



STORIES OF TRANSFORMATION: IN THEIR  
**OWN WORDS**

2014 REPORT: CENTRAL REGION  
San Martín and San Pedro de Urubamba

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START GARDENS AND HELP THEM WITH THEIR  
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# REGIONAL

OVERVIEW

**BEFORE WE HAD TO ASK OTHERS TO LEND US MONEY...(BUT NOW) I GIVE TO MY NEIGHBORS.**

**— VILMA ESTELA VENURA PEREZ,  
COMMUNITY MEMBER, EL ESPINO**

In 2014 ENLACE trained and equipped over 156 church leaders and 111 community leaders on a monthly basis in 15 churches serving 27 communities in San Martín and San Pedro Perulapán. The total area impact for those regions is 83,597 people.

The two major areas of the Central Region are San Martín and San Pedro Perulapán.

San Martín is located just east of El Salvador's capital, San Salvador, and is comprised of six communities divided into 37 hamlets with approximately 72,758 inhabitants. San Martín proper has a health clinic, public schools, private schools, and sanitation facilities. However, 88% have no access to clean water. ENLACE has worked here for almost two decades starting with Pastor Miguel Durán and the El Buen Samaritano Church. However, the area has grown to include the town of Panchimalco, just south of San Salvador, with more than 35,000 inhabitants. While Panchimalco proper is rich with indigenous heritage and colonial sites dating back to the early 1700's, many of the surrounding villages are among the poorest in the country.

San Pedro Perulapán is located in the province of Cuscatlán, 40 kilometers east of San Salvador. The area has a population of 66,000 people and is surrounded by rivers and creeks. Most of the population is small-scale farmers or factory laborers. In the urban areas most residents have access to health clinics and schools. ENLACE has been working here since 2008, first with Pastor Santos Carpio and the Tabernaculo Biblico church in El Espino. Together these municipalities make up the Central Region, which has 13 church partners with six more on the waiting list.

## PROJECT REPORT 2014

**38**  
PROJECTS

Projects implemented in San Martin and San Pedro Perulapan in 2014.

**12217**  
PEOPLE

In 2014, over 12000 lives were impacted by the projects implemented in both San Martin and San Pedro Perulapan.

## PROJECT GOALS 2015

**30**  
PROJECTS

In 2015, 30 projects are planned to be implemented.

**13000**  
PEOPLE

In 2015, the church hopes to impact the lives of 13000 people.



**“WHEN PROJECT MILAGRO IS FINISHED, IT WILL BE A BLESSING BECAUSE WE WILL HAVE WATER IN OUR HOMES.”**  
— MARTHA, COMMUNITY MEMBER, LAS DELICIAS

## EL BUEN SAMARITANO CHURCH LAS DELICIAS

El Buen Samaritano Church is a semi-urban congregation of 70 members, 12 of whom are leaders. In 1994 its pastor, Miguel Durán, and his congregation became the first church to partner with ENLACE, establishing a friendship that has spanned two decades. As pioneers, Pastor Miguel and his church led the way in serving their community with a variety of projects, and they have been invaluable to helping ENLACE become the organization it is today.

For over 30 years, Pastor Miguel dreamed of having clean water in the region of Las Delicias. In 2004, the church with the help of ENLACE and the local government, undertook a water project that will soon provide three communities, 10,000 people, with clean water. Pastor Miguel is a well-respected leader and serves as both president of the water board overseeing Project Milagro and is a member of the ENLACE Pastoral Steering Committee. The church has grown and is impacting 6,000 people.

## PROJECT REPORT 2014



The goal for 2014 was to install and inaugurate stage 5 of the water system. In reality the water system was installed and 350 families, over 1,750 people, have clean water in their homes. This system will be inaugurated in early 2015.

## PROJECT GOALS 2015



The goal for 2015 was to install stage 6 of a water system that will serve 1,400 families in Las Delicias (funded).



**“BARRIERS (BETWEEN THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY) HAVE BEEN BROKEN. THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW. — PASTOR JOSÉ MOLINA, FE Y GRACIA CHURCH”**

## PRINCIPE DE PAZ CHURCH SANTA MARÍA

Principe de Paz Church is a semi-urban congregation of 65 members, 23 of whom are leaders. In 2007 its pastor, Santiago Alfaro, heard about ENLACE through conversations with Pastor Miguel Durán who encouraged him to reach out and serve his community.

Pastor Santiago and the church embraced the training they received from ENLACE and began to reach out and serve those in need. Despite the fact that Pastor Santiago was a well-respected leader, the process of rallying the support of the community was extremely arduous for the church. It took over four years to organize committees and develop a relationship with the local mayor's office. The church leaders persevered, however, and by coming alongside their community, they eventually completed a road project that benefited over 600 people. Pastor Santiago now serves as a member of ENLACE's Pastoral Steering Committee and continues to lead efforts in his community. The church has grown by 13% in recent years and has directly impacted more than 12,000 people.

