



STORIES OF TRANSFORMATION: IN THEIR
OWN WORDS

2014 REPORT: ABELINES - SAN MIGUEL REGION

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REGIONAL

OVERVIEW



In 2014 ENLACE trained and equipped over 382 church leaders and 201 community leaders on a monthly basis in 24 churches serving 70 communities in the region of Abelines - San Miguel. The total area impact for this region is 82,276 people.

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 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.

PROJECT REPORT 2014

20
PROJECTS

Projects implemented in Abelines - San Miguel in 2014.

19262
PEOPLE

In 2014, over 19262 lives were impacted by the projects implemented in Abelines - San Miguel.

PROJECT GOALS 2015

20
PROJECTS

In 2015, 20 projects are planned to be implemented.

14595
PEOPLE

In 2015, the church hopes to impact the lives of over 14500 people.

CHURCH

PARTNER PROFILES



**“THROUGH ENLACE’S TRAINING...I HAVE
BECOME A BETTER FRIEND TO
THE COMMUNITY.
— PASTOR VICTORIO PAZ, PIEDRA ANGULAR CHURCH**

PIEDRA ANGULAR CHURCH ABELINES

Piedra Angular Church is a rural congregation of 82 members, 20 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 led 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 directly impacted more than 1,000 people on an ongoing basis.

PROJECT REPORT 2014



The goal for 2014 was to build 10 homes. This project was completed and 10 zinc aluminum homes were completed, benefiting 50 people.



The goal for 2014 was to build 45 pit latrines. In reality, only 15 latrines were built. More funds are needed to complete the project. This project impacted the lives of 75 people.

PROJECT GOALS 2015



The goal for 2015 is to build 30 latrines. This will include preventive health education and maintenance training. (\$9,000)



The goal for 2015 is to build 15 new homes benefiting 75 people. (\$80,000)



The goal for 2015 is to repair Botijón Street, a main access road to the local clinic.



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, latrine, eco-stoves and homes construction 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. In 2014, the church broadened its collaboration to include other communities such as Lomas de los Nances, Charanga, Castaño, Tierra Blanca and La Pachonera. The church is impacting 2,100 people on an ongoing basis.

“ WE ARE RECEIVING TECHNICAL AND SPIRITUAL TRAINING. — PASTOR NELSON PAZ, GETSEMANÍ CHURCH, PAJIGUA ”

PROJECT GOALS 2015



The goal for 2015 is to repair El Copinol street.



The goal for 2015 is to build 10 new homes benefiting 50 people. (\$54,000)



The goal for 2015 is to expand and repair water tanks.



The goal for 2015 is to build a bridge over El Dante River which will benefit 6,000 people in four communities.



The goal for 2015 is to build 50 composting latrines benefiting 250. This will include preventive health education and maintenance training. (\$26,250)

Pictured here, Pastor Virgilio Ramos.



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.

**“ENLACE IS AN ORGANIZATION THAT
GIVES US HOPE.
— PASTOR NELSON PAZ, GETSEMANÍ CHURCH**”

PROJECT REPORT 2014



The goal for 2014 was to build 30 pit latrines. In reality 15 pit latrines were built. More funds are needed to complete the project. This project directly impacted the lives of 75 people.

PROJECT GOALS 2015



The goal for 2015 is to build phase one of a water system.



The goal for 2015 is to repair 656 ft. of a main road benefiting over 438 people.



EMANUEL CHURCH EL TRIUNFO

Emanuel Church is a congregation of 35 members, six 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 is impacting 430 people.

**“ I LOVE THE VISION THAT ENLACE HAS GIVEN [OUR CHURCH].
— PASTOR WALTER HERRERA,
DIOS DE LA PROFECÍA CHURCH ”**

PROJECT REPORT 2014



The goal for 2014 was to build 20 composting latrines. This project was completed and included preventive health education and maintenance training to 100 people.



The goal for 2014 was to design and fund a pedestrian bridge. The design is currently in process. This bridge will benefit 400 people.



The goal for 2014 was to design and fund a water system. The design is currently pending. The construction of the water tank and water distribution system is pending approval of the community.

PROJECT GOALS 2015



The goal for 2015 is to build a pedestrian bridge to benefit over 400 people.



The goal for 2015 is to build a water tank and piping system.



The goal for 2015 is to repair the roof at the local school.



DIOS DE LA PROFECÍA CHURCH LA ESTANCIA

Dios de la Profecía Church is a dynamic congregation of 92 members, 20 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 in 2013 in order to meet the growing demand for its services. Not only does the clinic serve the people in La Estancia properly but also many surrounding communities. Along with other projects in 2014, the church worked with its community to design and build a comprehensive water system that will provide 1,200 people with clean water for generations to come. The church has grown by 3% and is impacting 1,300 people.

**GOD IS BIG! HIS BLESSINGS ARE RIGHT
OUTSIDE OUR FRONT DOOR.**
— PASTOR WALTER HERRERA,
DIOS DE LA PROFECÍA CHURCH

PROJECT REPORT 2014



The goal for 2014 was to design, fund and construct a new water tank. This project was completed and 1,200 people were given access to clean water.



