

STORIES OF TRANSFORMATION: IN THEIR

OWN WORDS

2016 REPORT: CENTRAL REGION
San Martín and San Pedro de Perulapán

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REGIONAL

OVERVIEW





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. 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 ancient indigenous heritage and colonial sites dating back to the early 1700's, many of the surrounding villages are among the poorest in the country.

The municipality of San Pedro Perulapán is located in the province of Cuscatlán, 40 kilometers east of San Salvador. This area has a population of 66,000 people and is surrounded by rivers and creeks. Most of the population are small-scale farmers or factory laborers. In the urban areas most residents have access to health clinics and schools. ENLACE has been working in this area since 2008, first with Pastor Santos Carpio and The Tabernáculo Bíblico church in El Espino.

In **2016** ENLACE trained and equipped over **92 church leaders** and **68 community leaders** on a monthly basis in **eight churches** serving **23 communities** in San Salvador, San Martín and San Pedro Perulapán. The total area impact for these regions is **29,857 people**. Five potential churches are currently on the waiting list to partner with ENLACE.

PROJECT REPORT 2016

16
PROJECTS

7,838
PEOPLE IMPACTED

PROJECT GOALS 2017

29
PROJECTS

16,675
PEOPLE IMPACTED

CHURCH

PARTNER PROFILES



EL BUEN SAMARITANO CHURCH LAS DELICIAS

El Buen Samaritano Church is a semi-urban congregation of 75 members, 15 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. Pastor Miguel continues to be a well-respected leader within the community and also nationally. He is the president of his denomination and continued to serve on ENLACE's Pastoral Committee in 2015. The church has grown by 36% and has an area of impact of 10,000 people. Approximately 30% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

In 2004, the church with the help of ENLACE and the local government, undertook a water project that grew into a million-dollar system that is now currently serving thousands of people. Ultimately, the system will provide three separate communities with clean water made accessible inside homes, schools and public areas serving over 10,000 people.

PROJECT REPORT 2016

Water Project -
Completion of Stage 6



PROJECT GOALS 2017

Water Project -
Completion of Stage 7





“ WITH ENLACE WE HAVE LEARNED TO BE MORE ORGANIZED AND MANAGE OUR PROJECTS. THIS HAS REALLY HELPED US. BEFORE I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO DO EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY SERVICE BUT NOW I FEEL CONFIDENT WITH THESE NEW SKILLS. I CAN GO TO THE MAYOR AND SOLICIT FUNDS FOR SOMETHING. BEFORE I NEVER FELT CONFIDENT TO GO TO THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OR EVEN TALK TO THEM. NOW THEY KNOW WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO AND THEY TRUST US. ”

— PASTOR SANTIAGO ALFARO, PRINCIPE DE PAZ CHURCH

PRINCIPE DE PAZ CHURCH SANTA MARÍA

Principe de Paz Church is a semi-urban congregation of 78 members, 28 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 started an important road repair and resurfacing project that has contributed greatly to community safety and accessibility. 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 24% in recent years and has directly impacted more than 12,000 people. Approximately 30% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

PROJECT REPORT 2016

Medical team
583 patients



Road repair "Los Llanitos"



PROJECT GOALS 2017

Road repair "Los Llanitos"





NOW AS A CHURCH WE HAVE CREATED A STRONG FRIENDSHIP WITH OUR COMMUNITY. TOGETHER WE'VE HAD GREAT RESULTS.

— PASTOR FELIX AMAYA, ASAMBLEA DE IGLESIAS CRISTINAS CHURCH

ASAMBLEA DE IGLESIAS CRISTIANAS CHURCH LA LOMA

Asamblea de Iglesias Cristianas Church is a semi-urban congregation of 70 members, 15 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 by starting a broiler chicken project for 30 families. The church has directly impacted more than 2,500 people. Approximately 54% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

PROJECT REPORT 2016

Home gardens (15)
Greenhouses (2)



Chicken project (for
broiler chickens) (30)
to Broiler chicken
businesses (30)



PROJECT GOALS 2017

Medical team



Road repair



Chicken project (for
broiler chicken) (30)"
to Broiler chicken
businesses (30)



Greenhouses (2)





