



STORIES OF TRANSFORMATION: IN THEIR

OWN WORDS

2014 REPORT: SAN JOSÉ EL NARANJO REGION

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REGIONAL

OVERVIEW



In 2014 ENLACE church coaches trained and equipped 143 church leaders and 65 community leaders on a monthly basis in 13 churches serving 28 communities in the region of San José El Naranjo. The total area impact for this region is 18,994 people.

The San José El Naranjo region is located in El Salvador's westernmost province of Ahuachapan. The region is comprised of many rural towns, each of which is surrounded by dozens of smaller villages. In the mountainous, rural villages most of the residents are subsistence farmers. They rent or own less than five acres of land and try to produce enough traditional crops (corn, beans and sorghum) to feed their families. The average person lives on between \$1 and \$2 per day. In the towns located along the coast, most families survive by fishing, a rather risky profession. They rent or own small boats, going far out into the ocean, often working all night for a few dollars worth of profit. The city of Cara Sucia is the regional center for commerce and with its close proximity to the Guatemalan border, many of its residents work in the markets that line the street leading to the border crossing. Even though it is the location of vibrant trade, it has a great need for sewage systems and latrines. In rural villages, the majority of people have limited access to primary health care services, clean drinking water and sanitation facilities.

PROJECT REPORT 2014

10
PROJECTS

Projects implemented in San José El Naranjo in 2014.

1997
PEOPLE

In 2014, over 1997 lives were impacted by the projects implemented in San José El Naranjo.

PROJECT GOALS 2015

16
PROJECTS

In 2015, 16 projects are planned to be implemented.

7000
PEOPLE

In 2015, the church hopes to impact the lives of over 7000 people.



“ AS A CHURCH WE HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY AND MANDATE FROM GOD TO HELP PEOPLE HOWEVER WE CAN. — PASTOR MARCOS MELARA, JERUSALÉN CHURCH ”

JERUSALÉN CHURCH, SAN JOSÉ EL NARANJO

Nueva Jerusalén Church, located in San José El Naranjo proper, is a semi-rural congregation of 180 members, 42 of whom are strong leaders. Pastor Marcos Antonio Melara began working with ENLACE 1996, making him one of ENLACE's pioneering pastors. Over the last 19 years, the church has worked with its community to implement a variety of projects such as hosting medical teams; installing eco-stoves and latrines; and building dozens of homes, a water tank and a Cistern for Liceo Cristiano School, a pedestrian bridge, roads, a school room, and retaining walls for the health clinic. In the process the church established solid relationships with its neighbors and started teaching other churches nearby how to reach out and serve their communities. The church has grown by 6%.

PROJECT REPORT 2014



The goal for 2014 was to build 12 home gardens. This project was completed. Training was provided as well as ongoing technical assistance and seeds to 12 farmers. Nine farmers chose to continue the project and 60 people benefit directly from the gardens.



The goal for 2014 was to design, fund and build a water cistern system for the local school. This project was completed and over 230 students are now provided with a constant water supply.

PROJECT GOALS 2015



The goal for 2015 is to repair and improve the road near the soccer field to benefit over 300 people who use the road daily.



The goal for 2015 is to build a perimeter wall at a local public school to increase security for the students, teachers and parents.