The goal for 2014 was to provide 2,500 patients medical assistance. This project was completed and more patients were served this year than projected due to international medical teams supporting local efforts. 3,500 patients' benefited from this medical service.



The goal for 2014 was to build one additional classroom for a local public school. This project was completed and over 300 students, teachers and parents benefited from it.

PROJECT GOALS 2015



The goal for 2015 is to build an activity center for the local school.



The goal for 2015 is to provide medical care to 2,500 people through 200 medical consultations per week (46 weeks).



The goal for 2015 is to build a perimeter wall for the local school.



APÓSTOLES Y PROFETAS CHURCH SAN ANTONIO EL MOSCO

Apóstoles y Profetas Church is an enthusiastic, urban congregation of 95 members, 19 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 international 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 groups, 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 and has grown by 6%.

“ WE ARE CHAMPIONING THE CAUSE OF THOSE IN GREATEST NEED. WE WORRY FOR THEM, NOT OURSELVES. ”
— PASTOR TERESO JURADO,
APÓSTOLES Y PROFETAS CHURCH

PROJECT REPORT 2014



The goal for 2014 was to build one home. This project was completed, benefiting 5 people.

PROJECT GOALS 2015



The goal for 2015 is to build 40 latrines and provide preventative health education and maintenance training.



The goal for 2015 is to build 10 new homes.



The goal for 2015 is to build public restrooms at a local park.



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 in 2013, these relationships were strengthened as new connections were built with additional organizations and community members. In 2014, the church worked with community leaders on a building project of 20 homes that helped over 100 people in dire living situations. With that and other projects, the church is impacting 748 people on an ongoing basis.

**WE ARE NOW LEARNING HOW TO PUT
GOD'S LOVE INTO PRACTICE.
— PASTOR NELSON PAZ, GETSEMANÍ CHURCH**

PROJECT REPORT 2014



The goal for 2014 was to build 20 new homes. This project was completed and directly benefited 100 people.

PROJECT GOALS 2015



The goal for 2015 is to repair the roads that provides access to the community water sources.



The goal for 2015 is to build 20 new homes.



The goal for 2015 is to build 50 composting latrines and provide preventative health education and maintenance training to benefit 250 people. (\$26,250)



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. In 2014 the church worked with the community to build one of the biggest infrastructure projects ever to be built in this area, a pedestrian bridge that serves 18,000 people in five communities and 20 smaller hamlets. The church has grown by 6% and is impacting 1,700 people on an ongoing basis.

**WHEN GOD SEES ACTION, HE TAKES CARE
OF THE REST, AND PUTS ALL THE PIECES
IN THE CORRECT PLACE.**
— PASTOR GERSON RODRÍGUEZ,
SENDERO DE DIOS CHURCH

PROJECT REPORT 2014



The goal for 2014 was to design and build a pedestrian bridge. This project was completed and serves approximately 5,000 of El Planar and approximately 13,000 more from El Rodeo, Tamera, La Fragua and La Estancia.

PROJECT GOALS 2015



The goal for 2015 is to build a drainage system for San Carlos Street that floods every rainy season.



The goal for 2015 is to dig ditches for 650 ft on San Carlos Street.



MONTE DE SIÓN CHURCH EL DESCONSUELO

Monte de Sión Church is a congregation of 41 members, nine 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. In 2014, the church has collaborated in small but relationship-building projects with its community such as latrines, medical teams, neighborhood crosswalks, bridge and culvert repair. with the community to design The church is impacting 300 people on an ongoing basis and is ready to take on more in 2015.

**THE COMMUNITY SEES [OUR CHURCH]
DIFFERENTLY NOW.**

— PASTOR TERESO JURADO,
APÓSTOLES Y PROFETAS CHURCH

PROJECT GOALS 2015



The goal for 2015 is to design and build a public laundry and water retaining system.



The goal for 2015 is to build a pedestrian bridge that will connect La Fragua with El Desconsuelo.



EDÉN CHURCH NUEVO EDÉN DE SAN JUAN

Edén Church is a congregation of 60 members, 21 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. 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 20% in recent years and has directly impacted more than 5,400 people.

ENLACE IS HERE AND ACTIVE.
— PASTOR NELSON PAZ, GETSEMANÍ CHURCH

PROJECT REPORT 2014



The goal for 2014 was to host an international medical team and see 300 patients and facilitate local church volunteering. In reality, over 400 patients were seen and many local volunteers were empowered. This team empowered the local church in a powerful way. Extra medicine was donated to an ENLACE clinic.



The goal for 2014 was to build 25 pit latrines. The project was completed and directly improved the lives of 125 people.

PROJECT GOALS 2015



The goal for 2015 is to build 10 new homes to benefit 50 people.



The goal for 2015 is to host an international medical team, see 500 patients and empower local volunteers.



LUZ EN TU SENDA CHURCH CIUDAD BARRIOS

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. In 2014, the church collaborated with the mayor's office, the local community association and ENLACE to provide medical attention to over 500 people in the hamlets of Agua Zarca, Joya Grande y Angostura. The church has grown by 80% in recent years and has directly impacted over 1,500 people.