“ WE HAVE A CLEARER PICTURE OF THE CALLING GOD HAS GIVEN US. WE ARE NOW MORE AWARE OF THE PEOPLE’S NEEDS AND THE PROCESSES WE CAN INITIATE TO CHANGE THEIR REALITY. ”

— PASTOR SANTOS CARPIO, TABERNÁCULO BÍBLICO SALEM CHURCH

TABERNÁCULO BÍBLICO SALEM CHURCH EL ESPINO

Tabernáculo Bíblico Salem Church is a vibrant and growing congregation of 70 members, 28 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 a variety of community organizations such as the mayor's office. The committee has also 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 4,000 people. Approximately 34% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

PROJECT REPORT 2016

Home gardens (20)



Chicken coops (30)



Tilapia ponds (20)



PROJECT GOALS 2017

Road repair (280 meters)



Chicken coops (30)





“ 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, 25 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 connections have empowered community building efforts such as the building and repairing of major roads, which has made a huge impact on community safety and accessibility. The church has directly impacted more than 2,150 people. Approximately 51% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less than \$2 per capita per day).

PROJECT REPORT 2016

Playground (1)



Greenhouses (2)



Home gardens (23)



Tilapia pounds (20)

Chicken coops (38)



PROJECT GOALS 2017

Road repair (500 sq meters of curb and 900 sq meters of cement paving)



Chicken coops (50)



Greenhouses (2)





IN THE TIME THAT I'VE WORKED WITH ENLACE, WE'VE SEEN INCREDIBLE IMPROVEMENTS IN BOTH THE CHURCH AND THE COMMUNITY. OUR CHURCH HAS BEEN HERE FOR NINE YEARS AND IT WASN'T UNTIL THIS YEAR THAT WE ACTUALLY GOT TO KNOW OUR LOCAL LEADERS--THE POLICE, THE HEALTH UNIT. BEFORE WE HAD NO INTEREST IN GETTING TO KNOW THEM, BUT NOW WE UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING THEM AND WORKING TOGETHER AND HAVING A STRONG CONNECTION. THIS HAS GREATLY BENEFITED OUR MINISTRY--NEW PEOPLE ARE COMING, CHILDREN AND ADULTS--TO CHURCH. THERE ARE NOW FAMILIES THAT COME FROM VERY FAR AWAY WHO APPROACH US. PEOPLE ARE BORED OF WORDS; THEY WANT TO SEE RESULTS OF THE GOSPEL. BECAUSE OF THE ACTION THAT WE'VE TAKEN, PEOPLE ARE TAKING ANOTHER LOOK AT CHURCH.

-PASTOR FELIPE GONZÁLEZ, TABERNÁCULO BIBLÍCO BAUTISTA CHURCH

TABERNÁCULO BÍBLICO BAUTISTA PAJALES

El Tabernáculo Bíblico Bautista Church is a small congregation of 45 members, 9 of whom are leaders. In 2013, its pastor, Felipe González, learned about ENLACE through a connection to Pan de Vida Church in Panchimalco as it was implementing a latrine project.

The Tabernáculo Bíblico Bautista Church then participated in a road project that benefited 1,600 people and developed a child wellness project with the relief organization Convoy of Hope. This community is plagued by gang violence and crime but has nonetheless courageously worked among its neighbors and begun to create strong connections with local government and the local Community Association. The church has directly impacted more than 800 people. Approximately 42% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

PROJECT REPORT 2016

New homes (6)



PROJECT GOALS 2017

New homes (6)



NEW CHURCH

PARTNER PROFILES



Two churches began to partner with ENLACE since the end of 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.

SOL THE JUSTICIA CHURCH VISTA BELLA

The Sol de Justicia Church is made up of 75 members, 18 of whom are leaders. In 2014, its pastor, Victor Manuel Castillo, learned about ENLACE from pastor José Molina of the Fe y Gracia Church in La Labor, who gave his testimony at a meeting Victor was attending. Since that time, Victor and his church have begun to get to know their community and work on projects such as installing street lights for better community safety and road clean-up campaigns designed to invest in community pride and cleanliness. The church has directly impacted more than 1,250 people. Approximately 22% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).



