



# SANTA ANA REGION

## ANNUAL REPORT 2013





	<i>Page</i>
<i>Regional Overview</i>	3
<i>Profiles of Church Partners</i>	4
<i>Nueva Jerusalén Church, Comecayo</i>	4
<i>Zurisadai Church, San Jacinto</i>	5
<i>Arca de Dios Church, El Ranchador</i>	7
<i>Puerta del Cielo Church, El Progreso</i>	9
<i>Cristo Vive Church, La Bendición</i>	11
<i>Puerta del Cielo Church, San Juan Buenavista</i>	12
<i>Monte Horeb Church, La Reforma</i>	13
<i>Casa del Alfarero Church, Chantusnene</i>	14
<i>Bethesda Church, El Potrerillo</i>	16
<i>Canaan Church, Los Pinos</i>	16
<i>Profiles of New Church Partners</i>	17
<i>Church and Community Program</i>	21
<i>Church Coach Supervisor Profile: Felix Orellana</i>	22
<i>Church Coach Profile: Marvin Sánchez</i>	23
<i>Church Coach Profile: Gerson DeLeón</i>	24
<i>Church Coach Profile: Mauricio Reyes</i>	25
<i>Stories of Transformation</i>	26
<i>Home Gardens and Eco-stoves Bring Hope and Healing: The Story of José Zeledón</i>	26
<i>The Blessing of Clean, Running Water at Home: The Story of Rosa María Chacón</i>	27
<i>Discovering Their Potential: The Story of Pastor Juan Ramírez and the Casa de Alfarero Church</i>	28



*Santa Ana is a region located in western El Salvador with a total population of nearly 700,000. Approximately 300,000 people live in or near urban centers and the remaining 400,000 live in semi-rural or rural communities. Recent reports state that 23% of the population, or 161,000 people, live in extreme poverty (making less than \$1 per day) and 46% of the population, or 332,000 people, live in severe poverty (making less than \$2 per day). The region is diverse and has complex challenges. The urban areas are densely populated and face security issues, household waste problems, and unemployment. The rural areas are also densely populated and face critical challenges such as dilapidated roads, inadequate housing, poor health and struggling economic development.*



● *Approximate area of impact*





## Nueva Jerusalén Church, Comecayo

Nueva Jerusalén Church is a committed and flourishing congregation of 825 members, 70 of whom are committed leaders. Its previous pastor, Rafael González first learned about ENLACE while working with a medical clinic that was used by students from a Christian school sharing his church building. In 2008, Pastor Rafael asked ENLACE to develop a strategy that would help his church reach out to its community. In 2012, Pastor Rafael assumed a new role as the Santa Ana regional presbyter. He invited Nehemías Juárez, who had once served as an associate pastor at Nueva Jerusalén to become the new pastor.

Over the years, the church has strengthened existing relationships with school parents, teachers and students and also established a relationship with the mayor's office and the community association. As a result, the church has implemented many projects, most recently a pedestrian bridge which allows residents to safely cross the Pan-American Highway. The church's strong leadership and great capacity for outreach has extended its impact to neighboring communities like El Ranchador and Porvenir. The church has grown by 8% in recent years.

### PROJECT REPORT 2013

Project	Goal	Actual	Comments
Eco-stoves	100 eco-stoves	Completed	Built 100 eco-stoves benefiting 500 people.
Culvert and gutters	Design and fund	Postponed	The church and community prioritized the water system.
Road repair	Design and fund	Design in progress	Repair 1 mile of road.
Water system in Cruz Verde	Design and fund	Design in progress	Construction of a new water system.
Water system in Las Texas	Design and fund	Completed	Construction of a new water system benefiting 150 people.
Home gardens in La Empalizada	18 gardens	Completed	Provided training, technical assistance and supplies to 18 people; 90 people benefit directly from the gardens.