**“THEY GIVE US THE ABILITY TO BE CREATIVE
IN USING ALL OF OUR ABILITIES AND
RESOURCES TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY!
— PASTOR WALTER HERRERA,
DIOS DE LA PROFECÍA CHURCH**



PROJECT REPORT 2014



The goal for 2014 was to provide free medical consultations and build relationships of cooperations. The church worked with the mayor's office, the community association and ENLACE in three hamlets to see over 544 patients.

PROJECT GOALS 2015



The goal for 2015 is to build a pedestrian bridge over the San Lucas River.



The goal for 2015 is to build a water system.



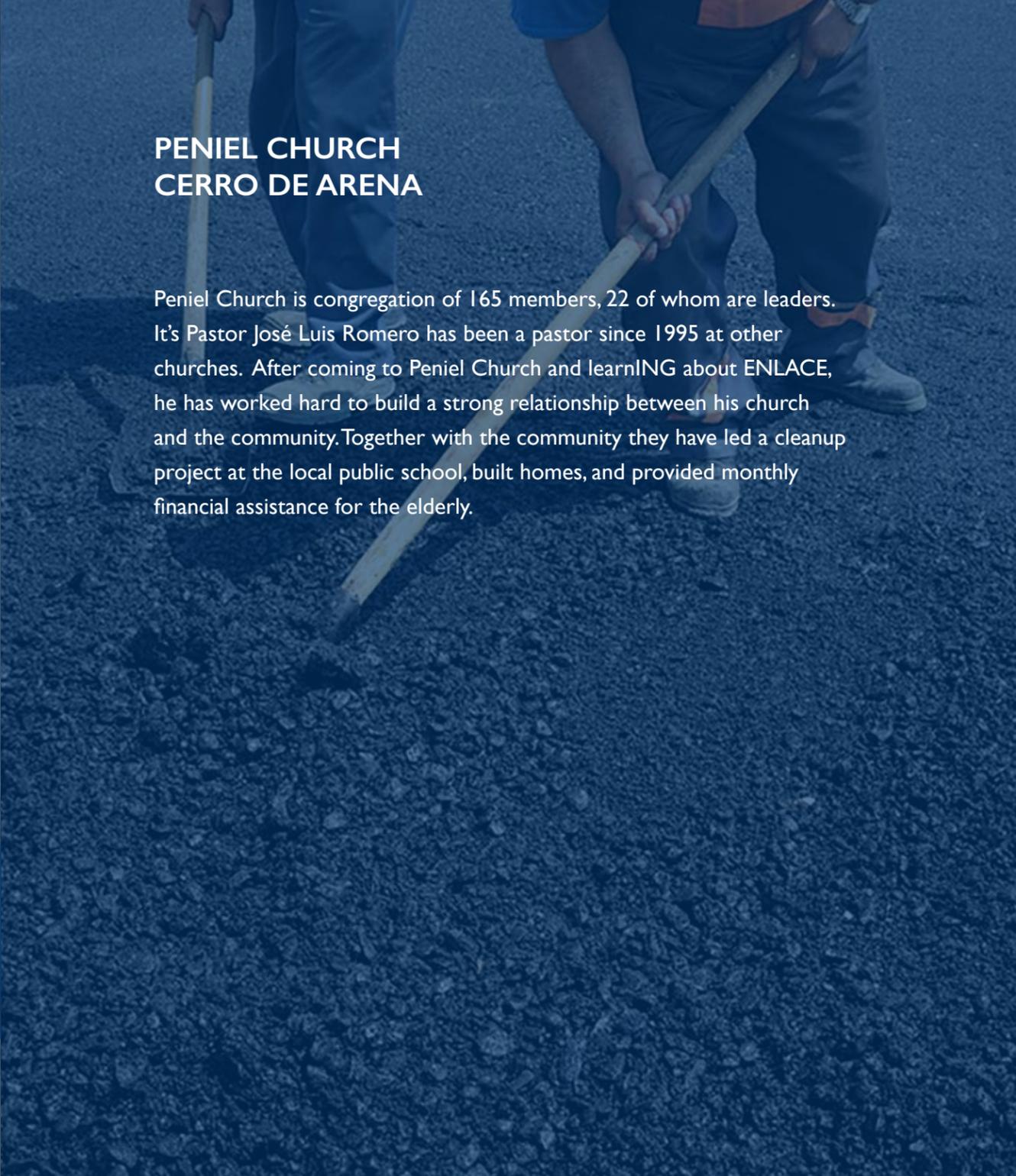
The goal for 2015 is to build a gazebo in the local cemetery.



I'M COMMITTED TO GOD AND TO THE WHOLE COMMUNITY. I COULDN'T STOP SERVING EVEN IF I WANTED TO!
— PASTOR VICTORIO PAZ, PIEDRA ANGULAR CHURCH

PENIEL CHURCH CERRO DE ARENA

Peniel Church is congregation of 165 members, 22 of whom are leaders. It's Pastor José Luis Romero has been a pastor since 1995 at other churches. After coming to Peniel Church and learning about ENLACE, he has worked hard to build a strong relationship between his church and the community. Together with the community they have led a cleanup project at the local public school, built homes, and provided monthly financial assistance for the elderly.