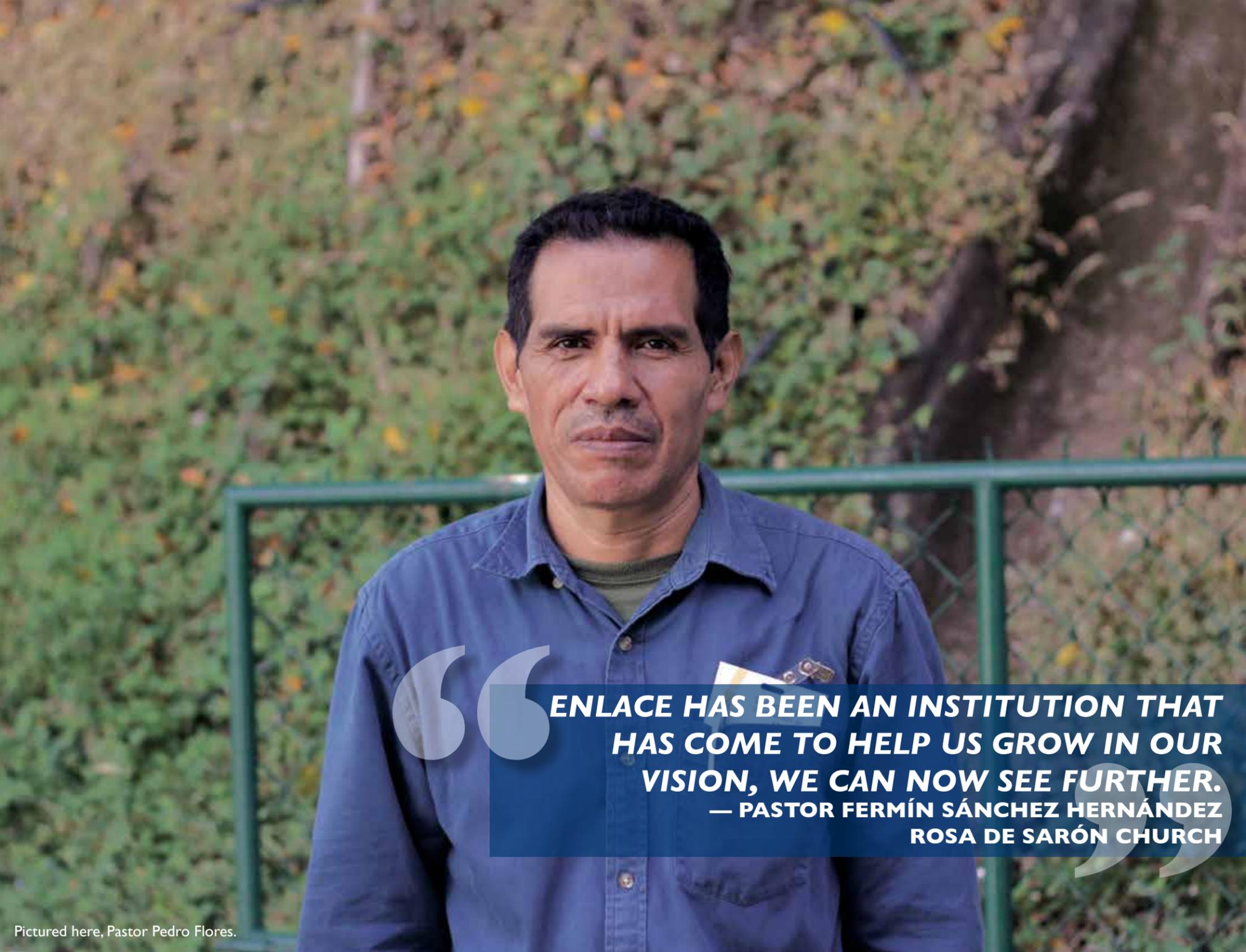
The goal for 2015 is to repair 656 ft of Cemetery Street to benefit 1,200 people who use the road daily.



The goal for 2014 was to repair and improve the tank and water distribution system in the community.



The goal for 2014 was to repair and improve the road in front of a local Christian school.



VOZ QUE CLAMA EN EL DESIERTO CHURCH SAN ANTONIO EN MEDIO

Voz que Clama en el Desierto Church, surrounded by hills and rivers, is a humble congregation of 25 members, 6 of whom are leaders. In 2005 their former pastor, Jeovany Rivas, learned about ENLACE through the Nueva Jerusalén Church. In 2010 Pedro Flores became its new pastor and wanted to continue the church’s vision of working alongside their community supported by ENLACE’s coaching and training. After working hard over the last few years, the church has become a well-respected entity in the community. Working with the community in the past, the church repaired many of the main roads, built a water tank, installed 25 latrines and also implemented a reforestation plan. The church has not seen an increase in attendance but now is impacting more than 660 people in the community.

