



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

2016 REPORT: EASTERN REGION

# TABLE

OF CONTENTS



**Church Partner Profiles**

Piedra Angular Church, Abelines

Siloé Church, Sirigual

Emmanuel Church, El Triunfo

Apóstoles y Profetas Church, San Antonio El Mosco

Dios de la Profecía Church, La Estancia

Sendero de Dios Church, El Platanar

Edén Church, Nuevo Edén de San Juan

Cristo Viene Church, Misión Aposento Alto, San Gerardo

Peniel Church, Cerro de Arena

Nueva Jerusalén Church, Torola

La Vid Verdadera Church, Misión Centroamericana, San Francisco Gotera

Dios de la Profecía Church, Potosí

Siervos de Justicia Church, Col. Gutiérrez

Cristo Viene Church, Col. Monrroy

Centro Familiar Cristiano Church, Col. Rio Grande

Bethania Church, Ciudad Dolores

Monte Sinaí Church, Villa El Rosario

Solo Jesucristo Salva Church, Delicias de Concepción

Ríos de Aguas Vivas Church, El Portillo

Fuente de Salvación Church, El Junquillal

Getsemaní Church, San Rafael Oriente

**New Church Partner Profiles**

El Shaddai Church, La Presita

Una Luz en tu Senda Church, San Juan

Monte de Los Olivos Church, Hato Nuevo

**Church and Community Program**

Church Coach Supervisor Profile: Jaime Roque

Church Coach Profile: German Ayala

Church Coach Profile: Gerzon Gómez

Church Coach Profile: Jeovany Rivas

**Story of Transformation: In Their Own Words**

A Footbridge Builds Community: María Ercilia Zeldá from Sendero de Dios Church, El Platanar

# REGIONAL

OVERVIEW





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 \$2 per day.

Due to the profound impact that servant-leaders in four churches have made in the Abelines area, the region was expanded to include 18 more churches in the provinces of Cabañas, Morazán, San Vicente and San Miguel.

In **2016** ENLACE trained and equipped over **551 church leaders** and **310 community leaders** on a monthly basis in **27 churches** serving **92 communities** in the region of Abelines - San Miguel. The total area impact for this region is **44,306 people**.

## PROJECT REPORT 2016

# 6

PROJECTS

# 6,925

PEOPLE IMPACTED

## PROJECT GOALS 2017

# 16

PROJECTS

# 9,200

PEOPLE IMPACTED

# CHURCH

PARTNER PROFILES

A photograph of Pastor Victorio Paz, a man with a mustache wearing a blue button-down shirt and a grey baseball cap with "AMERICAN EAGLE" on it. He is smiling and pointing his right index finger upwards. The background shows a wooden fence and green foliage.

**GOD'S JUSTICE AND MERCY ARE AT WORK THROUGH US AND WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED MANY AMAZING THINGS AS WE'VE WORKED TOGETHER!**

— PASTOR VICTORIO PAZ, PIEDRA ANGULAR CHURCH

## PIEDRA ANGULAR CHURCH ABELINES

Piedra Angular Church is a rural congregation of 97 members, 35 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 healthcare 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 5,000 people on an ongoing basis. The church has grown by 15% and has an area of impact of 6,000 people.

Approximately 78% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

## PROJECT GOALS 2017

Water collector tank



Composting latrines (25)



Retaining wall and  
perimeter mesh (35 meters)



New homes (15)





## SILOE CHURCH SIRIGUAL

Siloé Church is a rural congregation of 200 members, 48 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 has grown by 33% and has an area of impact of 2,100 people on an ongoing basis. Approximately 78% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

## PROJECT GOALS 2017

Composting latrines (40)



Road repair (from the El Chorro river to Almendros street)



Footbridge over El Chorro river (40 meters)



**I THINK THAT EVEN WITH STRUGGLE AND TESTING, [SERVING THE COMMUNITY] IS WHAT I LIKE. EVEN IF IT'S JUST WITH A FEW THINGS, WE ARE ALWAYS ON THE ROAD TO SERVE...PEOPLE EXPECT THAT FROM POLITICIANS, MAYORS, BUT NOT OF THE CHURCH. AND IT FILLS ME WITH JOY THAT WE CAN BE A BLESSING.**

**— PASTOR ORLANDO ANDRADE, EMMANUEL CHURCH**

## EMMANUEL CHURCH EL TRIUNFO

Emanuel Church is a congregation of 44 members, six of whom are leaders. In 2009 their pastor, Orlando Andrade, heard about ENLACE through conversations with Pastor Victorio Paz from Abelines. The church had worked with World Vision and the local mayor's office and so already had a close relationship with its community. ENLACE helped to strengthen these 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.