CASA DE DIOS CHURCH SAN RAFAEL CEDROS

The Casa de Dios Church is a congregation of 60 members, 12 of whom are leaders.

In 2015, its pastor José Fermin Sanchez learned about ENLACE through Pastor Jose Molina the Fe y Gracia Church in La Labor when he talked about a road repair project his church was involved in. Pastor Joseph was excited to hear about how the church was creating collaborative relationships with local organizations like the school and government offices. The Casa de Dios church is greatly motivated to serve its community and have started by serving neighbors through repairing homes, providing funerary assistance to needy families and basic grocery and supplies (clothing and shoes) deliveries to extremely impoverished households. The church has directly impacted more than 400 people. Approximately 38% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

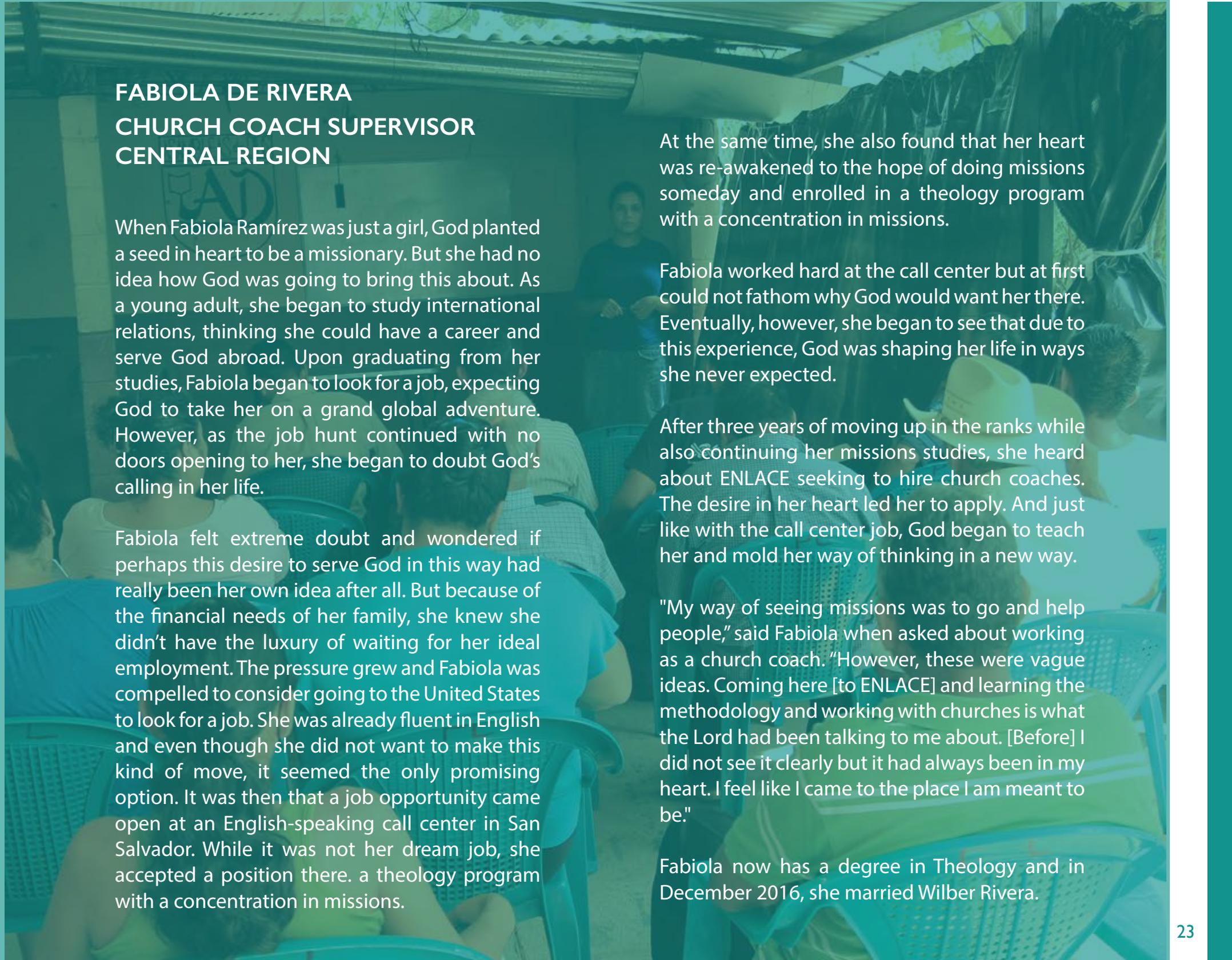


PROGRAM

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY



I FEEL LIKE I CAME TO THE PLACE I AM MEANT TO BE
— FABIOLA DE RIVERA, CHURCH COACH SUPERVISOR CENTRAL REGION



FABIOLA DE RIVERA CHURCH COACH SUPERVISOR CENTRAL REGION

When Fabiola Ramírez was just a girl, God planted a seed in heart to be a missionary. But she had no idea how God was going to bring this about. As a young adult, she began to study international relations, thinking she could have a career and serve God abroad. Upon graduating from her studies, Fabiola began to look for a job, expecting God to take her on a grand global adventure. However, as the job hunt continued with no doors opening to her, she began to doubt God's calling in her life.