## IDENTIFIED PROJECTS FOR 2014

Project	Goal	Budget	Comments
Water system in Cruz Verde	Design and fund	TBD	The church and community are in the process of designing the system.
Eco-stoves	50 eco-stoves	\$12,500	Construction and training included; will benefit 250 people.
Road repair	Design and fund	TBD	Repair 1 mile of road.
Home gardens	25 gardens	\$9,375	Provide training, technical assistance and supplies to start home gardens that will feed 125 people.

### Zurisadai Church, San Jacinto



Zurisadai Church is an energetic and active congregation of 180 members, 40 of whom are very strong leaders. In 2008 its pastor, Jaime Mauricio Alvarado, heard about ENLACE through conversations with Rafael González, the pastor of the Nueva Jerusalén Church. Pastor Mauricio, a dedicated leader who constantly seeks opportunities to grow, along with his wife, Yanira, who is also a talented leader, were encouraged by Pastor Rafael to lead their church into a new vision of ministry.

With incredible excitement and speed, this church joined with its local community association and helped to inspire a desire to serve. Since that time, a myriad of projects such as road repairs, new homes, an improved water system and home gardens have gone forward. Both the landscape of San Jacinto and the hearts of hundreds of its residents have been transformed. The church has grown by 15% and in 2013 their area of impact also grew to include the communities of El Resbaladero and San Luis la Planta.





## PROJECT REPORT 2013

Project	Goal	Actual	Comments
Road repairs at clinic	Design and fund	In progress	150 meters of road that serves as the primary access to the clinic is very deteriorated.
Culvert and bridge construction in Las Peñitas	Design and fund	Funding in progress	Project is located on a primary road and will benefit 2,500 people. Some funds have been raised, but more are needed to complete the project.
Eco-stoves	40 eco-stoves	Completed	Built 40 eco-stoves benefiting 200 people.
Perimeter wall at local school	Design and fund	Design in progress	Will provide increased security for school children and teachers by building a 328 foot perimeter wall.
Home gardens	14 gardens	Completed	Provided training, technical assistance and supplies to 14 people; 70 people benefit directly from the gardens.

## IDENTIFIED PROJECTS FOR 2014

Project	Goal	Budget	Comments
Culvert and bridge construction in Las Peñitas.	Design and fund	TBD	Project is located on a primary road and will benefit 2,500 people.
Road repair at clinic	Design and fund	TBD	The road that serves as the primary access to the clinic is very deteriorated.
Perimeter wall at local school	Design in progress; funding needed	TBD	Will provide increased security for school children and teachers by building a 328 foot perimeter wall.



## Arca de Dios Church, El Ranchador

The Arca de Dios Church is a semi-rural congregation of 200 members, 60 of whom are leaders. In 2010 the its pastor, Francisco Javier Mendoza, heard about ENLACE through conversations with pastor Rafael González from the Nueva Jerusalén Church. One of the greatest challenges facing this community is the presence of gangs. Despite this, the church is committed to being a place of love and care for all the people of El Ranchador.

As a result of working with Compassion International, the church had developed a close relationship with its community. ENLACE strengthened their community ties by helping them to become better organized and more integrated with other leaders and families in the community. ENLACE also helped to establish new relationships with other organizations. While most residents have access to clean water and electricity, they struggle with inadequate housing, infrastructure problems, malnutrition, and lack of development opportunities. By the end of 2011, the church, together with the community, implemented home gardens and home construction projects along with the construction of a new bridge and a clinic. All of these projects have combined to impact every resident in greatly needed and profound ways.

### PROJECT REPORT 2013

Project	Goal	Actual	Comments
Water system	Design and fund	Completed and installed	18 families now have clean water provided directly to their homes through the system and its distribution lines. The system has been built to accommodate a potential growth to 70 families.
Health clinic	Build	In progress	Construction is complete pending drop ceiling, tiles, windows and stucco.
Culvert and gutters	Build and fund	Postponed	Priority has been given to complete the clinic.
Home construction and repair	10 homes	In progress	5 homes are being repaired and 5 new homes are being built.
Eco-stoves	50 eco-stoves	Completed	Built 50 eco-stoves benefiting 250 people.
Home gardens	14 gardens	Completed	Provided training and technical assistance to 14 people; 70 people benefit directly from the gardens.