“**ENLACE HAS BEEN AN INSTITUTION THAT HAS COME TO HELP US GROW IN OUR VISION, WE CAN NOW SEE FURTHER.**
— PASTOR FERMÍN SÁNCHEZ HERNÁNDEZ
ROSA DE SARÓN CHURCH

PROJECT GOALS 2015



The goal for 2015 is to install electricity hookups for 25 homes. (\$7,500)



The goal for 2015 is to repair and improve a section of primary road.



The goal for 2015 is to improve footbridge reinforcements in the community.



LOMAS DEL JORDÁN CHURCH LOS LIRIOS

The Lomas del Jordán Church was founded in 1997 and is located in the municipality of Cara Sucia. It is a humble and hardworking congregation of 70 members, 42 of whom are leaders. Its pastor, Jeovany Rivas, learned about ENLACE through Nueva Jerusalén Church in San Jose El Naranjo when he was pastor of Voz que Clama en el Desierto Church in San Antonio en Medio, an ENLACE church partner since 2005. When pastor Jeovany became the pastor of Lomas del Jordan, he continued to work with ENLACE and rallied the church around this vision. Even though Pastor Jeovany has moved to another church at the end of last year, the church has grown by 16% and is impacting 790 people. The church continues to work with its community and hopes to impact not only their own community but also the neighboring village of El Cortijo.

“AFTER MANY YEARS WITH ENLACE, IT’S AMAZING TO SEE HOW OUR COMMUNITY HAS BECOME SO ENTREPRENEURIAL.”
— PASTOR MARCOS MELARA, JERUSALÉN CHURCH

PROJECT REPORT 2014



The goal for 2014 was to provide training to 15 farmers. This project was complete, and five additional farmers were trained. Agricultural training was completed for 20 participants and the focus was on cultivating basic grains. This program directly benefits 100 people.



The goal for 2014 was to build 20 composting latrines. This project was completed and directly improved the lives of 100 people.



PRINCIPE DE PAZ CHURCH LAS DELICIAS

The Príncipe de Paz Church, founded in 1990, is a congregation of 60 members, 15 of whom are leaders. Its pastor, Miguel Angel Bolaños is a dynamic and enthusiastic leader. From the first moment of learning about ENLACE through the Nueva Jerusalén Church, pastor Miguel embraced the vision of working effectively with his community. He was so enthusiastic that he wanted to start the process as soon as possible. Soon after receiving initial training, the church spearheaded building 27 latrines within its community with the support of the Nueva Jerusalén church. In 2013, they completed a housing project that provided homes for 10 families. The church has grown by 20% since beginning to reach out to its community.

Although Pastor Miguel has just recently moved on to another church in a different region, due to complications with his wife’s health, the leadership of the church are very excited to continue its community service plan that includes completing their latrine project.

**“ THE LITTLEST THINGS LIKE
LATRINES MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND
ARE A BLESSING FROM HEAVEN.**

— PASTOR MIGUEL BOLAÑOS, PRINCIPE DE PAZ CHURCH

PROJECT REPORT 2014



The goal for 2014 was to build 50 composting latrines. In reality, only 15 composting latrines were built due to lack of funds. However, preventive health education and maintenance training was provided to 75 people.

PROJECT GOALS 2015



The goal for 2015 is to build 35 composting latrines and provide preventive health education and maintenance training to benefit 175 people. (\$18,375)



The goal for 2015 is to provide electricity to 10 homes benefiting 50 people. (\$8,000)



The goal for 2015 is to build 15 new adobe block homes benefiting approximately 75 people. (\$76,000)



The goal for 2015 is repair 500 ft of main access road.



ROSA DE SARÓN CHURCH METALIO

The Rosa de Sarón Church, located on the western coast of El Salvador, has a congregation of 65 members, 14 of whom are leaders. In 2011 its founding pastor, Fermín Sánchez Hernández, learned about ENLACE through Nueva Jerusalén Church. The church began training and has focused on creating an effective management system for future projects such as eco-stoves, a retaining wall and electricity. In 2013 the church worked with the community on its first project, which was building 50 eco-stoves. This church's work has become a model for implementing eco-stoves due to the incredibly organized way the church worked together and involved 2 community associations while installing the clean cook stoves in record time. The church has grown by 2% in the past year and is impacting 1,200 people on an ongoing basis.