Fabiola felt extreme doubt and wondered if perhaps this desire to serve God in this way had really been her own idea after all. But because of the financial needs of her family, she knew she didn't have the luxury of waiting for her ideal employment. The pressure grew and Fabiola was compelled to consider going to the United States to look for a job. She was already fluent in English and even though she did not want to make this kind of move, it seemed the only promising option. It was then that a job opportunity came open at an English-speaking call center in San Salvador. While it was not her dream job, she accepted a position there. a theology program with a concentration in missions.

At the same time, she also found that her heart was re-awakened to the hope of doing missions someday and enrolled in a theology program with a concentration in missions.

Fabiola worked hard at the call center but at first could not fathom why God would want her there. Eventually, however, she began to see that due to this experience, God was shaping her life in ways she never expected.

After three years of moving up in the ranks while also continuing her missions studies, she heard about ENLACE seeking to hire church coaches. The desire in her heart led her to apply. And just like with the call center job, God began to teach her and mold her way of thinking in a new way.

"My way of seeing missions was to go and help people," said Fabiola when asked about working as a church coach. "However, these were vague ideas. Coming here [to ENLACE] and learning the methodology and working with churches is what the Lord had been talking to me about. [Before] I did not see it clearly but it had always been in my heart. I feel like I came to the place I am meant to be."

Fabiola now has a degree in Theology and in December 2016, she married Wilber Rivera.



**“ 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

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.

