministries will flourish.

Pray that our Expressive Arts in Transition pilot project will equip facilitators to serve their communities well.

Pray that I will continue to seek healing and wholeness in Christ as I share it with others.

SCRIPTURE

"You turn my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent. Lord my God, I will praise you forever."

Psalm 30:11-12 (NIV)