## IDENTIFIED PROJECTS FOR 2014

Project	Goal	Budget	Comments
Health clinic	Finish	TBD	Construction will be complete when the drop ceiling, tiles, windows and stucco are finished.
Home repair	Repair 2 homes	TBD	The roofs, floors and walls need repair.
Home construction	Build 10 homes	TBD	10 families (50 people) will receive materials and help to build their new, block homes.
Home gardens	12 gardens	\$3,000	Provide training, technical assistance and supplies to start 12 home gardens that will feed 60 people.





## Puerta del Cielo Church, El Progreso

Puerta del Cielo Church is a rural congregation of 50 members, 10 of whom are leaders. In 2008 its former pastor, Mario Ernesto Mejía, learned about ENLACE through conversations with Pastor Mauricio Alvarado from the Zurisadai Church in San Jacinto, who encouraged him to reach out and serve his community.

Pastor Mario, a man of great passion and faith, inspired his church to serve. He and his church established new relationships with several community organizations as well as the mayor's office. Additionally, the church created strong friendships with community members and churchgoers from different churches in the community. In June 2012 Orlando Majano became the church's new pastor. Pastor Orlando, a devoted leader with a strong personal testimony, and the church implemented their first housing project and led a joint effort with the community to repair the main road. The church has grown by 15% in recent years and has directly impacted more than 1,500 people.

### PROJECT REPORT 2013

Project	Goal	Actual	Comments
Road repair	Repair 500 square feet of road	In progress	Built 360 square feet of road; 140 more feet will be built in 2014.
Home construction	15 homes	In progress	1 home is completed; 2 are in progress; 11 will be built in 2014.
Eco-stoves	50 eco-stoves	Completed	Built 50 eco-stoves benefiting 250 people.
Latrines	25 pit latrines	Completed	Built 25 latrines benefiting 125 people.
Home gardens	25 gardens	Completed	Provided training and technical assistance to 25 people; 14 families chose to continue and received supplies; 70 people benefit directly from the gardens.
Roof repair at local school	Repair roof of two classrooms	In progress	Two walls were built inside the school to provide classroom divisions; the roof repair is still in progress



## IDENTIFIED PROJECTS FOR 2014

Project	Goal	Budget	Comments
Home construction	15 homes	TBD	15 families (75 people) will receive materials and help to build their new homes.
Road repair at clinic	Design and fund	TBD	The primary access to the clinic is a deteriorated road.
Perimeter wall at local school	Design and fund	TBD	Provide increased security for school children by building a 65 X 6.5 ft perimeter wall.
Classrooms	2 classrooms	TBD	315 students attend a local school that is too small to meet their needs.
Roof repair at local school	Repair roof	TBD	This project will benefit 315 students and their teachers.
Home gardens	12 gardens	\$3,000	Provide training, technical assistance and supplies to start 12 home gardens that will feed 60 people.





## Cristo Vive Church, La Bendición

Cristo Vive Church, located on beautiful Lake Coatepeque, is a congregation of 80 members, 20 of whom are leaders. In 2010 its pastor, Mauricio Reyes, learned about ENLACE through conversations with Pastor Rafael González from the Nueva Jerusalén Church who invited him to attend an ENLACE seminar about how a church can work effectively with its community.

Pastor Mauricio and his young and dynamic leaders inspired and motivated their congregation to actively begin to connect to their community. They strengthened existing relationships with the local public school and the community association. They have implemented projects such as eco-stoves and home gardens. The name of their town, La Bendición, means "The Blessing" in English and Pastor Mauricio and the church have embodied that in their community. And community residents have noticed! The church has grown by 6% and is currently impacting 1,500 people.

### PROJECT REPORT 2013

Project	Goal	Actual	Comments
Eco-stoves	22 eco-stoves	Completed	Built 22 eco-stoves benefiting 110 people.
Latrines	16 pit latrines	Completed	Built 16 latrines benefiting 80 people.
Road repair	Design and fund	Designed, funded and project in progress	Built 360 sq. ft. of road, 140 sq. ft. more will be completed in February 2014.
Water filters	Design and fund	Postponed	Church and community are re-evaluating this project.