PROJECT GOALS 2015



The goal for 2015 is to repair 1600 ft of a main road.



The goal for 2015 is to build a new home to benefit 50 people.



The goal for 2015 is to build a perimeter fence at a local school.

NEW CHURCH

PARTNER PROFILES



12 new churches began to partner with ENLACE between the last months of 2013 and during the 2014. 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.



“PEOPLE ARE MOTIVATED TO COME TOGETHER EVEN TO THE POINT OF DONATING DAYS AWAY FROM THEIR OWN JOBS. THIS REALLY TOUCHES ME BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE NOT JUST THINKING ABOUT THEMSELVES BUT ABOUT HELPING OTHERS AND LEARNING SKILLS LIKE HOW TO BUILD A HOUSE OR REPAIR A STREET.”

**— FABIO MEJÍA,
INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

Rayo de Luz Church, Joya Grande
 Founded in 1970
 Pastor: Elmer García Espinoza
 Pastoring church since: 2008
 ENLACE partner since: 2013
 Membership: 83
 Leadership: 24
 Community partners:
 Community Association, Mayor's office
 Community projects implemented:
 food delivery
 Potential number of people impacted: 2,000

Monte Tabor Church, San Gerardo
 Founded in 1955
 Pastor: Carlos Alfredo Castro
 Pastoring church since: 2002
 ENLACE partner since: 2014
 Membership: 125
 Leadership: 32
 Community partners:
 Mayor's office, Community Association
 Community projects implemented:
 home repair, visiting the sick, food delivery
 Potential number of people impacted: 5,500

El Shaddai Church, La Presita
 Founded in 1992
 Pastor: Tito Alfredo Gódinez
 Pastoring church since: 1992
 ENLACE partner since: 2014
 Membership: 150
 Leadership: 28
 Community partners:
 Community Association, Mayor's office
 Community projects implemented:
 food delivery, repair community playground
 Potential number of people impacted: 5,600 families

Cristo Viene Church, San Gerardo
 Founded in 1994
 Pastor: Jose Herberth Romero
 Pastoring church since: 2010
 ENLACE partner since: 2014
 Membership: 95
 Leadership: 27
 Community partners:
 Community Association, Mayor's office
 Community projects implemented:
 none
 Potential number of people impacted: 1,027

El Edén Church, San José
 Founded in 1980
 Pastor: Juan José Vásquez
 Pastoring church since: 1994
 ENLACE partner since: 2013
 Membership: 42
 Leadership: 10
 Community partners:
 Community association, Mayor's office
 Community projects implemented:
 food delivery, economic support, road repair
 Potential number of people impacted: 5,000

Peniel Church, Torola
 Church founded: 2010
 Pastor: Elmer Antonio Dominguez
 Pastoring church since: 2013
 ENLACE partner since: 2013
 Membership: 33
 Leadership: 10
 Community partners:
 Community Association, Mayor's office, CENTA, FAO
 Community projects implemented:
 Clean-up campaign, road repair, food delivery, medical team
 Potential number of people impacted: 400

“THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH ENLACE WAS THE MOMENT THAT ALL THE ROADS CAME TOGETHER.”

**— ISIDRO RAMÍREZ,
ENLACE CHURCH COACH**

“WE’VE LEARNED TO WORK TOGETHER IN UNITY.”

**— PASTOR WALTER HERRERA,
DIOS DE LA PROFECÍA CHURCH**





“GOD CHALLENGES OUR INTERESTS WITH HIS DESIRES. IT’S SO AMAZING TO SEE HOW HE MOVES OUR HEARTS TO HIS INTERESTS. HE COULD LET US GO DOWN THE ROAD THAT WE WANT TO TAKE, BUT GOD KNOWS THAT HIS PLAN IS BETTER. LIVING OUT HIS PLAN WILL BRING THE FULLEST POTENTIAL TO OUR LIVES.”

— MARVIN SÁNCHEZ, CHURCH COACH

Nuevo Jerusalem Church, Agua Zarca, Torola

Founded in 1976
 Pastor: German Reynaldo Claros
 Pastoring church since: 2005
 ENLACE partner since: 2013
 Membership: 65
 Leadership: 22
 Community partners:
 Community Association, Mayor’s office, Compassion International
 Community projects implemented:
 food assistance to the elderly
 Potential number of people impacted: 3,042

Castillo del Rey Church, San Fernando

Founded in 1968
 Pastor: Leonidas Hernández
 Pastoring church since: 2013
 ENLACE partner since: 2013
 Membership: 117
 Leadership: 37
 Community partners:
 Mayor’s office, Community Association, Compassion International
 Community projects implemented:
 medical assistance, economic support
 Potential number of people impacted: 1,400

Cristo te llama Church, Jocoatique

Founded in 2011
 Pastor: Erick Heriberto Diaz
 Pastoring church since: 2011
 ENLACE partner since: 2014
 Membership: 36
 Leadership: 9
 Community partners:
 Community Association, Mayor’s office
 Community projects implemented:
 home repair, food delivery, economic support
 Potential number of people impacted: 250