In March 2016, the church welcomed a new pastor, Pedro Martir Parada who has continued to support the transformational vision. The church has grown by 26% and has an area of impact of 500 people. Approximately 60% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

## PROJECT REPORT 2016

Bridge construction  
between  
El Triunfo  
and Sirigual



## PROJECT GOALS 2017

Water distribution piping



Water collection tank and  
reservoir

Perimeter wall at Central  
School (214 meters)



Road repair (100 meters)



**AS A PASTOR I KNOW THAT GOD HAS HIS OWN TIMING AND OFTEN WE DON'T UNDERSTAND IT BUT IT'S WORTH THE WAIT. GOD HAS HIS AGENDA AND IS WORKING ON THE HEARTS OF THOSE IN THE COMMUNITY. GOD IS ALWAYS WORKING AND IT'S OUR JOB TO JOIN HIM.**

**— PASTOR TERESO JURADO, APOSTOLES Y PROFETAS CHURCH**

## APÓSTOLES Y PROFETAS CHURCH SAN ANTONIO EL MOSCO

Apóstoles y Profetas Church is an enthusiastic, urban congregation of 115 members, 20 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 has grown by 28% and has an area of impact of 10,000 people. Approximately 78% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

### PROJECT GOALS 2017

New homes (10)



Public bathrooms



Water system repair  
and improvement





**“THE DIFFERENCE WITH ENLACE IS THAT WE HAVE LEARNED HOW TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE RESOURCES WE HAVE, ORGANIZE OURSELVES, CREATE EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT, IN OTHER WORDS WE HAVE BECOME MORE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE. ENLACE DOESN'T COME IN TO DO WHAT THEY WANT AND FOR US AS A CHURCH IT WAS A GREAT LEAP FORWARD IN OUR QUALITY OF SERVICE. WE ALWAYS HAD A HEART TO SERVE BUT JUST DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE IT HAPPEN. ENLACE HAS BEEN THE HELP WE NEEDED.”**

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

## DIOS DE LA PROFECÍA CHURCH LA ESTANCIA

Dios de la Profecía Church is a dynamic congregation of 95 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 now serves on the ENLACE Pastoral Steering Committee.

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 proper 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 21% and is impacting 1,500 people. Approximately 47% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

### PROJECT REPORT 2016

Medical assistance  
(1,200 patients)



### PROJECT GOALS 2017

Medical assistance



Curbs on main road  
(1000 meters)



Perimeter wall

Curbs in hamlet of San Carlos  
(1200 meters)



**SOME PEOPLE BELIEVED THAT THE CHURCH ONLY EXISTS TO PREACH. AND THAT'S WHY WHEN WE AS A CHURCH BEGAN TO WORK IN OUR COMMUNITY THEY WERE SURPRISED BECAUSE NOW WE WERE TAKING ON THEIR NEEDS AS OUR OWN. THEIR PROBLEMS ARE NOW OURS.**

**— PASTOR GERSON RODRIGUEZ, SENDERO DE DIOS CHURCH**

## SENDERO DE DIOS CHURCH EL PLATANAR

Sendero de Dios Church is a passionate congregation of 130 members, 20 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 8% and is impacting 1,000 people on an ongoing basis. Approximately 47% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

## PROJECT GOALS 2017

Vocational workshops





**MY VISION FOR THE CHURCH IS TO SEE A CHURCH THAT IS GROWING IN FOUR AREAS: LOVE, NUMBERS, KNOWLEDGE AND SPIRITUALITY. I WANT TO SEE A TRANSFORMED COMMUNITY WHERE FEWER PEOPLE ARE SPENDING THEIR LIVES FRETTING AND MOURNING THE MOMENT WHEN THE WINTER RAINS COME AND THE SUFFERING BEGINS.**

**— PASTOR ISIDRO REYES, EDÉN CHURCH**

## EDÉN CHURCH NUEVO EDÉN DE SAN JUAN

Edén Church is a congregation of 75 members, 20 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. He is also now part of the ENLACE Pastoral Steering Committee. The church had been providing food and home repair to the poorest in their community and will continue to broaden their outreach. The church has grown by 15% in recent years and has directly impacted more than 5,400 people. Approximately 63% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