WE ARE LEARNING TO SEE WHAT GOD WANTS FROM US WHICH IS PRECISELY TO GO BEYOND TO WHERE NO ONE WANTED TO GO.
— PASTOR FERMÍN SÁNCHEZ HERNÁNDEZ, ROSA DE SARÓN CHURCH

PROJECT REPORT 2014



The goal for 2014 was to install 50 eco-stoves. This project was completed and directly improved the lives of 250 people.

PROJECT GOALS 2015



The goal for 2015 is to install 50 eco-stoves, including construction, maintenance and training. (\$12,500)



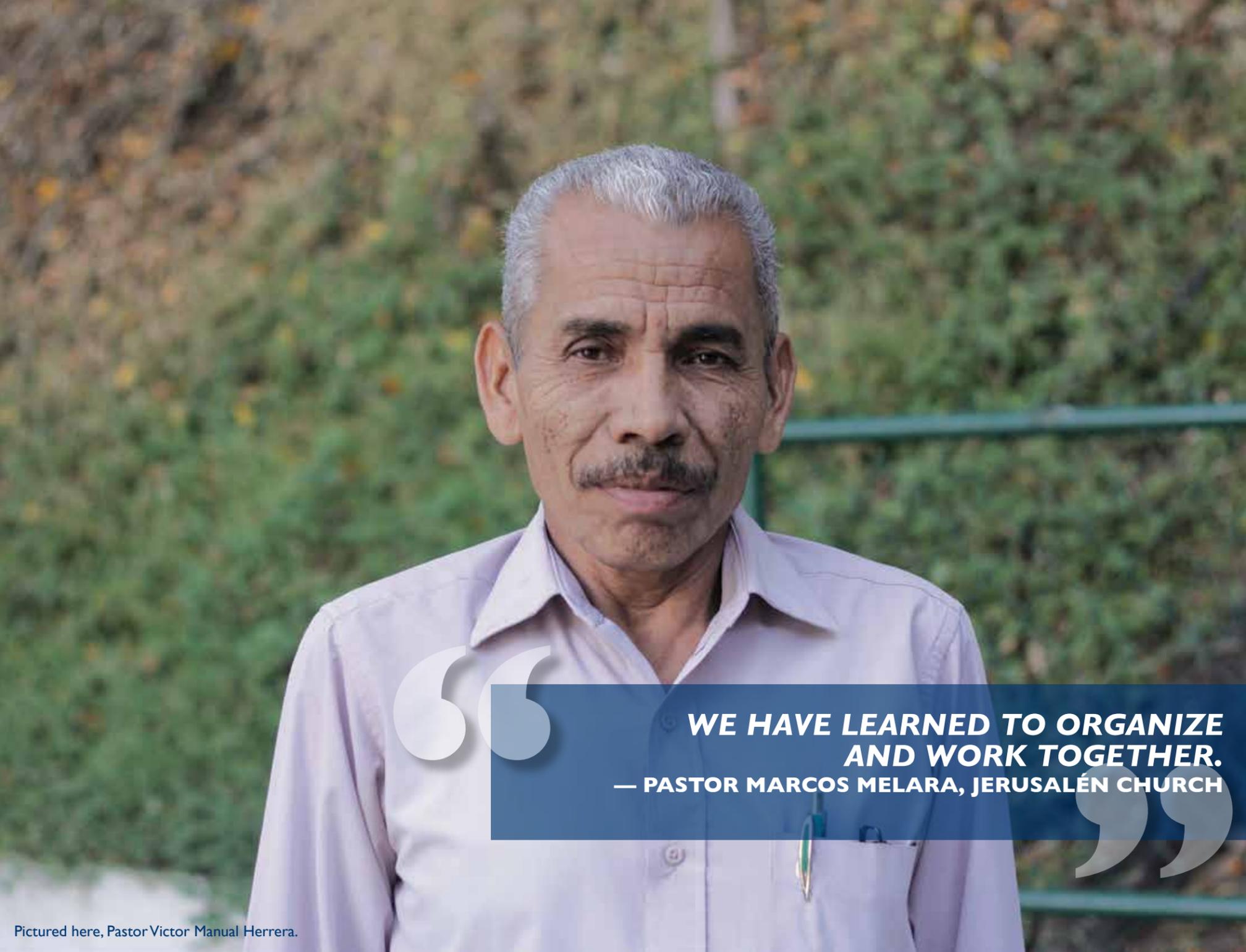
The goal for 2015 is to build 15 new zinc laminate homes to benefit 75 people. (\$76,000)



