



# ABELINES - SAN MIGUEL REGION

## ANNUAL REPORT 2013





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*ENLACE's first experience in this mountainous northeastern region of El Salvador called Morazan was in the communities surrounding the hamlet of Abelines. Abelines is comprised of 11 remote villages, which have a combined estimated population of over 12,000 people. The average resident has a third-grade education and is involved in small-scale subsistence farming. A recent study showed that most residents eat meat one time per month and eat vegetables one time per week. Cornmeal makes up most of their diet. More than 75% live in extreme poverty, making less than \$1 dollar per day.*

*Due to the profound impact that servant-leader churches have made in the Abelines area, the region was expanded to include three more churches in the adjacent province of San Miguel. As a result, there are now five new churches near the towns of Ciudad Barrios and Moncagua that are active partners with ENLACE, potentially impacting more than 100,000 people*



● Approximate area of impact





## Piedra Angular Church, Abelines



Piedra Angular Church is a rural congregation of 107 members, 34 of whom are leaders. Pastored by the quietly dynamic leadership of Pastor Victorio Paz, the church began its partnership with ENLACE in 2001 and was the first local church partner in Abelines proper.

The work of this church has had a revolutionary impact on its immediate village and the entire region. Historically, the area has never had access to health care or clean water and only a few people had sanitation facilities. In the years since working with ENLACE, access to clean water has increased from 1% to 79% and access and use of latrines has increased from 33% to 93%. The radical transformation of Abelines lead by this congregation has inspired dozens of other churches to seek training and partnership with ENLACE. Pastor Victorio also serves as a member of ENLACE's Pastoral Steering Committee. The church has grown by 16% in recent years and has directly impacted more than 1,000 people.

### PROJECT REPORT 2013

Project	Goal	Actual	Comments
Pedestrian bridge	Design and fund	Designed, pending funding	The church has been working to connect in significant ways to local funding along with local organizations. This process can often slow a project, but in the long-run is most effective. The bridge will serve 1,500 people.
Home construction	Design and fund 10 homes	Completed	10 homes that will benefit 50 people will be built in 2014.
Latrines	Design and fund 45 pit latrines	Designed, funding in progress	Preventive health education and maintenance training included; will benefit 225 people.



cont...



# CHURCH PARTNER PROFILES

Piedra Angular Church cont.

## IDENTIFIED PROJECTS FOR 2014

Project	Goal	Budget	Comments
Pedestrian bridge	Fund and build	TBD	
Home construction	10 homes	Funded	10 homes will benefit 50 people.
Latrines	45 pit latrines	\$13,500	Preventive health education and maintenance training included; will benefit 225 people.



### Siloé Church, Sirigual

Siloé Church is a rural congregation of 150 members, 36 of whom are leaders. In 2008 its pastor, Virgilio Ramos, learned about ENLACE through conversations with Pastor Victorio Paz from Abelines who encouraged him to serve those in need in his community.

When Pastor Virgilio first began working with ENLACE, he was apprehensive and unsure of how his congregation would respond. As ENLACE walked the church through leadership training and as the church started connecting to community associations and working with neighbors on projects, Pastor Virgilio said it became clear that he and his church had the strong desire to serve those in need. In addition to implementing home garden and latrine projects, the church has currently taken the lead on a major bridge project that will benefit nine communities. As part of the project, the church is collaborating with the mayor's office and all nine community associations. Their servant-leadership has profoundly impacted their area. The church has grown by 35% and is impacting 2,100 people on an ongoing basis.





Siloé Church cont.

## PROJECT REPORT 2013

Project	Goal	Actual	Comments
Bridge	Design and fund	Design in evaluation	Bridge will benefit 6,000 people in 4 communities.
Home construction	11 homes	Completed	Built 11 homes, benefiting 55 people.
Latrines	50 composting latrines	Funding in progress	The church has been working to connect in significant ways to local funding. This project will include preventive health education and maintenance training; will benefit 200 people.
Water tank repair and expansion	Design	Design in progress	Once the design is complete, a perimeter wall will be added and repairs to cracks in the tank will be made.
Eco-stoves	50 eco-stoves	70 eco-stoves	Construction of 70 eco-stoves included training and benefited 350 people.