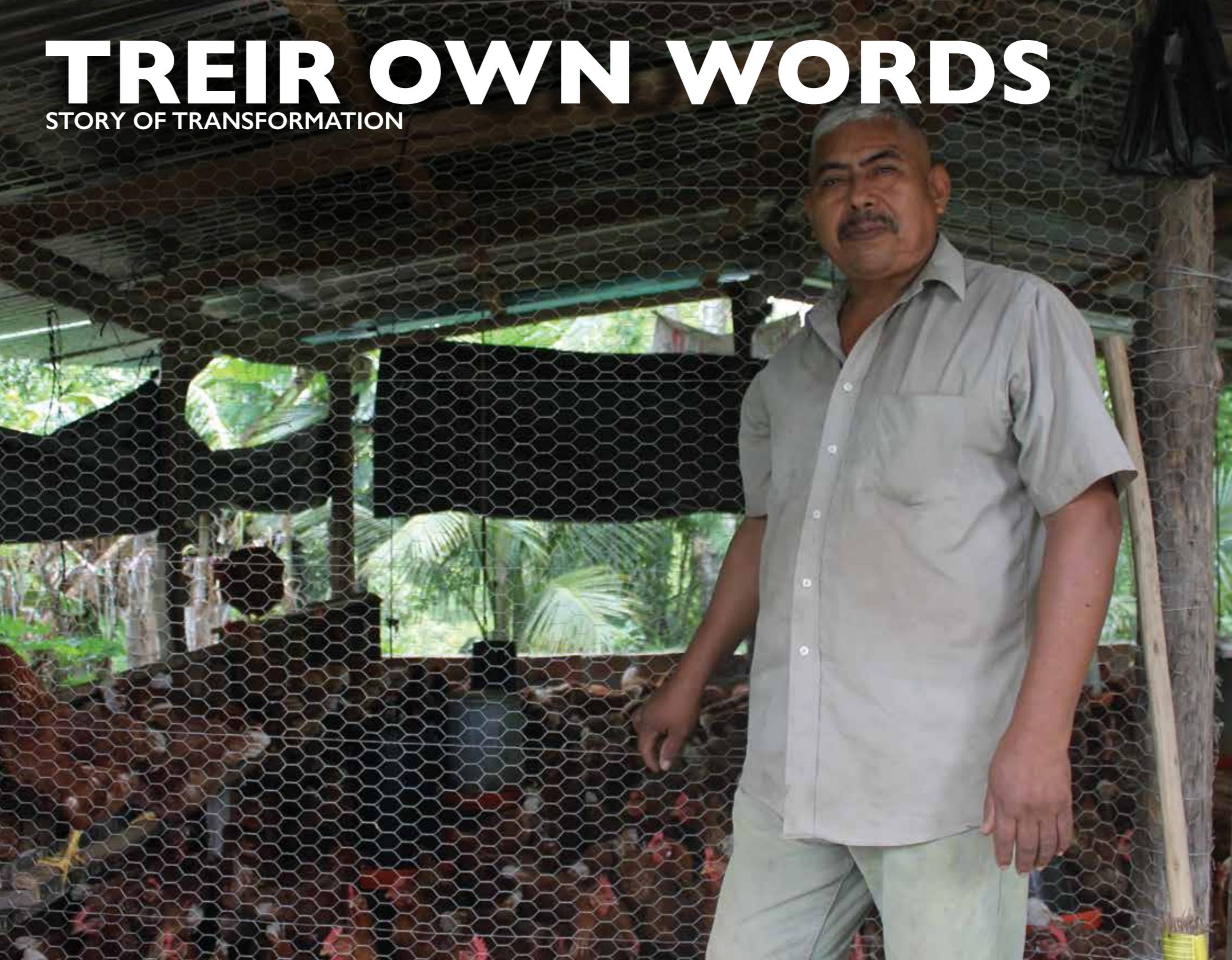
Reyes saw his wife's sadness and encouraged Evelin to go back to school by registering her at the Assemblies of God University, taking a leap of faith. Even though she worried about their family's finances and was daunted by the time a degree would imply as a very busy mother, Evelin plunged in with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

TREIR OWN WORDS

STORY OF TRANSFORMATION



STORY OF TRANSFORMATION:

"I NOW HAVE A BUSINESS THAT SUSTAINS MY FAMILY":

MEET EMITERIO EFIGENIO, CHICKEN FARMER IN EL ESPINO

At a young age I moved to El Salvador to explore an environment different from where I grew up. As I got older it just wasn't the same being far away from my family, so in 2000 I decided to return to my community.

Having lived in the capital where there were many opportunities, I was used to being busy most of the day and I wondered about what I would do in a rural setting. I began planting corn and beans and that kept me busy part of the day. One day Brother Santos, a local pastor, came to my house to invite me to a meeting that was going to be at the church. I was very interested and attended. At the meeting a group explained that they could support us to grow our own crops and gave me seeds for tomatoes, radishes and even decorative flowers.

A while later the ENLACE sisters and brothers arrived and they brought a new motivating idea which was to have laying hens. With a cooperative of other chicken farmers, we began. The first type of hen didn't work well. But we kept at it. After changing to red hens, we got up to 35 and then to 50. Eventually, I decided to work on my own. I obtained the capital and developed the hens until they laid eggs and now I have 400 hens that are a blessing to my family.

I am grateful for each training session we received because thanks to them I learned how to grow my own business. Now there are eggs every day that I eat and sell. The first hens for market are going to be ready in December. All I can say is thank you. If I had not gone to that meeting, I wouldn't be here with my business that sustains my family.

A scenic landscape featuring a large body of water in the middle ground, surrounded by rolling hills and mountains. The sky is a deep purple, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The foreground shows a dense forest of trees.

 ENLACE
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