Apóstoles y Profetas Libres Church, San Carlos

Founded in 1982
 Pastor: John Alexander González
 Pastoring church since: 1986
 ENLACE partner since: 2014
 Membership: 40
 Leadership: 10
 Community partners:
 Community Association, Mayor’s office, Compassion International
 Community projects implemented:
 home repair, food delivery, Compassion International,
 Potential number of people impacted: 500

Iglesia Cristiana Jehová Shalom, San Miguel

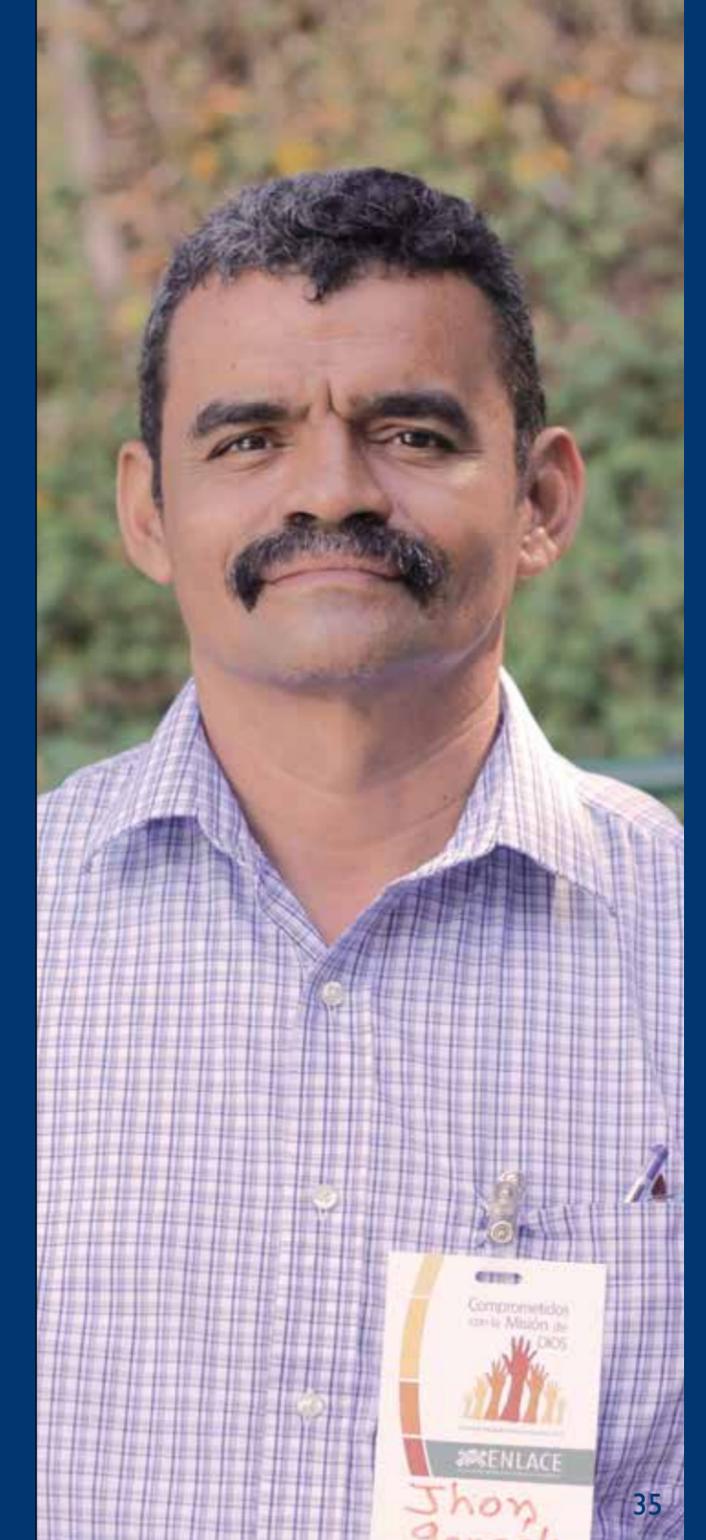
Founded in 1992
 Pastor: José Romeo Hernández
 Pastoring church since: 1992
 ENLACE partner since: 2014
 Membership: 70
 Leadership: 10
 Community partners:
 San Juan de Dio Hospital, Samaritan’s Purse, Mayor’s office
 Community projects implemented:
 medical team, food/clothes/supplies for needy students
 Potential number of people impacted: 25,000

Siervos de Justicia, Ciudad Barrios

Church founded: 1988
 Pastor: Oscar Anibal Orellana
 Pastoring church since: 2004
 ENLACE partner since: 2014
 Membership: 75
 Leadership: 22
 Community partners:
 Community Association, Mayor’s office
 Community projects implemented:
 road repair, food delivery
 Potential number of people impacted: 1,200

“ENLACE HAS HELPED US TO DISCOVER THAT WE AS THE CHURCH CAN BE NOT JUST DEEPLY CONCERNED FOR OUR COMMUNITY, BUT WE CAN ACTUALLY DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE PROBLEMS EVEN THOUGH WE OURSELVES ARE VERY HUMBLE.”