## IDENTIFIED PROJECTS FOR 2014

Project	Goal	Budget	Comments
Bridge over El Dante River	Design and fund	TBD	Bridge will benefit 6,000 people in 4 communities.
Home construction	10 homes	TBD	These new homes will benefit 10 families or approximately 50 people.
Latrines	50 composting latrines	\$25,000	Preventive health education and maintenance training included; will benefit 200 people.
Water tank repair and expansion	Complete design	TBD	Perimeter wall and repairs are needed.
Road repair	Design and fund	TBD	El Copinol street repair.



## Getsemaní Church, Pajigua

Getsemaní Church is a congregation of 60 members, 12 of whom are tremendously passionate leaders. Some of the church's leaders worked as members of the health committee in Abelines and after witnessing the incredible transformation there led by the Piedra Angular Church, they wanted to serve their community in the same way. They encouraged their church's pastor at the time, Andrés Membreño, to contact ENLACE, and in 2008 a partnership began. In 2011, Nelson Paz became the new pastor and he remains committed to the same vision.

With ENLACE's guidance, the church has helped organize the Community Association, created a housing committee, and established relationships with a variety of other organizations including World Vision, World Food Program and the local government. Some of the first projects they completed are latrine construction, home gardens and a primary school building addition. As their passion for service has grown, their relationship to their neighbors has been strengthened. The church is impacting 1,321 people on an ongoing basis.

### PROJECT REPORT 2013

Project	Goal	Actual	Comments
Latrines	40 pit latrines	25 latrines	Due to lack of funds, only 25 latrines were built; provided preventive health education and maintenance training to 125 people.
Water system (phase 1)	Design and fund	Design in progress	This stage includes a water tank construction and an expansion of the water system. The church is waiting for the community to approve the design.
Road repair	Repair 200 meters of a main road	Design in progress	Once design is complete, the road will be paved in 2014 benefiting 438 people.



Getsemani Church cont.

## IDENTIFIED PROJECTS FOR 2014

Project	Goal	Budget	Comments
Latrines	30 pit latrines	\$9,000	Preventive health education and maintenance training included; will benefit 150 people.
Water system (phase 1)	Complete design and fund	TBD	Project budget pending the finished design.
Road repair	Complete design and repair road	TBD	Lay stone foundation and pave 656 ft. of road; will benefit 438 people. Project budget pending the finished design.



### Emanuel Church, El Triunfo

Emanuel Church is a congregation of 43 members, eight of whom are leaders. In 2009 their pastor, Orlando Andrade, heard about ENLACE through conversations with Pastor Victorio Paz from Abelines.

As a result of working with World Vision and the local mayor's office, the church already had a close relationship with its community. ENLACE helped to strengthen these existing relationships by assisting the church to improve its organizational capacity and integration with community leaders and families. ENLACE also helped the church to establish new relationships with the Community Association, the Ministry of Health, and the local public school. As a result of these new and strengthened connections, the roof of the public school was repaired keeping over 200 students safe from the elements, a U.S. medical team was hosted with the local health committee which provided exams for 360 people, and 10 new adobe homes were constructed for severely impoverished families. The church has grown by 8% and is impacting 330 people.

cont...



Emanuel Church cont.

## PROJECT REPORT 2013

Project	Goal	Actual	Comments
Latrines	20 composting latrines	Funding in progress	Preventive health education and maintenance training will be included benefiting 100 people.
Pedestrian bridge	Design and fund	Design in progress	Bridge will benefit 400 people.
Home construction	5 homes	Completed	The construction of 10 homes started in 2012 and ended with these 5 homes in 2013 benefiting 43 people.
Water system	Design and fund	Design pending	Construction of water tank and water distribution system is pending approval of the community.

## IDENTIFIED PROJECTS FOR 2014

Project	Goal	Budget	Comments
Latrines	20 composting latrines	\$11,000	Preventive health education and maintenance training included; will benefit 100 people.
Pedestrian bridge	Design and fund	TBD	Bridge will benefit 400 people.
Water system	Design and fund	TBD	Construction of water tank and water distribution system.



## Dios de la Profecía Church, La Estancia

Dios de la Profecía Church is a dynamic congregation of 92 members, 26 of whom are leaders. In 2009 Pastor Walter Herrera learned about ENLACE through his friendship with the leaders of Piedra Angular Church in Abelines and decided to become a partner. Soon after, David Martinez became the church pastor. For two years he worked alongside the church's passionate leadership team and in a partnership with ENLACE. Pastor Walter Herrera returned in 2012 and continues to lead the church with passion and enthusiasm.