## PROJECT REPORT 2014



The goal for 2014 was to improve 4,265 feet of main road in a series of stages in Los Llanitos I and II. In reality, stage 1 was completed: 820 feet of a main road was paved and new gutters and curbs were added. 78 families, 390 people, who use this road on a daily basis now travel safer especially during the rainy season.

## PROJECT GOALS 2015



The goal for 2015 is to complete stage 2 of road improvement for 820 feet of main road, adding proper gutters and curbs for 78 families. (\$8,528.63)

The goal for 2015 is to complete water piping that will connect 6 families, 30 people, to potable water in Los Llanitos II. (\$7,500).



“ **AS A CHURCH, WE TRY TO HELP THE COMMUNITY...THE HOME GARDENS ARE A HUGE BLESSING.**  
 — PASTOR MARTA VEQUERANO, PALABRA DE PODER CHURCH ”

## PALABRA DE PODER CHURCH ANEMONA

Led by Pastor Marta Vaquerano and her son Walter, the Palabra de Poder Church is a dynamic congregation of 115 members, seven of whom are strong and committed leaders. In 2010 Pastor Marta prayed for clarity about how to better meet the needs of her community of Anemona, a shanty town compressed between the Pan-American Highway and old railroad tracks. In what she describes as an answer to prayer, she learned about ENLACE through Pastor Miguel Durán.

A devastating monsoon in November of 2009 left the community extremely damaged and vulnerable. In response, the church and community worked together to meet basic needs and later to provide access to water and electricity. In the short time the church has been working with ENLACE it has taken the lead on many projects such as home gardens and road repairs. Through these endeavors, the congregation has made new friendships and built relationships with other organizations such as the local mayor’s office. The church has grown by 4% in recent years and has directly impacted more than 1,200 people.

Late in 2013 Pastor Marta endured a life-threatening infection caused by a previous surgery. She spent months in the public hospital’s intensive care unit and was also in a drug-induced coma for several weeks. She miraculously began to recover before Christmas. During her absence, her son Walter, led the church as well as a another small church they founded on the northern side of San Martín. Pastor Marta is still in need of prayers as she continues her recovery.

## PROJECT REPORT 2014



The goal for 2014 was to create 12 home gardens. In reality, 24 home gardens were created. Training was provided, as was ongoing technical assistance and seeds. 120 people benefit directed from the home gardens.



The goal for 2014 was to create 25 tilapia cultivation ponds. In reality, 18 ponds were created. Training was provided, as was ongoing technical assistance, materials and fry, (starter fish). 90 people benefit directly from the tilapia ponds.

## PROJECT GOALS 2015



The goal for 2015 is to create 20 tilapia ponds. (\$9,000)



The goal for 2015 is to improve roads.



The goal for 2015 is to create a water distribution system for 195 families in two hamlets.



**“LAST YEAR I STARTED THE HOME GARDEN. THIS HAS COME TO BENEFIT ME VERY MUCH. IT GENERATES MUCH REVENUE.”**  
— COLOMBA PAX REYES, COMMUNITY MEMBER, ISTAHUA

## EL BUEN PASTOR CHURCH ISTAHUA

El Buen Pastor Church is a congregation of 60 members, 10 of whom are leaders. In 2010 its pastor, Salvador Andrade, attended a seminar hosted by Pastor Miguel Durán for churches in the San Martín region. Upon listening to how a church effectively serves its community, Pastor Salvador approached ENLACE about becoming a partner.

Even though the church decided to discontinue its partnership with ENLACE for 2015, in 2014 it strengthened its relationships with community members and other organizations such as the Ministry of Health. They collaborated on fumigation and home garden projects as well as community clean-up campaigns.

## PROJECT REPORT 2014



The goal for 2014 was to create 18 home gardens. In reality, 29 home gardens were created. Training was provided, as was ongoing technical assistance and seeds. 145 people benefit directed from the home gardens.



**THE CHURCH HAS HELPED PEOPLE, I HAVE FRIENDS WHO LIVED IN UNSAFE HOUSES AND NOW HAVE THEIR HOUSE WHO APPRECIATE IT.**  
**— LILIAN NOEMI AREVALO, COMMUNITY MEMBER, EL ESPINO**

## PAN DE VIDA CHURCH PANCHIMALCO

Pan de Vida Church is a hard-working congregation of 110 members, 16 of whom are leaders. In 2008, Erick Rodriguez, the pastor at the time, contacted ENLACE because he wanted his congregation to become better equipped to serve its community. From 2010 to 2014, Carlos Cruz served as pastor and remained firmly committed to the same vision. As of September 2014, Felipe Hernández became the new pastor and has plans to continue to work with ENLACE.

Although the church is located in Panchimalco proper, for many years it has focused attention on an extremely needy community called Amatitán just two miles away. The church implemented projects that provided electricity to 500 people, repaired roads, and built latrines. In October 2011, the church organized relief efforts in response to a devastating tropical storm for a hamlet in Panchimalco called Fatima and still collaborates with organizations such as the local mayor's office and Ministry of Health to serve the residents of Fatima. The church plans to continue to work in its own community and the communities of Fátima, Concepción and Florencia.

