

## HEGARTY



Sue  
Hegarty

**COSTA RICA**

### LANGUAGE

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

assist with ministry projects. She also works with Nicaraguan immigrant women, many of whom are dealing with situations of domestic violence, at the same time as they are starting over again in a new country. Sue provides assistance with issues such as legalizing their status, housing, skill-training, and education, as well as providing emotional and spiritual support for these women and their children.

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Bible study participants fellowship at Sue's house.

## “ MINISTRY STORY

“I want to join,” Ura told me excitedly, as I explained about the Bible studies on biblical women that I was leading via Zoom. As I spoke about Tamar, of Jesus’ genealogy, she exclaimed, “Yes, people don’t always understand our choices, because of how desperate we are.” Based on the reactions to the studies from the church mission and the immigrant women with whom I work, their realities obviously parallel the desperate situations of these biblical women.

As the COVID situation lessened and things opened up in Costa Rica, I was able to open my home to hold a Bible study with the women and their teenage daughters (while a son took care of the kids in the backyard). The teenagers responded well and actively participated in the study, while their mothers were less open. I finally figured it out: they never finished elementary school and can’t read very well. This has led to two things: helping them get tutoring in order to pass their state exams for sixth grade; and, in the meantime, rewriting the studies to

include activities so that people who don’t read well can still participate more fully.

This is just part of accompanying these immigrant women as they overcome trauma from domestic violence, learn coping skills and new ways of thinking, grow spiritually, and gain legal status in the country. God’s love is changing their lives on many levels as they build healthy families.

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## PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray as I continue to write more Bible studies and refine them so that they will effectively reach many people in Costa Rica.

Pray for perseverance as Nicaraguan immigrant women pursue tutoring to pass their elementary school-level exam.

Please pray for all the women suffering domestic violence in Costa Rica.

Pray for the Talita Cumi program that mentors at-risk girls facilitated in Costa Rica by the Baptist Federation Women and IM global servants.

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## SCRIPTURE

*“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.”*

Psalm 119:105 (NIV)