— PASTOR NELSON PAZ, GETSEMANÍ CHURCH



PROGRAM

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY



THE GOSPEL IS NOT JUST A MATTER OF WORDS AND THEORY, BUT OF GOD'S LOVE AND COMPASSION IN ACTION.

— ISIDRO RAMÍREZ, ENLACE CHURCH COACH SUPERVISOR



ISIDRO RAMÍREZ CHURCH COACH SUPERVISOR

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 BELIEVE THAT IT IS GOD'S WILL
THAT I AM HERE.***
— OSCAR ALEXANDER VÁSQUEZ, CHURCH COACH

OSCAR ALEXANDER VÁSQUEZ CHURCH COACH

The story of Oscar Alexander Vasquez is nothing short of a miracle. After suffering through an extremely turbulent childhood in which he encountered the breakup of his family, his father's suicide, and living alone with a very difficult stepmother, Alex often escaped by running away and living on the streets. With poverty and gang violence providing the rest of the backdrop to his life, his emergence as one of ENLACE's most recent church coach hires is all the more breathtaking.

During his formative years, his lack of a stable home was accentuated by the lack of any religious dimension to his life. Eventually, however, he and his stepmother became Christians and joined a local church. At this church, being a Christian meant to shun the world and only interact with others from the church. Alex noticed that the church down the road called "El Buen Samaritano" pastored by Miguel Duran (a long-time partner with ENLACE) not only interacted with everyone in their community but also with people from the United States. Alex disapproved and believed that this church must be "worldly" and not really following God.

It was at this time that Alex learned about the death of his father. And it was the fallout from this moment that changed his life forever. Upon hearing of his father's death, it was Pastor Miguel and his church leaders who came to his and his stepmother's aid. The church paid for funeral costs because Alex had no money to buy even a basic wooden coffin. Soon after, Pastor Miguel helped Alex to return to school by facilitating a gift from donors in the U.S. At 19, Alex entered 9th grade, graduated two years later and went on to study theology in college.

Over the last few years, Alex has not only continued to study but has also ministered greatly to other young people in his community. He was hired on as a church coach in 2014 and said, "The process of reaching ENLACE has tested my faith, but I believe that it is God's will that I am here."



GERMAN AYALA CHURCH COACH

German Ayala's life has been filled with many experiences. When he was still in High School he worked for his father who was a radio technician. After that he worked in a clothing company. Upon graduating he worked at a bank for several years until he decided that studying theology was his true calling.

During his college years, he became very active in his church. He leads worship and plays the guitar, is the Director of Services, teaches a Bible study for teens and is a leader of a cell group. It was at this church that a member told him about applying to a Christian organization that could use all his previous experience while also challenging him spiritually.

It has been in his role as Church Coach that German has learned most, he says, and he learns from the pastors every day. "I think rural pastors and leaders have a great love for the work. (But) it has been shocking to see communities far away (from the capital). It's hard to understand how people can survive sometimes. But it's impressive to see these churches following the example of Christ."

**“IT'S IMPRESSIVE TO SEE THESE CHURCHES
FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST.
— GERMAN AYALA, CHURCH COACH**”



I HAD ONLY HEARD OF MISSIONARY WORK, BUT HAD NEVER HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE IT.
— GERZON GÓMEZ, CHURCH COACH

GERZON GÓMEZ CHURCH COACH

Gerzon Gómez is no stranger to complete and utter heartache. When he was young and the problem of gang violence was part of his daily context, his mother was killed by a stray bullet. His father hadn't been a part of the family and so when she died, Gerzon and his 9 siblings were left orphaned. It was a scary and uncertain time, one that Gerzon still grieves over.

However, a loving uncle took Gerzon in and provided a place of love. Uncle Orestes not only took the children under his wing, but he also paid for Gerzon to attend school and taught him about God. Gerzon responded to this by working hard and ultimately winning a scholarship from the Mayor's Office of San Vicente to study at the Salverio Navarrete Institute.

The scholarship helped but didn't cover everything. Instead of giving up, he got a job as an assistant bricklayer during the day and took classes at night. His effort didn't go unnoticed by his peers who applied for a grant for him which won him a stipend that covered basic expenses and food. Because of that, Gerzon was able to go back to school during the day and complete his studies.

After graduation, Gerzon was offered as a watchman and janitor at the church he attended. He hoped to continue studying at another university to get a theology degree, but layoffs and other less-paying jobs made it impossible. When Gerzon was out of work he prayed for God's guidance and help. Even still, nothing seemed to change.

After learning about ENLACE, Gerzon wasn't sure what kind of ministry this was. It wasn't like any Christian organization that he'd been a part of before. However, after a few interviews, he was surprised that an organization would be dedicated to helping churches reach out. It completely changed his point of view of the mission of the church and the calling of servant-leaders. When he was younger, he'd always desired to help people in some way, just like his Uncle Orestes helped him. But to base the way church was done on that idea was new to him. "When I came to ENLACE, I understood that God was guiding me in this way. Unfortunately, many times one becomes selfish and wants the Lord to give and to bless...But this (job) is different...Working in Abelines has impacted me greatly. The churches aren't looking for their own comfort...I had only heard of missionary work, but had never had the opportunity to live it."