## PROJECT REPORT 2014



The goal for 2014 was to create 25 tilapia cultivation ponds. In reality, 36 ponds were created. Training was provided, as was ongoing technical assistance, materials and fry, (starter fish). 180 people benefit directly from the tilapia ponds.



The goal for 2014 was to create 25 homes. In reality, 10 homes were created. While 25 families were identified as needing homes, 10 families, approximately 50 people, received a new home; funding will be sought in 2015 to complete this project.



The goal for 2014 was to install 25 eco-stoves. This project was complete and directly improved the lives of 125 people.

## PROJECT GOALS 2015



The goal for 2015 is to create build 15 new homes. (\$75,287.57)



The goal for 2015 is to build 2 greenhouses.



The goal for 2015 is to create 26 tilapia ponds. (\$11,700)



The goal for 2015 is to build a pedestrian bridge in Fatima.



## TABERNÁCULO BÍBLICO SALEM CHURCH EL ESPINO

Tabernáculo Bíblico Salem Church is a vibrant and growing congregation of 77 members, 32 of whom are strong leaders. In 2008, their pastor, Santos Carpio, learned about ENLACE through conversations with Pastor Miguel Durán (a pioneer with ENLACE), who encouraged his calling and desire to serve those in need in his community.

Pastor Santos and his church created an outreach committee that works closely with other community organizations, such as the mayor's office, and have taken on many projects such as medical teams, home gardens, tilapia ponds and the construction of 24 homes. The church has also developed ministries serving men struggling with alcoholism and people with special needs. These projects have helped the church to create collaborative relationships with its community and Pastor Santos to become a greatly respected community leader. Pastor Santos also serves on ENLACE's Pastoral Steering Committee. Even though the church is small, they have directly impacted the lives of more than 2,000 people in the community.

**IT HAS BEEN A BLESSING TO HAVE RECEIVED THIS TRAINING. (THE COMMUNITY) HAS A BETTER CONCEPT OF (WHO WE ARE). — DAYSI MENDOZA, CHURCH MEMBER, EL ESPINO**

### PROJECT REPORT 2014



The goal for 2014 was to create chicken coops for 40 farmers. In reality, chicken coops were created for 37 farmers. Training was provided, as was technical assistance, chicks and supplies. 185 people benefit directly from the chicken coops.



The goal for 2014 was to create 24 home gardens. In reality, 25 home gardens were created. Training was provided, as was ongoing technical assistance and seeds. 125 people benefit directed from the home gardens.



The goal for 2014 was to create 25 tilapia cultivation ponds. In reality, 26 ponds were created. Training was provided, as was ongoing technical assistance, materials and fry, (starter fish). 130 people benefit directly from the tilapia ponds.

### PROJECT GOALS 2015



The goal for 2015 is to create 35 tilapia ponds. (\$15,750)



The goal for 2015 is to create 30 home gardens. (\$11,250)



The goal for 2015 is to create 40 chicken coops. (\$20,000)



The goal for 2015 is to create the perimeter wall at the public school in El Limón. (\$18,918.86)



The goal for 2015 is to create and install an aquaponic farm.



The goal for 2015 is to improve the main gate and kitchen at the public school in El Limón.



**“ NOW AS A CHURCH WE HAVE CREATED STRONG FRIENDSHIPS WITH OUR COMMUNITY. TOGETHER WE’VE HAD GREAT RESULTS. — PASTOR FELIX AMAYA, ASAMBLEA DE IGLESIA CRISTINAS ”**

## ASAMBLEA DE IGLESIAS CRISTIANAS CHURCH LA LOMA

Asamblea de Iglesias Cristianas Church is a semi-urban congregation of 79 members, 9 of whom are leaders. For many years its pastor, Felix Amaya, witnessed the impact of the Buen Samaritano Church in Las Delicias, led by his longtime friend and ENLACE pioneer, Pastor Miguel Durán. In 2007 Pastor Miguel invited Pastor Felix to an ENLACE training meeting and soon after, he decided to become a partner.

Initially, Pastor Felix was unsure about the importance of reaching out to his community; his biblical training focused his energy on projects and people inside the church. But after working on a road repair project, he recognized the importance of the church’s presence in his community. Since that time, the church has implemented a thriving home garden initiative benefiting many community families. Pastor Felix’s own home is the site of the training center. He also provides space to families that do not have their own land. In 2012, Pastor Felix and some of the home garden participants started a pilot project selling organic fertilizer in order to create jobs. Through its continued efforts, the church has been able to broaden its efforts over the last year.

## PROJECT REPORT 2014



The goal for 2014 was to create 15 home gardens. In reality, 21 home gardens were created. Training was provided, as was ongoing technical assistance and seeds. 105 people benefit directly from the home gardens.



The goal for 2014 was to create chicken coops for 20 farmers. In reality, chicken coops were created for 30 farmers. Training was provided, as was technical assistance, chicks and supplies. 150 people benefit directly from the chicken coops.

## PROJECT GOALS 2015



The goal for 2015 is to pave the main road in Los Angeles, used by 200 people daily.