The goal for 2015 is to install electricity in 10 homes to benefit 50 people. (\$10,000)



The goal for 2015 is to build a retaining wall.



AGUAS VIVAS CHURCH CARA SUCIA

The Aguas Vivas Church is a congregation of 180 members, 30 of whom are leaders. Its pastor, Victor Manuel Herrera, learned about ENLACE through Nueva Jerusalén Church, where he served as one of its previous pastors. As he witnessed the process of transformation that San José El Naranjo was experiencing, his desire to connect with ENLACE grew. The church now has begun training and is in the process of getting to know the community and its needs in a more intimate and thorough way. Over the past year, the church has grown by 12% and is impacting 1,500 people. The church desires to impact its own community and the neighboring communities of El Llano and La San José.



**WE HAVE LEARNED TO ORGANIZE
AND WORK TOGETHER.**
— PASTOR MARCOS MELARA, JERUSALÉN CHURCH



PROJECT GOALS 2015



The goal for 2015 is to build a playground for local Christian school to provide a safe place for children to play. (\$3,000)



The goal for 2015 is to improve the reinforcements on the footbridge.



The goal for 2015 is to repair and improve a section of primary road.



MANANTIALES DE VIDA ETERNA CHURCH EL ESCONDIDO

Manantiales de Vida Eterna Church is a congregation of 25 members, 12 of whom are leaders. Its pastor, José Manuel Torres, learned about ENLACE through Nueva Jerusalén Church. This church has built an excellent relationship with the local Community Association, the mayor's office and the local public school. In 2014, the church worked in the village of San José El Naranjo proper on home building and community cleanup campaigns and thereby gained a lot of experience at managing and implementing projects. The church is excited to focus on the 300 people in its direct community in 2015.



**WE'VE DISCOVERED A NEW
WAY OF THINKING.**
— PASTOR MIGUEL BOLAÑOS, PRINCIPE DE PAZ CHURCH



PROJECT GOALS 2015



The goal for 2015 is to build 165 ft retaining wall to provide increased safety to residents especially during torrential rains.



The goal for 2015 is to improve footbridges.



The goal for 2015 is to build 25 composting latrines and provide preventative health education and maintenance training to benefit 100 people. (\$13,125)

Pictured here, Pastor José Manuel Torres.



APOSENTO ALTO CHURCH EL COCALITO

Aposento Alto Eterna Church is a congregation of 61 members, 20 of whom are leaders. Its pastor, José Israel Pineda, learned about ENLACE through Principe de Paz Church. This church has built an excellent relationship with the local Community Association, the mayor's office, the local school and the local health unit. The church has participated in community road projects and is excited to impact 1,720 people in its immediate area in 2015.

**WE'VE LEARNED HOW TO ORGANIZE
AND CREATE OUR OWN SOLUTIONS.
— PASTOR MARCOS MELARA, JERUSALÉN CHURCH**

PROJECT GOALS 2015



The goal for 2015 is to repair 32 ft of main access road.



The goal for 2015 is to build 2 classrooms for the local public school.



The goal for 2015 is to build 35 composting latrines and provide preventative health education and maintenance training to benefit 175 people. (\$18,375)



The goal for 2015 is to build 15 new zinc laminate homes to benefit 75 people. (\$76,000)

NEW CHURCH

PARTNER PROFILES



Five 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 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 future potential.