LIVING OUT HIS PLAN WILL BRING THE FULLEST POTENTIAL TO OUR LIVES.
— MARVIN SÁNCHEZ, CHURCH COACH



MARVIN SÁNCHEZ CHURCH COACH

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.

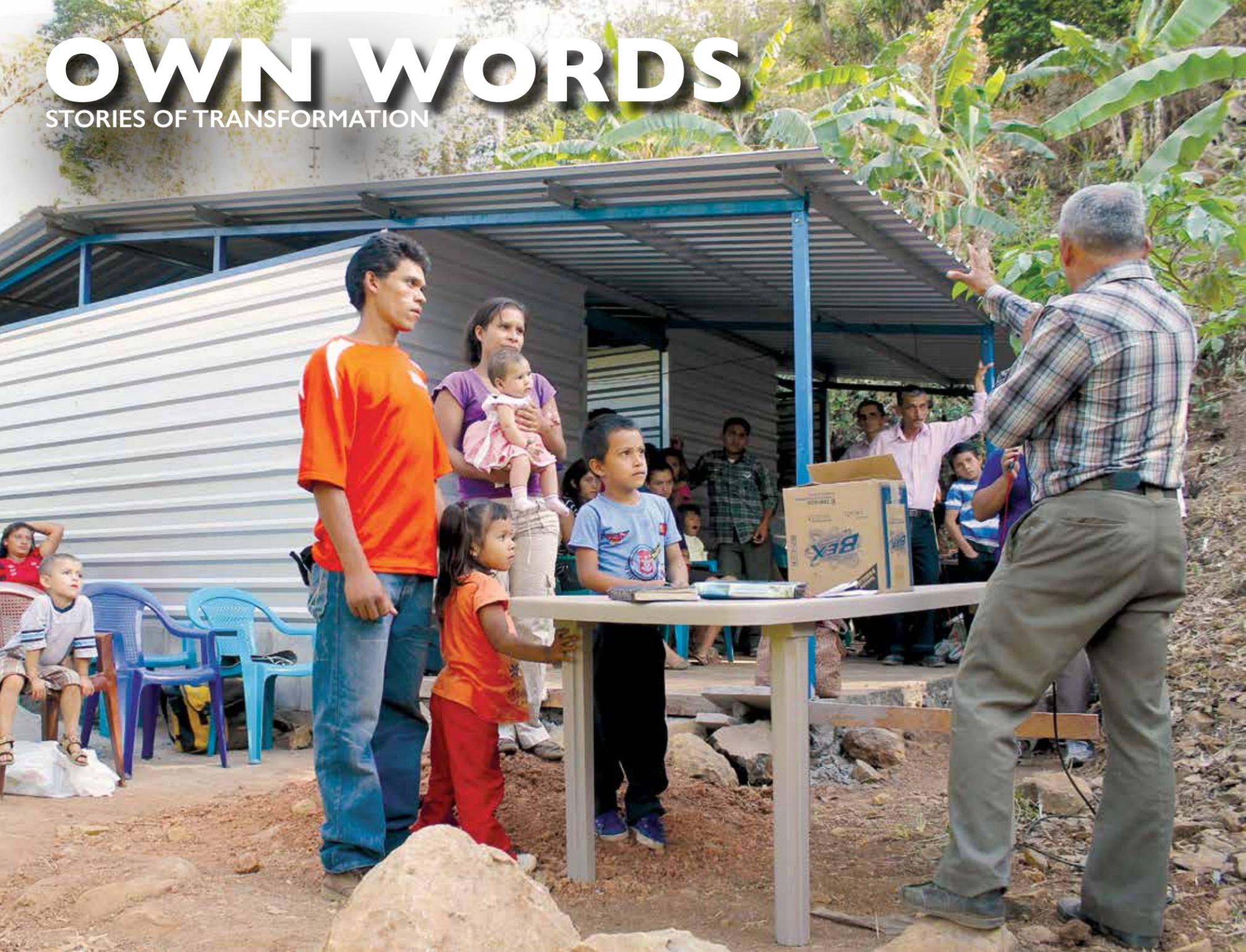
Before coming to ENLACE, Marvin worked as a counselor for adolescents with Compassion International in El Salvador. In this role, he enjoyed helping young people to discover and develop their potential. Marvin brings this and many other life experiences to his church coaching. He loves to encourage ENLACE's 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.



OWN WORDS

STORIES OF TRANSFORMATION



God Sees and Provides: The Story of the Coca-Pacheco Family

Anibal and Candelaria Coca-Pacheco and their three children work hard each day. At the break of dawn Anibal heads off to farm and Candelaria and the children go to the river to wash and collect water and haul it back home. While it will always be a very difficult struggle to farm enough corn and beans to feed a family of five all year long, what was proving even more difficult was staying healthy in a home that caused illness to each member of the family.