The goal for 2015 is to create 15 home gardens. (\$5,625)



The goal for 2015 is to create 33 chicken coops. (\$16,500)



The goal for 2015 is to build 2 greenhouses.



The goal for 2015 is to build a retaining wall with recycled tires.



**AS WE WORK WITH OUR COMMUNITY, I AM SEEING THE HAND OF GOD MOVE AND THEN I KNOW THAT WE ARE NOT ALONE IN THIS WORK!**  
 — PASTOR JOSÉ MOLINA, FE Y GRACIA CHURCH

## FE Y GRACIA CHURCH LA LABOR

Fe y Gracia Church is a congregation of 110 members, 14 of whom are leaders. Like many churches in El Salvador, a pervading belief of exclusion and inwardness once characterized this congregation. However, its pastor, José Molina, along with many church members could not stifle a growing passion to love and serve their neighbors. After Pastor José learned about ENLACE at a local meeting, he and four church leaders decided to attend the 2011 Annual Pastors and Leaders Retreat. It was there that their smoldering vision turned to flame, leading the church to break out of its four walls. Since that time, the church has worked hard to create a solid relationship with the local community association, the mayor's office and the local health unit. These strong connections will enable 2015 to be a year of great growth.



## PROJECT REPORT 2014



The goal for 2014 was to create 15 home gardens. In reality, 22 home gardens were created. Training was provided, as was ongoing technical assistance and seeds. 110 people benefit directly from the home gardens.



The goal for 2014 was to create 12 tilapia cultivation ponds. In reality, 26 ponds were created. Training was provided, as was ongoing technical assistance, materials and fry, (starter fish). 130 people benefit directly from the tilapia ponds.



The goal for 2014 was design, fund and construct 2,326 square feet of paving, 130 square feet of gutters and 115 square feet of cobblestone and foundation road on María Street. In reality the design and funding were completed and the road repairs are halfway finished.

## PROJECT GOALS 2015



The goal for 2015 is to create 26 tilapia ponds. (\$11,700)



The goal for 2015 is to create 35 home gardens. (\$13,125)



The goal for 2015 is to create 20 chicken coops. (\$10,000)



The goal for 2015 is to complete the María Street road repairs. (funded)



The goal for 2015 is to implement water system support and management training.



The goal for 2015 is to build 2 greenhouses.



**WITH THE HOME GARDENS WE NO LONGER BUY TOMATOES... I'M NO LONGER WORRIED OF WHAT I'M GOING TO FEED THE FAMILY.**  
 — VILMA ESTELA VENTURA PEREZ, COMMUNITY MEMBER, EL ESPINO

## MARANATA CHURCH EL CARMEN

Maranata Church is a semi-urban congregation of 60 members, 12 of whom are strong leaders. Its pastor, José María Claros, has a huge heart for service. In 2011 ENLACE church coach and pastor, Isidro Ramírez from San Rafael Cedro encouraged Pastor José to reach out to his community and told him about ENLACE. Soon after, this church became a partner.

Prior to working with ENLACE, the church had provided food and clothes to needy people in their community, hosted medical teams and worked with the local school. Because the church had already been very involved with serving its neighbors, the community held the church in high regard. Coaching from ENLACE has built upon this foundation and helped to expand the vision to create a profound and sustainable impact in their region. The church has grown by 17% and is directly serving 1,015 people, including residents the nearby hamlets of Los Gonzalez, Barcelona, Las Pilas, Los Vásquez and Los Ramírez.

## PROJECT REPORT 2014



The goal for 2014 was to create 15 home gardens. In reality, 25 home gardens were created. Training was provided, as was ongoing technical assistance and seeds. 125 people benefit directed from the home gardens.



The goal for 2014 was to build 65 pit latrines. The project was completed and directly improved the lives of 325 people.



The goal for 2014 was to install 25 eco-stoves. The project was completed and directed improved the lives of 125 people.

## PROJECT GOALS 2015



The goal for 2015 is to build 40 pit latrines. (\$12,000)



The goal for 2015 is to build 5 greenhouses.



The goal for 2015 is to install 35 eco-stoves. (\$8,750)

# NEW CHURCH

PARTNER PROFILES



**“ ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT GIFTS FROM THIS FROM ALL OF THIS IS THAT I AM INVOLVING MY CHILDREN. — VILMA ESTELA VENTURA PEREZ, COMMUNITY MEMBER, EL ESPINO**

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



**“ WE COULDN’T CHANGE THE COMMUNITY MUCH LESS THE CHURCH WITHOUT GOD CHANGING PEOPLE’S HEARTS, BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE CHURCH. THE CHURCH CAN’T JUST TALK ABOUT GOD AND NOT LIVE IT OUT. THIS IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL ASPECT OF THE WORK WE HAVE DONE.**

**— NURIA DE REYES,  
SUPERVISOR OF THE  
CENTRAL REGION**

**Torre Fuerte Church, Troncones**  
 Founded in 2005  
 Pastor: Felipe Nery Hernández  
 Pastoring church since: 2005  
 ENLACE partner since: 2013  
 Membership: 90  
 Leadership: 24  
 Community partners:  
 Community Association, Mayor’s office, rural police  
 Community projects implemented:  
 latrines, emergency food/clothes delivery, medical teams  
 Potential number of people impacted: 1,200