### PROJECT GOALS 2017

Composting latrines (30)



Community  
multipurpose room



New homes (10)





## CRISTO VIENE CHURCH MISIÓN APOSENTO ALTO, SAN GERARDO

Cristo Viene Church is a congregation of 75 members, 12 of which are leaders. Its pastor, Wilber Rudi Díaz, learned of ENLACE from Pastor Luis Romero of the Peniel en el Cerro Church in Arena. The church has worked with the mayor's office and the community in new home building, delivery of groceries and mattresses to needy households, and transportation for those needing medical care. Last year the church worked hard building new classrooms for the local school. The church has grown by 32% in recent years and has directly impacted more than 375 people. Approximately 55% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

### PROJECT REPORT 2016

Classroom construction  
at local school



### PROJECT GOALS 2017

Composting latrines (37)



Garbage collection system





## PENIEL CHURCH CERRO DE ARENA

Peniel Church is congregation of 165 members, 24 of whom are leaders. It's Pastor José Arnoldo Guzmán learned of ENLACE through Pastor Virgilio of the Siloé Church of Sirigual. He has been a pastor since 1995 at other churches. After coming to Peniel Church and learned 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. The church has directly impacted more than 2,100 people. Approximately 60% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

## PROJECT REPORT 2016

New homes (10)



## PROJECT GOALS 2017

Road repair (400 meters)





## NUEVA JERUSALÉN CHURCH TOROLA

Nueva Jerusalén Church, located in Torola, Morazán, is a congregation of 77 members, 22 of which are leaders. Its pastor, German Reinaldo Claros has led the church since 2005 and learned of ENLACE when Pastor Leonidas Hernández of the Castillo del Rey Church in San Fernando told him about his experience. The church has already been involved in helping its community by ministering to those who are sick, bringing food to needy households and cleaning up the roads. The church has a potential to impact 2,000 people on an ongoing basis including its immediate village and surrounding communities such as Las Anonas, Agua Zarca, Ojos de Agua. The church has grown by 10% in recent years and has a potential to impact 2,000 people on an ongoing basis including its immediate village and surrounding communities such as Las Anonas, Agua Zarca, and Ojos de Agua. Approximately 89% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