This previous home was made of rusted tin, plastic, and bamboo poles held together with mud. The structure was not only inadequate to provide protection during storms, but it was also a total health hazard. The walls were often damp due to the six-month rainy season, creating chronic respiratory infections. The walls were also infested with tiny mites that burrowed into the family's skin, causing skin conditions and great discomfort. Due to these problems and other illnesses, every member of the family was a frequent visitor to the local clinic.

Their new home is made of zinc-coated corrugated steel walls and roof. Its cement foundation and wiring for electricity will help to provide them a possibility of a much better, healthier future. Candelaria is especially thankful that her children, one of which is not yet a year old and still breastfeeding, will live in a dry and safe place. And while the future still holds much hard work, the whole family is extremely grateful for the love that the local church has demonstrated to them. They recognize it as God's provision.



“ I FEEL SO GRATEFUL FOR MY NEW HOUSE. — NOE SÁNCHEZ ”

Noe Sánchez: A Story of Suffering and Hope

Noe is one of those people who after having met him, you know you will never forget. Despite having an incredibly difficult life, full of family strife and physical challenges, he's always chosen to love and care for others. He is well known in his community of El Cerro as a tailor, surrogate father to his siblings, and caregiver to his mother along with upstanding student with hopes of becoming a teacher.

Noe is now in his early twenties but has lived a lifetime of challenges. When he was just 9 years old he went to live and work for a mechanic, sending money home to his mother and five siblings. His father was not a kind man and rarely provided anything for the family except fear and strife. When Noe's mother got sick, his father left the family. Since she had to remain in the hospital for nine months, Noe, just 13, came home and took on the role of single parent.

Over the last 10 years, Noe has nursed his mother, farmed a small plot of land, put himself and his siblings through school, taught his mother to read and write, and taken odd jobs to make ends meet. Even though Noe's right hand is deformed, and he was often ridiculed, one of these jobs included learning to sew. Initially he learned to sew so that

he could make school uniforms for himself and his siblings. However, when other students and parents saw his clothes, they began to make orders for trousers, shirts and skirts.

Noe's mornings were filled with work and in the afternoons he studied. Even though he was glad he could help his family, on many nights, Noe would cry himself to sleep and ask for God's help.

“God helped me,” said Noe. “I was able to put my brother and sister in school... and by working with my sewing machine, I was able to save money to begin university. I plan to get my BA in Education.” Noe's desire to teach is something he's already doing. He taught his younger brother how to sew and now his brother is making uniforms for his classmates.

One of the most difficult challenges over the years, however, has been the family's dilapidated home. The roof was in constant need of repair, which allowed in rain and wildlife. The walls were falling apart. When the church stepped in, they were extremely happy to help Noe, a person they all knew and respected.

“People know me, and they know my story...[and even though] I had no childhood, I feel very proud that I have help[ed] my siblings be able to make something better out of their lives.”

The Miracles of Bridge Building

What is a miracle?

Could a miracle be not having to make a treacherous crossing over a ravine every day to get to school? Could it be not having to worry if your grandmother will fall on an eroding slope on her way to sell tomatoes at the market? Could it be that hauling water back home could be made a thousand times easier and less dangerous? According to 18,000 people in El Platanar and four adjacent communities, the newly built pedestrian bridge is about as beautiful and life-giving as a miracle can be.

2014 saw the completion of a bridge project that was years in the making and The Sendero de Dios Church that spearheaded the initiative, held a community-wide inauguration. It was a joyful event in which the mayor, the Community Association and local residents all celebrated together.

During the ceremony, ENLACE's Executive Director, Ron Bueno, talked about miracles. "A miracle is when God intervenes in a situation, in a direct way, and changes it. (But) I have to be honest and say that when we saw the budget which was over \$100,000, I was quiet. This was big. But I

remember thinking, 'If God wants there to be a bridge, there will be a bridge.'"

Pastor Gerson Rodríguez (Sendero de Dios Church) echoed Ron's sentiments, "Some people saw the budget, and they thought it was impossible. But when God sees action, he takes care of the rest, and puts all the pieces in the correct place."

The importance of the project was also shared by the U.S. church that came alongside the Salvadoran church and helped to bring the project to completion. The words of Pastor Andy Lehmann from The Oaks Church (Red Oak, TX) explained the project's impact in an inspiring way.

"About a year and a half ago I stood exactly at the other side where the bridge begins. I heard stories of people who had died...That is why today we celebrate that God has allowed us to build this bridge.

We also celebrate another bridge that has been created amongst institutions, a bridge that unites the church and the community, people in different areas that are working together. It is

an honor to meet the men who participated in its construction. There is also a bridge that was built between the United States and El Salvador. Brothers and sisters who have the same Father, and we can come to be with you to celebrate this bridge.

The greatest bridge that we celebrate and the most important one that has been built is the one that made all this possible. It is the one that Jesus Christ created...He restored the relationship between God and us."

The project that broke ground in 2013 was completed in 2014, and was the first, most comprehensive infrastructure project the community of El Platanar and its neighboring villages had ever seen. Sendero de Dios Church is made up of 120 members, 24 leaders, all of whom are not well-educated, struggling to make ends meet but on fire to serve their community.