**Tabernáculo Bíblico Bautista, Pajales**  
 Founded in 2006  
 Pastor: Felipe González  
 Pastoring church since: 2006  
 ENLACE partner since: 2013  
 Membership: 60  
 Leadership: 25  
 Community partners:  
 Mayor’s office  
 Community projects implemented:  
 Clean-up campaign, road repair  
 Potential number of people impacted: 240

**Sol de Justicia Church, Vista Bella**  
 Founded in 2011  
 Pastor: Victor Manuel Castillo  
 Pastoring church since: 2011  
 ENLACE partner since: 2014  
 Membership: 80  
 Leadership: 10  
 Community partners:  
 None  
 Community projects implemented:  
 Street lights  
 Potential number of people impacted: 2,500

**Santuario Profético Church, Rosario de Mora**  
 Founded in 2000  
 Pastor: Oscar Vásquez Martínez  
 Pastoring church since: 2000  
 ENLACE partner since: 2013  
 Membership: 40  
 Leadership: 5  
 Community partners:  
 Public school  
 Community projects implemented:  
 Water system support, public school repair  
 Potential number of people impacted: 2,000

**Betel Church, Soyapango, San Salvador**  
 Founded in 1989  
 Pastor: Leonidas Zabala  
 Pastoring church since: 1988  
 ENLACE partner since: 2014  
 Membership: 90  
 Leadership: 28  
 Community partners:  
 Community association, Mayor’s office  
 Community projects implemented:  
 water system, road repair, food delivery  
 Potential number of people impacted: 900

**Nazareno Church, Montecarmelo, Mariona**  
 Church founded: 1994  
 Pastor: Julian Cruz Ruiz  
 Pastoring church since: 1994  
 ENLACE partner since: 2014  
 Membership: 250  
 Leadership: 50  
 Community partners:  
 None  
 Community projects implemented:  
 Clean-up campaign  
 Potential number of people impacted: 300

**“ WHEN I BECOME PART OF WHAT (THE COMMUNITIES) CARE ABOUT AND HELP THEM WITH THEIR NEEDS I DEMONSTRATE GOD’S LOVE FOR MY NEIGHBORS.**