### IDENTIFIED PROJECTS FOR 2014

Project	Goal	Budget	Comments
Water pump	Design and fund	TBD	
Road repair in Casa Blanca	Design and fund	TBD	2 blocks of road are in need of repair.
Water tank construction	Design and fund	TBD	



## Puerta del Cielo Church, San Juan Buenavista

Puerta del Cielo Church is a semi-urban congregation of 100 members, 27 of whom are leaders. Pastor Francisco Javier Portillo was the pastor of one of ENLACE's first local partner churches in the hamlet of El Cambio, El Tinteral. Pastor Francisco moved to San Juan Buenavista and contacted ENLACE in 2011 to help him create a vision for his church and community with this new congregation. After Pastor Francisco relocated to a different church, and Pastor Carlos Linares helped out for a time and then the present pastor, Esau Bermudez, became the church's full-time pastor in 2013. According to Gerson, the ENLACE Church Coach, Pastor Esau is continuing to work with the church's motivated and diverse group of leaders in community transformation.

The church has built strong relationships with many community organizations and implemented health projects such as home gardens, eco-stoves and latrines. With each project the church has strengthened ties with the public school and the community's water board while also increasing their own management capacity and organizational ability. The church has grown by 15% and is having a great impact on the lives of the most needy in their community.

### PROJECT REPORT 2013

Project	Goal	Actual	Comments
Water system support	Design and fund	Postponed	ENLACE will train the water board to manage and leverage funds for the system in 2014.
Road repair	Design and fund	Design in progress	Repair 75 square feet of a primary road to prevent land erosion, flooding and mudslides.
Eco-stoves	25 eco-stoves	In progress	Funds have been raised; building will begin in 2014.

### IDENTIFIED PROJECTS FOR 2014

Project	Goal	Budget	Comments
Road repair	Design and fund	TBD	164 feet of a main road needs repair.
Eco-stoves	25 eco-stoves	\$6,250	Construction and training in the use of 25 eco-stoves; project will benefit 125 people.
Water system support	Training and capacity building	TBD	Build the capacity of the local water board to fundraise and manage a water system.
Street lights	25 lights	TBD	Provide lighting on primary street for added security.



## Monte Horeb Church, La Reforma

Monte Horeb Church is a motivated and well-connected congregation that has 150 members, 50 of whom are leaders. In 2010 its pastor, Elman Meléndez, learned of ENLACE through conversations with Pastor Rafael González from the Nueva Jerusalén Church.

The church already had close relationships with its community as a result of having collaborated with the Ministry of Health in previous projects. Through ENLACE's training, the church improved its project management and strengthened relationships with other organizations. Together the church and community have implemented health initiatives, such as home gardens and latrines. After coordinating effective relief efforts in response to a devastating tropical storm in 2011, the church has maintained its role as a well-organized and responsive group within its community. The church has grown by 3% and is impacting 1,000 people.

### PROJECT REPORT 2013

Project	Goal	Actual	Comments
Street lights	25 lights	Designed project	Street lights will provide a primary road with added security; will be implemented in 2014.
Home construction	6 homes	4 homes	Built 4 homes, benefiting 20 people; the remaining 2 homes could not be built because the land was deemed unsafe.
Home repair	8 homes	In progress	Funding raised; repairs will start in 2014.
Eco-stoves	25 eco-stoves	Postponed	Priority has been given to housing.
Home gardens	35 gardens	Postponed	Priority has been given to housing.





## IDENTIFIED PROJECTS FOR 2014

Project	Goal	Budget	Comments
Home construction	2 homes	TBD	Originally slated for 2013 but land safety issues stalled building; church and community determining where the homes can now be built.
Home repair	8 Homes	TBD	Repairs will be started in 2014.
Street lights	25 lights	TBD	Will provide lighting on primary road for added security.