Previously, the church had identified some urgent needs in the community and had begun to build relationships with community organizations. With the help of ENLACE, the church further developed these relationships and also helped bring together organizations such as the Community Association and the Ministry of Health. As a result, the church and community worked together to open a medical clinic that provides care for residents of La Estancia and other neighboring communities. The clinic was expanded this year in order to meet the growing demand for its services. Not only does the clinic serve the people in La Estancia proper but also many surrounding communities. The church has grown by 31% and is impacting 1,300 people.

### PROJECT REPORT 2013

Project	Goal	Actual	Comments
Water tank	Design, fund and construct new water tank	Design complete, fundraising in progress	Project will benefit 2,000 people.
Medical assistance	2,500 patients	1,700 patients	Due to lack of funds, the desired number of patients per week had to be decreased; 35 consultations per week were provided; church hopes to provide more in 2014 pending funding.
Medical clinic restroom	Design and fund	Design in progress	The church is designing and in process of getting health permits.



Dios de la Profecía Church cont.

## IDENTIFIED PROJECTS FOR 2014

Project	Goal	Budget	Comments
Water tank	Design, fund and construct new water tank	TBD	Will benefit 2,000 people.
Medical assistance	2,500 patients	\$26,098	200 Medical consultations per week (46 weeks).
Medical clinic restroom	Complete design and fund	TBD	
Classroom construction	Add one classroom on to local public school	TBD	





## Apóstoles y Profetas Church, San Antonio El Mosco

Apóstoles y Profetas Church is an enthusiastic, urban congregation of 90 members, 12 of whom are leaders. In 2009 their pastor, Tereso Jurado, became intrigued by the work of the churches in Abelines. He decided to approach ENLACE to develop a strategy that would help his church work in its community in a similar way.

Despite being located in one of the poorest municipalities in El Salvador, the church (comprised of congregants who are also extremely poor themselves) has found a way to make a great impact. The church has built relationships with other organizations such as Compassion International. They have also worked with the Ministry of Health and developed a particularly strong relationship with their local mayor's office. Together with these entities, they have implemented projects such as latrines and health education programs. As part of the latrine project, the church helped to support and empower the Community Association, and Pastor Tereso now serves as its president. The church is impacting 2,000 people on an ongoing basis.

### PROJECT REPORT 2013

Project	Goal	Actual	Comments
Latrines	40 latrines	Fundraising in progress	Preventive health education and maintenance training will be included benefiting 200 people.
Public restrooms	Design and build public restrooms	Design in progress	The church is working with the community and local authorities to design and build restrooms at the local park.
Home construction	10 homes	In progress	9 homes were completed, 1 is in progress and will be finished in 2014; 55 people have benefited from new homes.
Nutrition and agricultural assistance	School home garden project	Completed	Technical training for students was provided.



Apóstoles y Profetas Church cont.  
**IDENTIFIED PROJECTS FOR 2014**

Project	Goal	Budget	Comments
Latrines	40 latrines	\$20,000	Preventive health education and maintenance training included; will benefit 200 people.
Public restrooms	Public restrooms	TBD	The church is working with the community and local authorities to design and build restrooms at the local park.
Home construction	1 home	TBD	With the completion of this home, the project of 10 homes benefiting 50 people will be completed.

### Jerusalén Church, El Cerro



Jerusalén Church is a rural, service-minded congregation of 140 members, 28 of whom are leaders. In 2011 its pastor, Carlos Hernández, learned about ENLACE through conversations with Pastor Tereso Jurado from nearby San Antonio El Mosco who encouraged him to reach out and serve the community.

Pastor Carlos volunteered as a member of the Community Association for 10 years and also served as a member of the local water board that worked to bring clean water to the community. As a founding member of these organizations, Pastor Carlos already had close ties with the community. When the church began implementing projects this year, these relationships were strengthened as new connections were built with additional organizations and community members. The church is impacting 748 people on an ongoing basis.

cont...

# CHURCH PARTNER PROFILES



Jerusalén Church cont.

## PROJECT REPORT 2013

Project	Goal	Actual	Comments
Latrines	50 composting latrines	Fundraising in progress	Preventive health education and maintenance training included; will benefit 250 people.
Home construction	20 homes	Fundraising in progress	Will benefit 100 people.