“ I’M EXCITED TO BE PART OF THIS PROCESS...[I LOVE] WALKING WITH THE PASTORS... WALKING DOWN THE STREETS OF THEIR COMMUNITIES, MEETING WITH THEM, TALKING ABOUT THE CHALLENGES IN THEIR COMMUNITIES AND COMING UP WITH SOLUTIONS.

**— NOÉ CANALES,
CHURCH COACH**

Templo Eben-Ezer, Dios de la Profecía Church

Founded in 2011
 Pastor: Abraham Eliseo Segovia
 Pastoring church since: 2011
 ENLACE partner since: 2013
 Membership: 45
 Leadership: 20
 Community partners:
 Community Association, Mayor’s office
 Community projects implemented:
 clean-up campaign
 Potential number of people impacted: 350

Oasis de Gloria Church, San Antonio El Monte

Founded in 2010
 Pastor: Juan Antonio Fuentes
 Pastoring church since: 2014
 ENLACE partner since: 2014
 Membership: 52
 Leadership: 16
 Community partners:
 Mayor’s office, Community Association
 Community projects implemented:
 road repair, water system
 Potential number of people impacted: 625

Mahanain Church, Las Victorias

Founded in 2003
 Pastor: Marvin Esaú Rivas
 Pastoring church since: 2004
 ENLACE partner since: 2014
 Membership: 80
 Leadership: 20
 Community partners:
 Community Association, Mayor’s office
 Community projects implemented:
 clean-up campaign
 Potential number of people impacted: 1,555

Monte Horeb Church, La Molina

Founded in 1982
 Pastor: Jaime Anibal Menjivar
 Pastoring church since: 2002
 ENLACE partner since: 2014
 Membership: 80
 Leadership: 20
 Community partners:
 Community Association, Mayor’s office
 Community projects implemented:
 clean-up campaign, road repair
 Potential number of people impacted: 2,000

Monte Hermon Church, Las Mesas

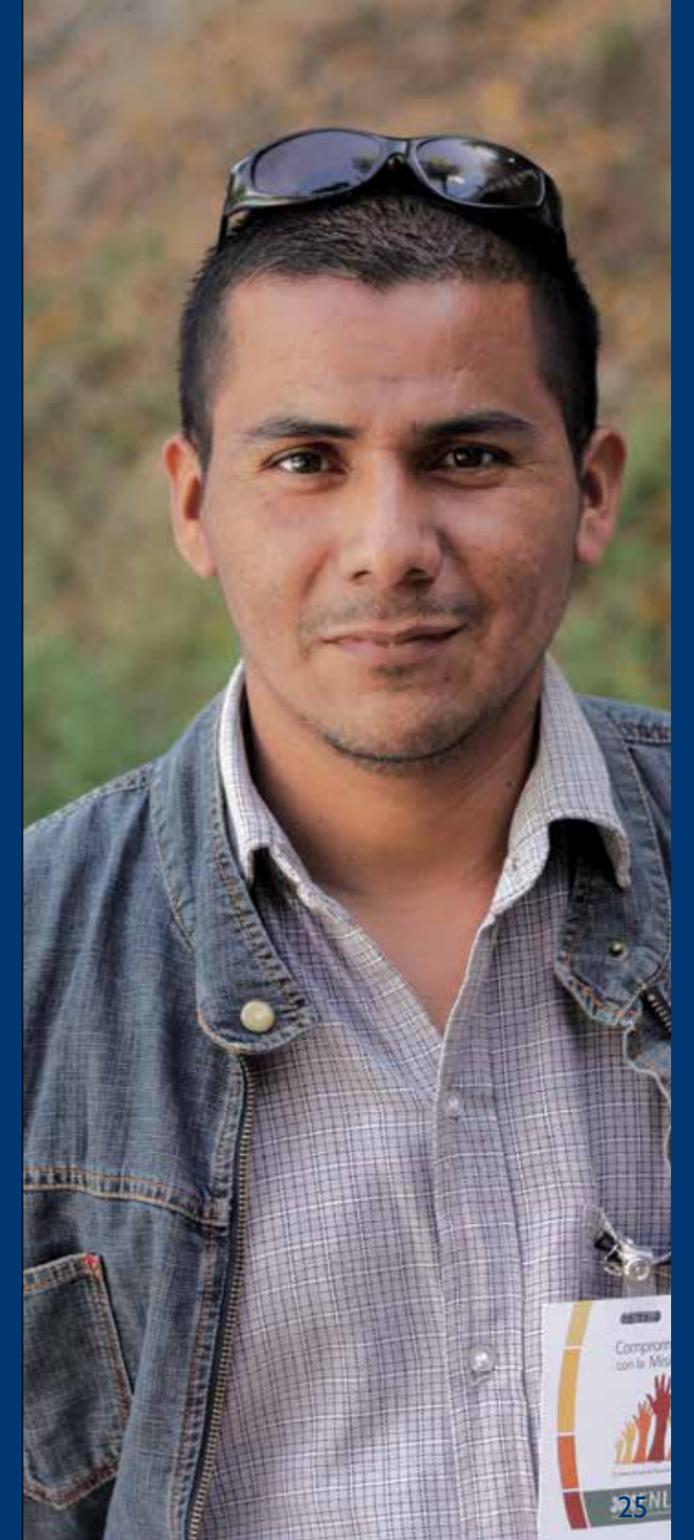
Founded in 1975
 Pastor: Luis Alonso Hernández
 Pastoring church since: 2012
 ENLACE partner since: 2014
 Membership: 106
 Leadership: 16
 Community partners:
 Community association, Mayor’s office
 Community projects implemented:
 food delivery, financial support
 Potential number of people impacted: 225 families

