



SPRING UPDATE 2007 PASTOR PROFILE: VICTORIO PAZ FROM ABELINES

“As we work with our community, it transforms both our church and community.”



Pastor Victorio Paz

Victorio Paz and his family have pastored the Assemblies of God church in Abelines for the last 15 years. Victorio was born and raised in Abelines and has been involved in the church for most of his adult life. He was the head deacon who inherited the

church every time a pastor would leave. After a series of pastors had come and gone, the leadership of the church asked him to become the pastor of the church. Victorio has always been a respected leader of the community, but now has become an incredible pastor of a church that is transforming Abelines.

Abelines is a remote, rural community located in the Northeastern region of El Salvador. Abelines is located in a mountainous area accessible only on foot or a one hour 4X4 trip. It is a community of approximately 2,500 people. The majority of people live in small, adobe houses with dirt floors. They do not have access to electricity, running water or paved roads. The majority of residents are small-scale farmers living on less than \$1 per day. Until recently, they did not have access to ongoing medical attention or other health services.

Over the last five years, the church in Abelines has partnered with the community leaders and associations to develop a Healthy Community Program. The Program includes preventive health education, a local health clinic, sanitation facilities, latrines and a new clean water system. The church is now looking into other opportunities such as housing and economic development.

Regarding the church's relationship to the community, Victorio states “[s]ince we've been working with ENLACE, the church has developed. The church is now dedicated to work not only inside the four walls of the church but for the good of our entire community. God is at work. He is helping us and supporting us and he will continue to do so.”

Victorio explains, that “...sometimes one doesn't fully develop the talents that God has given. The study of the Bible and training we've received from ENLACE have helped us commit to help our community. And we've seen good outcomes. The community now believes in what the church does because they have seen what the church believes in through proven action. And so we have seen growth: not only in the church, but in the community as well.”

Victorio and his church are now helping two other churches in Abelines to get involved in transforming their community. He states, “[b]ecause we are always thinking ahead we are now forming an association of churches from different denominations in the region. We want to see what God can accomplish when we come together. As a church we are always looking for ways to help our community and our dream is to grow our friendship with our community. Our dream is to work for the well being of our community, the well being of our church and the well being of all.”

Visit our website to see a video interview with Pastor Victorio as well a complete community profile and picture galleries from Abelines: www.enlaceonline.org

New water tank in Abelines



ENLACE: PROJECTS AND PURPOSE

ENLACE has been equipping rural churches in El Salvador to transform their communities for over 12 years. The churches become effective agents of change in their communities as they understand who they are as a body, listen to their community and respond to opportunities for developing sustainable solutions to poverty. Churches and communities are empowered through collaborating in the following projects and programs:

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY PROGRAM

- Pastoral training
- Leadership development

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

- Technical assistance
- Start-up financing
- Coaching
- Market research



Part of the Abelines Health Committee

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

- Health education
- Medical clinics
- Latrines
- Improved stoves

INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVES

- Roads
- Bridges
- Housing
- Risk mitigation

OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE: FRIENDS OF ENLACE

ENLACE is excited to see how God is moving in the hearts of church leaders in El Salvador. In so many ways they are transforming their impoverished communities through effective service and long-term commitment.

We invite you to join our efforts by becoming a Friend of ENLACE with monthly donations. As a Friend, we ask that you to provide us with the ongoing finances required to walk alongside churches in El Salvador as they reach out to their communities. We also ask that you become an important partner with this ministry through your prayer and encouragement.

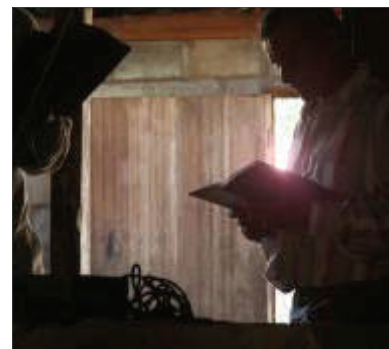
Your investment will directly impact the lives of thousands of people and create long-term changes that are initiated and sustained by a local church body.

Become a friend of ENLACE by joining at the following levels:



Send and make donations payable to:

ENLACE
5405 Alton Pkwy
Suite 5A #458
Irvine, CA 92604



Pastor Victorio reading scripture

Or visit our website to set-up easy monthly payments at:

www.enlaceonline.org/donate-now

If you would like more information, please contact us at partner@enlaceonline.org or call Larry Kasper, Director of U.S. Office, at 949-981-3314.

ENLACE is a registered nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are tax deductible in the year they are made. You will receive electronic confirmations of each donation, as well as year-end statement for your records.