## IDENTIFIED PROJECTS FOR 2014

Project	Goal	Budget	Comments
Latrines	50 composting latrines	\$27,500	Preventive health education and maintenance training included; will benefit 250 people.
Home construction	20 homes	TBD	Construction of 20 homes will benefit 100 people.
Road repair	Design and fund	TBD	This road provides access to water sources and needs repair.





## Sendero de Dios Church, El Platanar



Sendero de Dios Church is a passionate congregation of 120 members, 24 of whom are leaders. After seeing the impact of the Dios de la Profecía Church in La Estancia, the church wanted to reach out to its community in a similar way. Under the guidance of its pastor Gerson Rodriguez, who has a strong vision and passionate heart to serve others, the church had previously led many projects such as road construction, home repairs, pedestrian stair/walkway, food assistance and the construction of two adobe homes. However, the church wanted to increase its capacity to serve in other ways and asked for coaching from ENLACE. In December of 2011, Pastor Gerson along with four church leaders, attended ENLACE's Annual Pastors and Leaders Retreat which encouraged them on their path of service to their community. The church has grown by 5% and is impacting 1,700 people on an ongoing basis.

### PROJECT REPORT 2013

Project	Goal	Actual	Comments
Pedestrian bridge	Design, fund and build	In progress	Bases and ramps were constructed; metal structure will be built in February 2014; project benefits 5,000 people in 4 communities.

### IDENTIFIED PROJECTS FOR 2014

Project	Goal	Budget	Comments
Pedestrian bridge	Complete building	Funded	
Community center	Design and fund	TBD	
Drainage system	Design and fund	TBD	San Carlos Street, a main road, floods during the rainy season.





## Monte de Sion Church, El Desconsuelo



Monte de Sion Church is a small congregation of 39 members, 13 of whom are leaders. In 2011 Pastor José Salvador Rosales learned about ENLACE through his friendship with Pastor Gerson Rodriguez whose church had already begun partnering with ENLACE. The church is impacting 300 people on an ongoing basis.

### PROJECT REPORT 2013

Project	Goal	Actual	Comments
Public laundry and water retaining system	Design and fund	Design in progress	Small cement tanks will capture spring water and cement slab tables will be used to wash clothes.
Road drainage	Build culverts on the main road	Design in progress	

### IDENTIFIED PROJECTS FOR 2014

Project	Goal	Budget	Comments
Public laundry and water retaining system	Complete design, fund and build	TBD	Small cement tanks will capture spring water and cement slab tables will be used to wash clothes.
Road drainage	Build culverts on the main road	TBD	The design of the project and funding is still to be determined.
Pedestrian bridge	Design and fund	TBD	Pedestrian bridge will connect La Fragua with El Desconsuelo.



## Eden Church, Nuevo Eden de San Juan

Eden Church is a congregation of 71 members, 28 of whom are leaders. In 2011 Pastor Isidro Santos Reyes heard about ENLACE from a neighboring church and sought help in order to enhance what his church was already doing in its community. Despite suffering from a visual disability, Pastor Isidro is a dynamic and enthusiastic leader who has conveyed a strong vision of service to his congregation. They have been actively providing food and home repair to the poorest in their community and will continue to broaden their outreach. The church has grown by 13% in recent years and has directly impacted more than 5,400 people.

### IDENTIFIED PROJECTS FOR 2014

Project	Goal	Actual	Comments
Latrines	25 pit latrines	\$7,500	Preventive health education and maintenance training included; will benefit 100 people.
Home construction	10 homes	TBD	Construction of 10 homes, will benefit 50 people



## Luz en Tu Senda Church, Ciudad Barrios

The Luz en Tu Senda Church is a congregation of 90 members 24 of whom are leaders. In 2011 its pastor, Pablo Rodriguez, learned about ENLACE through conversations with a pastor of a neighboring church in Sirigual. The church has grown by 80% in recent years and have directly impacted more than 1,500 people.

### IDENTIFIED PROJECTS FOR 2014

Project	Goal	Actual	Comments
Water system	Design and fund	TBD	
Pedestrian bridge	Design and fund	TBD	Pedestrian bridge will cross over the San Lucas River.