### Casa del Alfarero Church, Chantusnene



Casa del Alfarero Church is a strong congregation of 80 members, 12 of whom are leaders. The church was founded in 1998 with the establishment of a new neighborhood in Chantusnene made up of 64 families. In 2011 its pastor, Juan Ramírez, attended a conference in which he learned of ENLACE from an inspiring presentation given by Pastor Rafael González from the Nueva Jerusalén Church. He spoke about what his church had been doing in the city of Comecayo. Up to that point, Pastor Juan had believed that the church should not get involved with outsiders even though he had been quite involved with his neighbors' needs for many years. Pastor Rafael invited him to meet the ENLACE team. After connecting with ENLACE, Pastor Juan became excited and a desire to serve his community was born. The church has seen an increase in attendance and is now impacting more than 6,000 people.





## PROJECT REPORT 2013

Project	Goal	Actual	Comments
Curbs and gutter	Design and fund	Design in progress	1,500 feet of curbs and gutters on main street will prevent erosion and flooding of water and mud into homes.
Home construction	10 homes	Design in progress	Construction of 10 block homes; will benefit 50 people.
Road repair	Design and fund	In progress	Repair of 36 feet of road which is the primary access to the community.
Latrines	25 composting latrines	In progress	Preventive health education and maintenance training included; building will start in January 2014.

## IDENTIFIED PROJECTS FOR 2014

Project	Goal	Budget	Comments
Curbs and gutter	Design and fund	TBD	1,500 feet of curbs and gutters on main street will prevent erosion and flooding of water and mud into homes.
Home construction	10 homes	TBD	Construction of 10 block homes will benefit 50 people.
Road repair	Design and fund	TBD	Repair of 36 feet of road which is the primary access to the community.
Latrines	25 composting latrines	Funding completed; building will begin in 2014.	Preventive health education and maintenance training included.
Water system	Design and fund	TBD	Design a new water system to benefit 6,000 people.



## Bethesda Church, El Potrerillo

Bethesda Church is a small congregation of 54 members, 29 of whom are leaders. In 2012 its pastor, Victor Hugo Ortiz, heard of an organization that could help to better focus their efforts to work with the community. The church was already reaching out with a food program and computer classes for children and when he met pastor Rafael González from the Nueva Jerusalén Church, he was excited to learn about how he could establish a partnership with ENLACE. This congregation desires to transform its own community and the neighboring communities of La Luz, San Carlos and Santa Elena.

### IDENTIFIED PROJECTS FOR 2014

Project	Goal	Budget	Comments
Home construction	10 homes	TBD	Construction of 10 aluminum laminate homes will benefit 50 people.



## Canaan Church, Los Pinos

Canaan Church, located in the community called Los Pinos, Santa Ana, is a small congregation of 45 members, 12 of whom are leaders. In 2011 the church's new pastor, Mario Mejia, contacted ENLACE. He had previously been the pastor of Puerta del Cielo Church in El Progreso and had worked with ENLACE since 2010 and sought to work with ENLACE again. Because he had previous training, Pastor Mario inspired his congregation to address some pressing needs and without hesitation, they began to lead mitigation efforts in Los Pinos. The church desires not only to help its immediate community but also the nearby villages of El Porvenir and Montebello, impacting 1,500 people. The church has grown by 15% in recent years and is in the process of identifying new projects for 2014.



*Seven new churches began to partner with ENLACE in 2013. Each partner had a strong passion to serve its communities and began 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 yearlong 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 potential.*



## El Verbo Church



<b>Location:</b>	La Presa
<b>Church founded:</b>	1973
<b>Pastor:</b>	Abel de Jesús Peñate Saénz
<b>Pastoring church since:</b>	2011
<b>ENLACE partner since:</b>	2013
<b>Membership:</b>	58
<b>Leadership:</b>	16
<b>Community partners:</b>	Community Association
<b>Community projects implemented:</b>	Home repair, food delivery, cleanup campaign
<b>Potential number of people impacted:</b>	3,000