**— FRANCISCO “PACO”  
GONZALEZ, AGRONOMIST  
AND TECHNICAL ADVISOR**

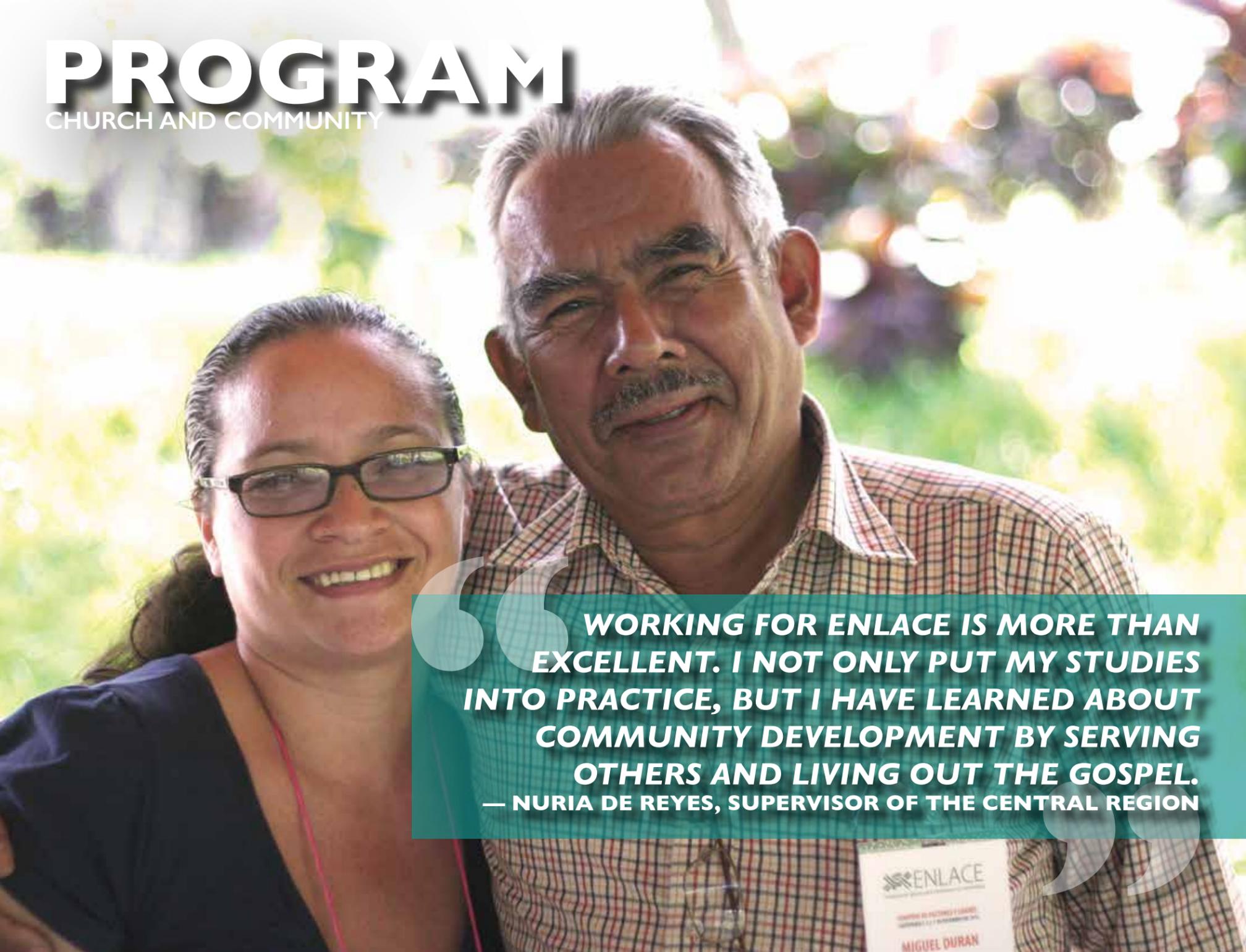
**“ THEY ARE DOING THIS WITH LOVE.**

**— PASTOR JOSÉ MOLINA,  
FE Y GRACIA CHURCH**



# PROGRAM

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY



**WORKING FOR ENLACE IS MORE THAN EXCELLENT. I NOT ONLY PUT MY STUDIES INTO PRACTICE, BUT I HAVE LEARNED ABOUT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BY SERVING OTHERS AND LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL.**  
— **NURIA DE REYES, SUPERVISOR OF THE CENTRAL REGION**

## NURIA DE REYES SUPERVISOR OF THE CENTRAL REGION

As a child, Nuria de Reyes learned to be passionate about two things: God's Word and her family. Through the example of her parents, who were always helping in local missions, Nuria saw that a passion for God and others leads to a life of service. Through her parent's faithfulness, a seed of serving others was planted in her and grew deeply over the years. Nuria became involved in a variety of church ministries. From children's ministries to youth groups, and Sunday school, to other endeavors which all sprouted from her life as a committed Christian. Eventually, she pursued and received a degree in Theology from the Biblical Institute for the Assembly of Christian Churches and then became the Director of Education at that same institute.

It was during her tenure as the Director of Education that she met Miguel Durán, a pastor who was a part of her denomination and who had been collaborating with ENLACE for many years. Nuria worked with Pastor Miguel for five years and saw first-hand the impact that was being made in Las Delicias by his congregation, El Buen Samaritano Church.

When Pastor Miguel told Nuria about a job opening with ENLACE, Nuria felt a new excitement spring up in her heart. She knew she was ready. She fulfilled all the requirements; biblical training, a passionate heart to help those in need and a desire to learn about community transformation.

Today Nuria walks alongside pastors, lay-leaders and whole congregations. She is able to live out the journey of passionately demonstrating God's love to others. Along with becoming the Supervisor of her region for ENLACE, in 2013, she also went on a missions trip to Nicaragua, which was a requirement for her to receive B.A. in Theology with a specialization in Missions.

Nuria is currently the Supervisor of the Central Region and has been working for ENLACE for seven years. She and her husband, Hogly Reyes, welcomed a new baby in 2014, Ariana Vannesa, joining their two other children, Esteban and Nuria.



**“IT IS A BLESSING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REDEMPTIVE WORK OF CHRIST AS PART OF ENLACE.”**  
— EVELIN DE GALÁN, CHURCH COACH

## EVELIN DE GALÁN CHURCH COACH

As Evelin Marroquin de Galán grew up in a very conservative but non-Christian home. Her parents allowed her to attend Sunday school. As an adult, Evelin and her husband, Reyes Antonio Galán, would listen to Christian sermons on the radio but neither attended church. One day, however, a cousin asked Evelin to accompany her to church. Evelin decided to go and upon entering the church, all the memories from Sunday school, the words from the radio and the hopes of her yearning heart converged. On that day, she felt compelled to follow Christ, especially as a leader in her local church.

Eventually, Evelin's desire to serve in the church brought her to consider pursuing a degree in Theology. But at the time, Evelin was a devoted mother of two boys, Luis and Caleb (who are now both teenagers) and was hoping to have a third child. But another pregnancy, said her doctors, would be dangerous due to ongoing health issues. This news was very difficult for Evelin to bear. She felt her hopes and dreams were being taken from her.

Reyes saw his wife's sadness and encouraged Evelin to go back to school by registering her at the Assemblies of God University, taking a leap of faith. Even though she worried about their family's finances and was daunted by the time a degree would imply as a very busy mother, Evelin plunged in with gusto.

After graduating, Evelin joined the ENLACE team. "I never imagined," said Evelin soon after she began her work as a Church Coach, "that my third child would be my university studies. It is a blessing to have a degree in Theology, do ministry and participate in the redemptive work of Christ as a part of ENLACE."