*Eleven new churches began to partner with ENLACE this year. Each partner had a strong passion to serve its communities and began with ENLACE’s coaching and training program. Through workshops, seminars and hands-on activities, church pastors and members are prepared to become effective servant-leaders in their communities.*

*During this initial stage in ENLACE’s coaching and training program, the ENLACE coach focuses on the first three (of six) iterative stages in the yearly church-coaching process:*

*Discover -- Organize -- Listen -- Partner -- Embody -- Replicate*

*Each area is designed to help prepare a church, new to community development, to understand itself as a redemptive agent of change, explore its community, and reach out to its neighbors effectively. Such preparation maximizes the effectiveness of future projects and is extremely important to help the partner reach its fullest future potential.*



## El Shaddai



<b>Location:</b>	San Miguel
<b>Church founded:</b>	1992
<b>Pastor:</b>	Tito Alfredo Gódinez
<b>Pastoring church since:</b>	1992
<b>ENLACE partner since:</b>	2013
<b>Membership:</b>	84
<b>Leadership:</b>	28
<b>Community partners:</b>	
<b>Community projects implemented:</b>	Food delivery, community cleanup
<b>Potential number of people impacted:</b>	5,600



## Monte Tabor

**Location:** San Gerardo

**Church founded:** 1955

**Pastor:** Carlos Alfredo Castro

**Pastoring church since:** 2012

**ENLACE partner since:** 2013

**Membership:** 125

**Leadership:** 32

**Community partners:**

**Community projects implemented:** Food delivery for the ill and elderly

**Potential number of people impacted:** 5,500



## Rayo de Luz

**Location:** Joya Grande

**Church founded:** 1970

**Pastor:** Elmer García Espinoza

**Pastoring church since:** 2008

**ENLACE partner since:** 2013

**Membership:** 83

**Leadership:** 24

**Community partners:**

**Community projects implemented:** Food delivery

**Potential number of people impacted:** 2,000





## Cristo Viene, Misión Aposento Alto

<b>Location:</b>	San Gerónimo
<b>Church founded:</b>	1996
<b>Pastor:</b>	Wilber Rudi Díaz
<b>Pastoring church since:</b>	2002
<b>ENLACE partner since:</b>	2013
<b>Membership:</b>	62
<b>Leadership:</b>	30
<b>Community partners:</b>	Community Association, mayor's office
<b>Community projects implemented:</b>	Food delivery, assistance and transportation for the ill
<b>Potential number of people impacted:</b>	375



## El Eden

<b>Location:</b>	San José, San Miguel
<b>Church founded:</b>	1980
<b>Pastor:</b>	Juan José Vásquez
<b>Pastoring church since:</b>	1989
<b>ENLACE partner since:</b>	2013
<b>Membership:</b>	40
<b>Leadership:</b>	10
<b>Community partners:</b>	Community Association
<b>Community projects implemented:</b>	Food delivery, road repair
<b>Potential number of people impacted:</b>	5,000





## Nazareth

**Location:** Carolina, San Miguel

**Church founded:**

**Pastor:** Edilson Juárez Deras

**Pastoring church since:** 2012

**ENLACE partner since:** 2012

**Membership:** 140

**Leadership:** 30

**Community partners:** Radio station, public school, mayor's office

**Community projects implemented:** Cleanup of public school, food and clothes delivery, vocational workshops, medical seminars, social service through radio

**Potential number of people impacted:** 7,497



## Peniel

**Location:** Cerro de Arena, Ciudad Barrios

**Church founded:** 1980

**Pastor:** José Luis Romero Guzmán

**Pastoring church since:** 2012

**ENLACE partner since:** 2012

**Membership:** 165

**Leadership:** 18

**Community partners:** Public school, mayor's office

**Community projects implemented:** Cleanup of public school, home construction, monthly financial assistance for elderly

**Potential number of people impacted:** 2,100





## Castillo del Rey

**Location:** San Fernando

**Church founded:** 1968

**Pastor:** Leonidas Hernández Pérez

**Pastoring church since:** 2012

**ENLACE partner since:** 2012

**Membership:** 135

**Leadership:** 37

**Community partners:**

**Community projects implemented:** Medical assistance, food and financial help for people in need

**Potential number of people impacted:** 1,400



## Peniel

**Location:** Torola

**Church founded:** 2010

**Pastor:** Nehemías Hernández

**Pastoring church since:** 2010

**ENLACE partner since:** 2012

**Membership:** 40

**Leadership:** 10

**Community partners:** Public school, mayor's office, Community Association

**Community projects implemented:** Home repair, food for the elderly, cleanup campaign, medical attention, general food assistance