“ IT IS AS IF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN HAS COME TO EARTH. THIS IS WHAT GOD HAS CALLED THE CHURCH TO DO: TO TRANSFORM AND SERVE THEIR COMMUNITY

**— GERSON RAMÍREZ,
CHURCH COACH
SUPERVISOR**

“ LEADERS HAVE EMERGED.

**— PASTOR MARCOS MELARA,
JERUSALÉN CHURCH**



PROGRAM

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY



IT IS SO MEANINGFUL FOR ME TO SEE PEOPLE FROM THE LOCAL CHURCH LOOKING TO SERVE THEIR NEIGHBORS WITH HUMBLE AND PURE HEARTS.

— GERSON RAMÍREZ, ENLACE CHURCH COACH SUPERVISOR

GERSON RAMÍREZ ENLACE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY PROGRAM DIRECTOR CHURCH COACH SUPERVISOR

When Gerson was a teenager, he prayed for a vocation where he could serve the poor in a way that would produce dignified work and sustainability. A few years later he heard about an opportunity to work as a church coach at ENLACE. But he was in the middle of his theological studies and couldn't commit to a full-time job. He told his father, Isidro Ramírez, who was a pastor, about the position. His dad interviewed and was hired and now serves as a church coach in the growing regions of Abelines, San Miguel and San José El Naranjo.

His father's experience impacted Gerson greatly. ENLACE's vision and mission felt like a perfect fit in the way he felt called to minister. In March 2009, a new church coaching position opened up and Gerson applied. He quickly became a very dedicated and loved member of the ENLACE team even while continuing with his studies. In December 2010, Gerson graduated with a BA in Theology and a concentration in missions, and in 2014 he received a MA in Finance.

Gerson Ramirez's primary goal, as ENLACE's Church Coach Coordinator, is to serve and empower local churches to identify ways to help their communities find sustainable solutions to poverty. Gerson and his wife, Brenda Quintanilla, recently became first-time parents with the birth of their daughter, Grace.



**[I LOVE] DISCUSSING HOW GOD HELPS
[TO] BRING DEVELOPMENT AND CHANGE.
— NOÉ CANALES, CHURCH COACH**

NOÉ CANALES CHURCH COACH

When Noé Canales was just a teenager he already had a strong passion to serve Christ. He devoted much of his time as a volunteer with the Royal Rangers, a Christian wilderness program for boys. After High School he took on many odd jobs while he began to study theology. Three years into his studies, Noé was hired by World Vision as a Christian Commitment Coordinator, and began a career in community development. Through this experience, Noé saw a glimpse of what rural churches can accomplish when they work with their communities. When the World Vision program concluded, Noé encountered ENLACE and joined its staff in June 2011.