Evelin believes strongly that God's hand has been on her life ever since she was a young child attending Sunday school. The expenses of school that Evelin was worried about were partially covered by members of her extended family. This support has ministered to her and her family incredibly. Just another way, says Evelin, that God has confirmed his purpose for her life.



**“BEING A CHURCH COACH IS A COMMITMENT OF WALKING SIDE BY SIDE WITH PEOPLE, WHERE WE LAUGH WITH THOSE WHO ARE HAPPY, MOURN WITH THOSE WHO MOURN, COMFORT THOSE WHO ARE BROKEN AND HEAL THE WOUNDED.  
— JAIME ROQUE, CHURCH COACH**”

## JAIME ROQUE CHURCH COACH

Jaime Roque, at 25, is the youngest member of ENLACE staff. He was raised in an impoverished, rural area called Jayaque. It is located in the department of La Libertad. It is surrounded by coffee plantations. There was no water or electricity, and Jaime says that having lived in these conditions gives him great empathy with the communities in which he now works. He was only able to see his mother twice a month, as she worked far away in the capital, San Salvador.

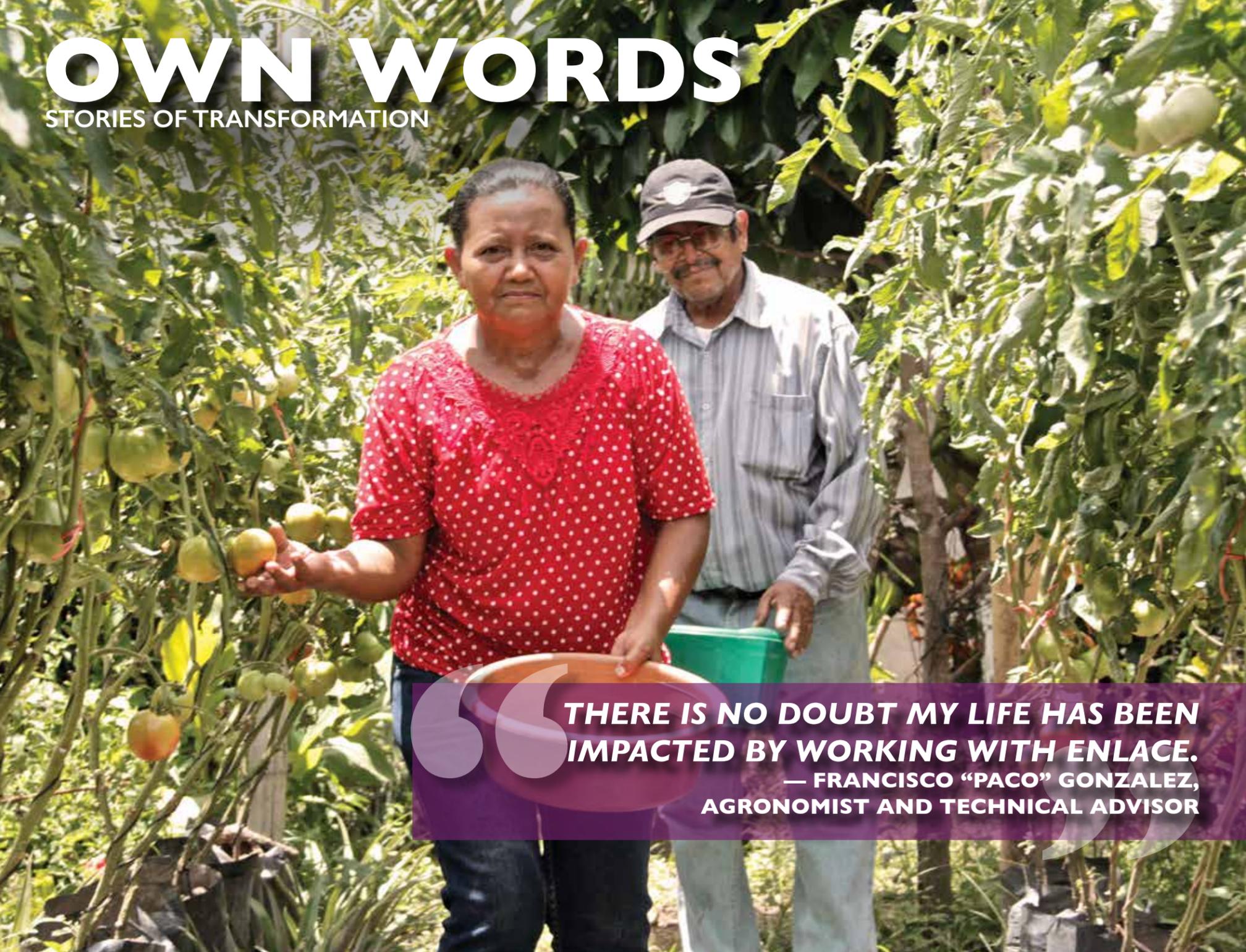
He was raised by his mother's brothers who were both pastors. His childhood was shaped by dedication, service and love. However, he missed his mother and his sister who lived with her. Because of this, he eventually moved to San Salvador. While it was wonderful to be with his mother and sister again, the life of the city created other temptations that led him away from God.