## Iglesia de Dios Church

**Location:** Caña Brava, Coatepeque.

**Church founded:** 1975

**Pastor:** Rigoberto Villacorta

**Pastoring church since:** 1997

**ENLACE partner since:** 2013

**Membership:** 56

**Leadership:** 9

**Community partners:** Community Association

**Community projects implemented:** Food delivery and medical attention

**Potential number of people impacted:** 3,000



## La Bendición Church

**Location:** Argentina, San Juan Opico

**Church founded:** 1994

**Pastor:** José Alvaro Franco

**Pastoring church since:** 1995

**ENLACE partner since:** 2013

**Membership:** 55

**Leadership:** 5

**Community partners:** Community Association

**Community projects implemented:** Road repair, food delivery

**Potential number of people impacted:** 1,500





## Iglesia de Dios Church

**Location:** Santa Anita

**Church founded:** 2000

**Pastor:** Manuel Landaverde

**Pastoring church since:** 2010

**ENLACE partner since:** 2013

**Membership:** 50

**Leadership:** 8

**Community partners:** Community Association

**Community projects implemented:** Road repair, food delivery, water system

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



## Rios de Agua Viva Church

**Location:** La Joyita, Ciudad Arce

**Church founded:** 1985

**Pastor:** Alfonso Nuñez

**Pastoring church since:** 2013

**ENLACE partner since:** 2013

**Membership:** 45

**Leadership:** 5

**Community partners:** Community Association

**Community projects implemented:** Cleanup campaign, food delivery

**Potential number of people impacted:** 5,000





## Lluvia Postrera Church

**Location:** La Isla, San Juan Opico.  
**Church founded:** 2009  
**Pastor:** Miguel Ramírez  
**Pastoring church since:** 2009  
**ENLACE partner since:** 2013  
**Membership:** 12  
**Leadership:** 2  
**Community partners:** Community Association  
**Community projects implemented:** Food delivery, cleanup campaign  
**Potential number of people impacted:** 500



## Luz de Vida Church

**Location:** San José, Santa Ana  
**Church founded:** 1980  
**Pastor:** Oscar Ernesto Villalta  
**Pastoring church since:** 2000  
**ENLACE partner since:** 2013  
**Membership:** 68  
**Leadership:** 32  
**Community partners:** Community Association  
**Community projects implemented:** Mitigation wall, road repair  
**Potential number of people impacted:** 500





In 2013 ENLACE trained and equipped over 176 church leaders and 128 community leaders on a monthly basis in 21 churches reaching 48 communities in the region of Santa Ana.

## Number of Local Church Partners:





"If we only focus on the spiritual aspects of the gospel we diminish the power of the gospel." - Felix Orellana

Felix Orellana is a passionate and talented young minister. After a childhood full of challenges, Felix became a Christian at a Franklin Graham crusade in El Salvador at the age of 18. He quickly became involved serving in his local church, and says he felt "desperate" to learn about the Bible and equip himself with the tools necessary for ministry. It was this desperation that led him to leave his promising career in food service to study at La Universidad Cristiana and become a missionary.

Midway through his studies Felix was offered a pastorate in a vibrant church near Santa Ana. Without hesitation, Felix accepted, and he reports that pastoring this congregation has provided him with invaluable ministry experience. However, since he became a Christian, he has been fascinated by the idea of missions and drawn to the notion of mobilizing experience gained from one area and translating it for use in another. When he heard about a position opening with ENLACE, he was eager to work with an organization that worked with churches all over the country.

Felix started working in the Abelines region and is now working in both Santa Ana and San José El Naranjo regions. He says that some churches are often only focused on the spiritual aspects of the gospel because they simply don't know how to get connected to their communities. It is at this moment that Felix enjoys getting the chance to help a church take that belief one step further. "We [at ENLACE] are also able to help [churches] get organized to complete initiatives...But it's not about being the protagonist of the church's process. We must allow God to lead."