**Potential number of people impacted:** 400



## Roca de Salvación

<b>Location:</b>	San Fernando
<b>Church founded:</b>	2000
<b>Pastor:</b>	José María Argueta
<b>Pastoring church since:</b>	2002
<b>ENLACE partner since:</b>	2013
<b>Membership:</b>	60
<b>Leadership:</b>	28
<b>Community partners:</b>	
<b>Community projects implemented:</b>	Food and clothes delivery
<b>Potential number of people impacted:</b>	200



## Nueva Jerusalem

<b>Location:</b>	Torola
<b>Church founded:</b>	1976
<b>Pastor:</b>	German Reinaldo Claros
<b>Pastoring church since:</b>	2005
<b>ENLACE partner since:</b>	2013
<b>Membership:</b>	113
<b>Leadership:</b>	26
<b>Community partners:</b>	
<b>Community projects implemented:</b>	Food and medical attention for the ill
<b>Potential number of people impacted:</b>	3,042



*In 2013, ENLACE trained and equipped over 485 church leaders from 22 churches and 147 community leaders impacting 654 different communities in the Abelines area. The total area of impact is more than 43,416 people. This essential program consists of ongoing accompaniment through the monthly and often weekly visits made by ENLACE church coaches. They walk alongside the church and community leaders as they implement a variety of projects. The process is self-evaluative and provides continual technical support from ENLACE technicians and coaches. The scope of impact that churches can make through the help of this program is broad and exponential.*

## Number of Local Church Partners:





“The Gospel is not just a matter of words and theory, but of God’s love and compassion in action. The opportunity to work with ENLACE was the moment that all the roads came together.” -Isidro Ramírez

For ENLACE church coach, Isidro Ramirez, the journey to ENLACE began back in high school. At that time, he was not a Christian and had no intention of spending his life serving others. He was no stranger to being poor. He thought that a way out of poverty and a way to make something of his life was through studying. However, after being invited to church by a few classmates, Isidro began to sense a profound change in his heart. Within six months of attending church, his entire perspective about himself and those around him was transformed. As a result, he began to take notice of those in need around him—their poverty, their addictions, their empty experience of life without God. Isidro says that Christ’s love, like the unseen pull of gravity, began to draw him towards people rather than away from them.

This change in perspective meant that his studies were no longer about him. He wanted a vocation that served others and impacted people. His desire to study both agronomy and theology bloomed from this distinct outlook. Isidro began a career as a pastor and as an agronomist, but he wasn’t sure how God would use all his skills and abilities together. To most people—and to most employment opportunities—his skills seemed comically unrelated.

Enter ENLACE. For many years, ENLACE and three local church partners in an extremely poor and remote region of El Salvador called Abelines began to work together. Issues of malnourishment and low income made the introduction of home gardens a fitting project. When Isidro applied for a job at ENLACE, his skills, abilities and studies made him a perfect candidate to help to grow the number of partners in this region. He began working as a Church Coach in 2008 and after five years of Isidro and the team’s hard work, prayer and dedication, there are now 22 partners in this region and a hope to see 26 by the end of 2014.

During this season of growth, ENLACE asked Isidro to help in the San Jose El Naranjo region. Over the years he has been a great inspiration to those pastors and has already helped it grow in a similar way.





"I feel like I came to the place I am meant to be."  
-Fabiola Ramírez

When Fabiola Ramírez was just a girl, God planted a seed in heart to be a missionary. But she had no idea how God was going to bring this about. As a young adult, she began to study international relations, thinking she could have a career and serve God abroad. Upon graduating from her studies, Fabiola began to look for a job, expecting God to take her on a grand global adventure. However, as the job hunt continued with no doors opening to her, she began to doubt God's calling in her life.

Fabiola felt extreme doubt and wondered if perhaps this desire to serve God in this way had really been her own idea after all. But because of the financial needs of her family, she knew she didn't have the luxury of waiting for her ideal employment. The pressure grew and Fabiola was compelled to consider going to the United States to look for a job. She was already fluent in English and even though she did not want to make this kind of move, it seemed the only promising option. It was then that a job opportunity came open at an English-speaking call center in San Salvador. While it was not her dream job, she accepted a position there. At the same time, she also found that her heart was re-awakened to the hope of doing missions someday and enrolled in a theology program with a concentration in missions.