Being involved with ENLACE has provided Noé a way to continue his passion to serve Christ. He says, “I’m excited to be part of this process... [I love] walking with the pastors... walking down the streets of their communities, meeting with them, talking about the challenges in their communities and coming up with solutions... [I love] discussing how God helps [to] bring development and change.”

Over the last three years, Noé helped to foment an amazing growth in the number of churches in the region of San José El Naranjo, going from two to nine! These churches now form a regional network that meets on an ongoing basis to share experiences and coordinate efforts. This region’s cohesiveness was displayed in an amazing way during a thanksgiving service late in 2013. More than 500 community members from all over the region and the mayor celebrated the year’s successes with representatives of all nine churches and ENLACE. Noé’s hard work and vision has made these successes possible.

Noé and his wife, Mirna Quiñonez, have one five-year-old son, Ricardo Ernesto.



**ENLACE IS THE PLACE WHERE I CAN
APPLY [MY PASSION].**
— WILLIAMS RODRIGUEZ, CHURCH COACH

WILLIAMS RODRÍGUEZ CHURCH COACH

Williams Rodriguez 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."

OWN WORDS

STORIES OF TRANSFORMATION

Linking a Vision of Service to a Yearning for Change

Walking into the Principe de Paz Church on any given Sunday the message that this church is on a mission to serve its neighbors is clear. The words of Jesus are heard along with words like “latrine”, “community health” and “safe housing”.

But this was not always the case. Just a few years ago, most Sunday services were spent in prayer, praise and exhortation to live a devoted life, a life that was focused on maintaining a distance from others who were not church members. Now, along with prayer and personal reflection, services include praise reports of newly built latrines, prayers for the community association and a time to sign up for a service committee for families needing food. The pastor’s sermons now invariably exhort his flock to serve as Jesus served.

It’s a church not just in tune with its community’s needs but yearning to be a part of God’s plan to meet those needs and love His creation through sacrificial service.

ENLACE’s role as an organization is one that comes alongside churches such as Principe de Paz, as they fulfill this yearning to serve. As one Church Coach put it recently, ENLACE is the breath that fans the flames of service into sustainable and effective change. The name ENLACE also means “link” in Spanish, and by linking pastors and leaders to expertise, resources, and encouragement, impoverished communities can not only receive love and spiritual direction from their local church but also physical solutions that impact their daily lives.

Pastors and leaders who have worked with ENLACE also link to each other and mentor new ones. When Pastor Marcos from Nueva Jerusalén Church (a long-time partner with ENLACE) met Pastor Miguel from Principe de Paz Church, it was the beginning of a “beautiful friendship”. Pastor Marcos helped Pastor Miguel to contact ENLACE and then walked with him during the initial training, which generally lasts one year.

During this time, Pastor Miguel embraced the vision and even before finishing the year process, the small, 60-member Principe de Paz Church started a latrine project for 27 families. The next year, along with providing basic foodstuffs and supplies for 40 families that were struggling daily to feed themselves, they took on a major housing project that built 10 new homes for families.

It was through these projects that ENLACE helped the church to create and strengthen relationships to the Mayor’s Office and the Community Association. By forging strong friendships with local groups, the poor and marginalized can gain a voice. When the church helps to champion the cause of the poor, it is accomplishing one central aspect of God’s mission on earth.

It is at this stage in the process (when the church has come to know and work well with its community) that ENLACE provides a link to outside resources. Rather than bringing in something outsiders believe to be helpful, ENLACE empowers the local church working with its community to identify and design their own projects. In this way, the dignity of the poor is prioritized and real, grassroots change is accomplished.

“Once, our church members did not see themselves as able to give to others. We thought we were too poor. But now, we’ve discovered a new way of thinking,” said Pastor Miguel.

Pastor Miguel and the Principe de Paz Church are just getting going. They have a vision that includes electricity, more latrines, and more aid for the hungry. Their commitment grows stronger with each completed project that they thought they could never make happen.