Felix married Dina Jarquin in 2011 and soon after, their marriage was blessed with the arrival of their beautiful daughter, Sophia Belén. Similar to Felix, Dina also had a call to missions when she was young. Over the past two years, they have balanced ENLACE's work with serving in Nicaragua as missionaries. And in 2013, Felix and Dina visited Nepal with Executive Director Ron Bueno, in order to begin the process of serving as ENLACE Church Coaches there. Both poverty and spiritual need are characteristics of Nepalese communities, something they can relate to having lived and served in El Salvador. Felix, Dina and Sophia will be in our prayers as they begin this new adventure in their lives.





"It's so amazing to see how [God] moves our hearts towards his will...Living out [God's] plan will bring the fullest potential to our lives."  
-Marvin Sánchez

Marvin Sánchez became a Christian when he was 18 years old. In the process of searching for direction in his life, he began to study law. However, his heart and mind continued to pull him toward the mission of the church. This persistent calling led him to seek full-time ministry. He is now in his fourth year of studying Theology at the Assemblies of God Christian University in San Salvador and will graduate with a specialization in missions.

Before coming to ENLACE, Marvin worked as a counselor for adolescents with Compassion International in El Salvador. In this role, he enjoyed helping young people to discover and develop their potential. Marvin brings this and many other life experiences to his church coaching. He loves to encourage ENLACE's church partners towards an integral mission demonstrated by Christ himself, one that includes preaching the good news, healing, feeding, and caring for neighbors. This is a mission that Marvin is so excited to share.





"God has led me to missions and refined me through this work." -Gerson DeLeón

Gerson DeLeon was only 19 years old when his pastor noted his hard work ethic and asked him to lead a small congregation. During that time, he found that his heart was most burdened for young children and youth. That burden led him to an opportunity to work for one year with a project with The Samaritan's Purse. After that work concluded, he joined the staff of Compassion International where he worked for the next seven years. According to Gerson, both experiences were very rewarding and allowed him to learn much about working in rural communities.

Over ten years have gone by since Gerson pastored a small group of believers. Now he serves as a Church Coach to five churches in the Santa Ana Region. Explaining his experience he says, "I believe the role of a Church Coach is vital because he spends more time in the community and can see not only the community's needs but also the opportunities that exist for the church to collaborate with its community to bring about solutions...And I like to be where there is need."

When the contract with Compassion International ended, Gerson began looking for a job that would support both his wife of three years, Ada, and their year-old son, Esteban. Even though he had a degree in International Relations, Gerson found work as a school teacher. Soon, however, the opportunity to join the ENLACE staff as a Church Coach appeared. Gerson believed it was God's leading and said, "God has led me on this path for years."





"[W]e take the Bible and teach, but we have also taken off our ties and grabbed a shovel...We are called to serve." -Mauricio Reyes

Mauricio Reyes lives just off the shore of Lake Coatepeque in the community of La Bendición, Santa Ana with his wife, Zuleyma Márquez, and two-year-old son, Josué. They are expecting a second child in 2014. He pastors the Cristo Vive Church, which has partnered with ENLACE since 2010. As of 2012, he has also served as a part-time ENLACE Church Coach for the Santa Ana region.

Growing up as an only child of hardworking parents and facing needs not only at home, but also of the people around him, created in Mauricio a sharp sensitivity to poverty. While he didn't grow up in a Christian home, at 17, God's love changed his life and he began to feel a strong call to serve God in any way possible.

Mauricio became a pastor and began his studies in Theology. His experience in these areas along with working for ENLACE has given him a deeper understanding of the needs of impoverished communities and how God's love through action can transform them. Mauricio feels grateful and excited about serving other pastors that are just beginning in their process to serve their communities. "Serving the community is something I always had in my heart," says Mauricio, "because one of the most rewarding things in life is to serve others. Now, we take the Bible and teach, but we have also taken off our ties and grabbed a shovel to help. We are called to serve."





## Home Gardens and Eco-stoves Bring Hope and Healing: The Story of José Zeledón

In rural El Salvador, the lack of income-generating opportunities make it a huge challenge for many men to remain rooted to their locality and to their families. Other challenges such as the lack of education and health care along with poor access to nutritious food sources, create situations of chronic stress and anxiety. Men often leave their homes to find work in a city or in other countries. Many men, unable to provide for their dependents, leave the family altogether.