Fabiola worked hard at the call center but at first could not fathom why God would want her there. Eventually, however, she began to see that due to this experience, God was shaping her life in ways she never expected.

After three years of moving up in the ranks while also continuing her missions studies, she heard about ENLACE seeking to hire church coaches. The desire in her heart led her to apply. And just like with the call center job, God began to teach her and mold her way of thinking in a new way.

"My way of seeing missions was to go and help people," said Fabiola when asked about working as a church coach. "However, these were vague ideas. Coming here [to ENLACE] and learning the methodology and working with churches is what the Lord had been talking to me about. [Before] I did not see it clearly but it had always been in my heart. I feel like I came to the place I am meant to be."





"ENLACE is the place where I can apply [my passion]." -Williams Rodríguez

Williams Rodríguez was just 13 when he committed his life to Christ and began to live a life of incredible desire and devotion. As the years progressed, his passion grew until he realized that God had a specific calling on his life.

As a result, Williams enrolled in the Bible Institute in Santa Ana. During those years he became an associate pastor at Cristo Vive Church where he learned about ENLACE. His church began to partner with ENLACE and every time a church coach came to visit his community, he loved learning from them but often found himself wanting to join them as they went out to other communities and churches in the Abelines region. His desire to explore other places and minister to people far and near was a passion he could not deny.

His time came in 2012 when Williams had the opportunity to go on a mission trip to Nicaragua. It was there after ministering to people and then taking some time out to see the rainforest that he felt God's presence. In the silence, surrounded by God's creation, it became clear to him that the strong missionary call could be combined with the kind of work he experienced with ENLACE's training. For Williams this moment was "the step God used, the last link in the chain," that combined his "desire to serve others" with his missionary calling. "ENLACE is the place where I can apply this [passion]" said Williams.

Williams finished his studies at the Bible Institute and began studying Theology at Assemblies of God Christian University with a specialization in Missions. In April 2013, he began to serve as a church coach for ENLACE and could finally travel with other coaches throughout the Abelines and San Miguel region. After a few months of being a church coach, Williams stated, "I'm astonished at the poor conditions in which people can live...but their simplicity, their dedication, their loyalty to God and their passion to help others is incredible; to see all that in the midst of difficulties they face, in the midst of what we call poverty, they give and give from what they have."



# Story of Transformation: Ana Florinda and Her Brighter Future



Ana Florinda Zelaya Villalta was only 21 when she and her husband began a life together and had two children. He was a hardworking entrepreneur with a flourishing small business. Her life was full and happy until her husband was killed, and Ana Florinda went from having a promising life to becoming a widow and single mother. A few years later, she met another man who promised her support and love. They had two children together but not long after, he abandoned Ana Florinda, forcing her to struggle on alone.

Like most rural women who have grown up without the benefit of a formal education, Ana Florinda found herself at 29 years old, a mother of four, illiterate, jobless and with little desire to think about the future. Her fatalism was congruent with a life of poverty, incredible responsibility and daily struggle to survive. The \$15-per-month government assistance she received (a national program for single mothers) didn't even begin to cover the needs of family of five. She worked hard farming corn, but her children needed more than corn tortillas. Along with the lack of daily nourishment and basic needs, she and her children lived in an extremely dilapidated home.

This was the state of Ana Florinda and her children when Siloé Church in the community of Sirigual began to survey its community to find out about to discover the needs. The church worked with the community and planned and designed a building project for Florinda's family and other families in similar situations. They organized work crews, materials and worked alongside community members to build homes.

The church also managed a service team from a church in the U.S. that helped to fund this project. When Crossway Church (New Hampshire) came to Sirigual, they worked alongside the local church and Ana Florinda and her family, constructing her new home. According to Ana Florinda, this incredible moment in which her neighbors and the local church worked alongside an international team of volunteers, breathed into her renewed hope. She said that this experience made her feel loved and cared for like a beloved daughter.

Their new home is not the end of Ana Florinda's story, but rather a beginning toward a much brighter future. The local church which listened to its community and chose to work alongside them, will continue to minister to Ana Florinda and her children, providing them with a real connection to long-term transformation.



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