Eventually, however, Jaime remembered his Christ-centered upbringing and discovered that God had given him gifts to serve others. He began to study music and theology. He soon became an Associate Pastor at a small church for over four years in Altavista Baptist Church.

In 2010 Jaime married Vilma Dolores Guerrero and found that he needed to increase his salary. He didn't want to cease his work as a pastor, but he knew he needed to be able to provide for his family. After some months of prayer, Jaime unexpectedly learned about ENLACE, applied for a job and in August 2012 was hired to be a church coach. According to Jaime, ENLACE has given him the opportunity to fulfill his pastoral calling. Jaime and Dolores had their first child, Mateo, in 2013.

# OWN WORDS

STORIES OF TRANSFORMATION



**THERE IS NO DOUBT MY LIFE HAS BEEN IMPACTED BY WORKING WITH ENLACE.**

— FRANCISCO “PACO” GONZALEZ,  
AGRONOMIST AND TECHNICAL ADVISOR

In the small community of La Loma word gets around quickly. And the word on the street in 2007 was that the local church and its pastor wanted to change the world. But Pastor Felix and the leaders of Asamblea de Iglesias Cristianas Church didn't fit the typical Christian bill. As often as they were found in the church they were found outside of it, helping their neighbors with spades and seedlings along with words of encouragement and technical know-how.

Like many villages in El Salvador, La Loma residents struggle with generations of poverty and a strong gang presence. It is a small hamlet of Panchimalco, which is one of El Salvador's few remaining cultural and historical beauties but La Loma is among the poorest areas in the country. As often is the case, churches in this region had historically tended to close their eyes to the problems, focusing instead on their own needs. But as Asamblea de Iglesias Cristianas Church began to cross barriers, listening to their neighbors and trying to help address their physical needs “the mistrust of the people,” said Pastor Felix, “and the doubts they had” began to dissipate. “Little by little they began to trust us.”

Last year, ENLACE caught up with two women from La Loma and asked them to talk about their experiences of working with Pastor Felix and the projects his church was spearheading.





**“ I AM VERY THANKFUL. — YESENIA ”**



Yesenia is 37 years old, married to Oscar, who after having a terrible accident, was wheelchair bound for many months. and mother of three children.

*I began with 100 tomato plants and 50 pepper plants. Since it was the first time, I did not know much about planting. One does not know what has to be done. Although, the ENLACE technician was always close. I took some tomatoes to my mother and since the money that my husband receives is very little, this gives us an alternative.*

*We also made the sacrifice of the initial \$30 investment [in a chicken coop], but from there everything has been a blessing. Before, my great problem was to have \$1 to buy eggs, and we needed 5 daily. But now I only fetch the eggs from my coop. I have 29 chickens that lay one egg daily, and we eat the ones we need. The rest I sell. From that income I buy chicken feed. I usually sell all my eggs quickly.*

*I am very thankful. First, with God, then with ENLACE because they made this possible. I thank Brother Felix, because he really goes over and beyond. When the first chicks got here, he took care of them, and that requires a lot of work. My husband feels content because I do not belong to the church [and am new to the community]. Thank God for Beatriz (a church leader) and Brother Felix, who understood my situation.*



**I DID NOT HAVE MUCH AS A CHILD, BUT WITH MY CHILDREN IT IS A DIFFERENT STORY.**  
— CLAUDIA BEATRIZ

Claudia Beatriz, 36, lives with her husband, who works at a paint factory, and their three children and nephew.

*I look after [the farm] during the day...We have been growing crops for over four years. We have gained a lot of experience. Sometimes, there are good results, and sometimes it is good to see when we have failed by our own mistakes, and it helps us learn from them.*

*We have grown from 75 to 100 tomato plants. We have cultivated about 1000 tomatoes! They are so many that sometimes I run out of ways to cook with them. I make spaghetti and sauce, chicken in sauce. Tomatoes are everywhere! We sell some, and we have given away. Our [extended] family is happy because whenever we visit them in Sensuntepeque we arrive with a tomato plant. We also have güisquil [a type of squash] and although there is little space [around our house], it is a blessing. Tomato and güisquil never fail!*

*Don Alejandro [ENLACE home garden technical advisor] spoke two years ago to us about the possibility*

*of having chicken farms...and last year we began farming in December. We have seen a great blessing because we now eat eggs every day. The community of La Loma sees the benefit. There is food now, and having an extra egg is a blessing.*

*For me, when people ask me if I am poor I [now] say no...Once I was poor because there was no food, but today I sometimes offer food to my children and they tell me they are full. There is not hunger.*

*I always hoped that we would overcome our difficult situation. Before, we relied on others to give us leftover eggs that came broken from farms; Now we eat healthy eggs. Before, we used to go looking under bushes for those little tomatoes, but now, my table is full of tomatoes!*

*So I say I'm not poor, I have no extra money, but I have food and that is the most important thing . . .*

*I did not have much as a child, but with my children it is a different story.*