Some, like José, turn to alcohol as a way to escape these realities. José, now 33, described his life as a “lake of sadness” wherein he smothered his despair in alcohol. Over the years, his dependency grew and despite being a part of a loving family, he believed there was no hope for him. Out of desperation in mid-2011, he reached out to Mauricio, a pastor of a local church to ask for prayer. Mauricio and his congregation welcomed him in with open arms, and José, finding in the church a place of refuge, ceased drinking.

Soon after, a church member and neighbor invited José to join him in an ENLACE home garden project. Since José had no land and no consistent way to provide food for his family, José joined the project with gratitude and hope. For the last two years, José has not only planted and harvested a variety of nutritious vegetables with his neighbor, he’s remained sober and become a leader of another ENLACE development project wherein he teaches community members how to build and use eco-stoves.



## The Blessing of Clean, Running Water at Home: The Story of Rosa María Chacón

Rosa Maria Chacón is 35 years old. Her husband, Juan Atilio Hernandez, is 40. They have three children and live in San Jacinto. Rosa was born there. She remembers that there have been water shortages in the community since she was just a girl. She says her father used to take her and her siblings to the river to bathe. Now, that is what she does with her family.

Rosa's children come home from school and go to bathe in the river. The trip takes at least 40 minutes one way. The way back, takes a little more time, because they generally come with a load of clothes that has been washed. There is potable water at home, but it is not enough.

Rosa remembers that since April 2013, the water comes in abundance to her house, "It is a joy to have clean, running water at home. It is great to have enough water to wash clothes, dishes and corn. We don't need to go to the river anymore."



## Discovering Their Potential: The Story of Pastor Juan Ramírez and the Casa de Alfarero Church

Chantusnene, a village located in San Juan Bautista in the department of La Libertad, was founded in 1996 by a group of 64 families fleeing the devastation of war and seeking a new life. Juan Ramírez was just a boy when he came as part of these families, but he and his new community worked together to build Chantusnene from the ground up.

As Juan grew to adulthood, he became a respected leader in this community even though he wasn't a Christian at the time. Once Juan met his wife, Yanira, and they began a family that would eventually grow to include seven children, her prayers that he would begin to follow Christ were answered. In 2006 he became the lead pastor of the Casa del Alfarero Church in Chantusnene.

Even though Juan was taught that his ministry did not include community service, his good relationship with the mayor and strong relationships with the community that had been built over 16 years, made his community involvement a given. It was not uncommon for Pastor Juan to be asked to intercede during conflicts or help with charity projects. In this way, Pastor Juan believed he was well aware of the needs, desires and challenges.

In 2011 Pastor Juan attended a conference in which he learned of ENLACE from an inspiring presentation given by Pastor Rafael González from the Nueva Jerusalén Church. Pastor Rafael spoke about what his church had been doing in the city of Comecayo. After Pastor Juan began to partner with ENLACE he said, "I thought I knew enough about my community to help them. But ENLACE taught me and my leaders techniques that opened our eyes the real needs and our church's potential." within his community.

"Maybe we were seeing through a blindfold...We managed to distinguish some needs, but it was not clear at all. ENLACE helped us remove this. Now we can see." -Pastor Juan Ramírez

As their vision of service changed, Juan, his leaders, and the community identified more than 30 needs. Of these needs, the church prioritized five projects that would enable them to significantly connect to their neighbors. No longer would the church simply provide chairs for wakes or financial help to mourners as they had in the past. They were excited to discover that they as a church offered much more than that.

This new vision of transformation began when the church surprised the students and teachers of a local public school by repaving their dilapidated courtyard in a weekend. The church managed the project from start to finish which included masons, materials, volunteers and a tight schedule. This experience brought both the church and students so much joy that the church has moved on with gusto to their next projects. These projects include securing and distributing wheelchairs from an international company and providing the space for workshops that help single mothers acquire new, marketable skills like sewing and baking.



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