## PROJECT GOALS 2017

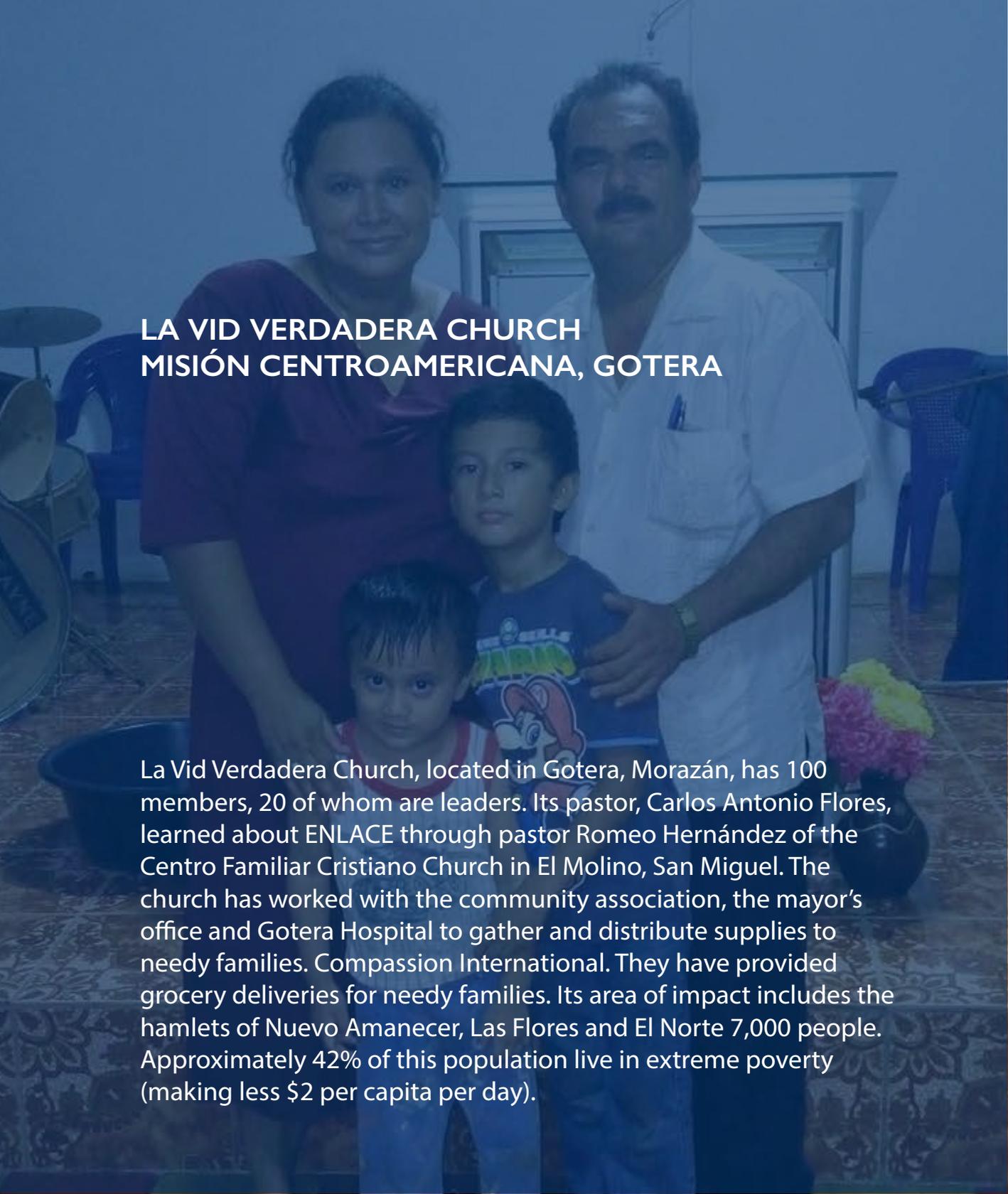
Water collection tank



Water distribution system

Composting latrines (25)





## LA VID VERDADERA CHURCH MISIÓN CENTROAMERICANA, GOTERA

La Vid Verdadera Church, located in Gotera, Morazán, has 100 members, 20 of whom are leaders. Its pastor, Carlos Antonio Flores, learned about ENLACE through pastor Romeo Hernández of the Centro Familiar Cristiano Church in El Molino, San Miguel. The church has worked with the community association, the mayor's office and Gotera Hospital to gather and distribute supplies to needy families. Compassion International. They have provided grocery deliveries for needy families. Its area of impact includes the hamlets of Nuevo Amanecer, Las Flores and El Norte 7,000 people. Approximately 42% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

## PROJECT GOALS 2017

Composting latrines



## DIOS DE LA PROFECÍA CHURCH POTOSÍ

Dios de la Profecía Church, located in Potosí, has 47 members, 12 of whom are leaders. Its pastor, Randy Ever Rodríguez, learned about ENLACE through pastor Walter Herrera from La Estancia whose church was serving its community in a variety of ways. Pastor Rodríguez and his congregation wanted to do the same. They began to work with their community association, the mayor's office and a local co-op to identify opportunities to serve. They distributed groceries, repaired roofs and walls and cleaned the community streets. The church has the potential to impact 840 people directly. Approximately 40% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

### PROJECT GOALS 2017

School classrooms (2)



Composting latrines (35)



## SIERVOS DE JUSTICIA CHURCH COL. GUTIERREZ



Siervos de Justicia Church, located in the hamlet of Gutiérrez in Ciudad Barrios, San Miguel, has 86 members, 22 of whom are leaders. Its pastor, Oscar Anibal Orellana, learned about ENLACE through pastor Virgilio Ramos from Siloé Church in Sirigual. The church has worked with the community association and the mayor's office on a variety of projects such as grocery deliveries for needy families and street repairs. The church has grown by 10% in recent years and has directly impacted more than 1,200 people. Approximately 60% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

## PROJECT GOALS 2017

Water tank



## CRISTO VIENE CHURCH COLONIA MONRROY

Cristo Viene Church, located in the hamlet of Monrroy in Ciudad Barrios, in the department of San Miguel, is made up of 90 members, 35 of whom are leaders. Its pastor José Herberth Romero Martínez began pastoring this church in 2010 and got to know ENLACE in 2014 when another local pastor, Luis Romero from the Peniel en el Cerro Church, shared his vision and participation in community transformation. The church has already been very active with its community, repairing and improving homes, bringing food baskets to needy households and leading clean-up campaigns. The church has grown by 6% in recent years and has directly impacted more than 1,027 people. Approximately 60% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

### PROJECT GOALS 2017

Classroom repair and improvement at the La Arenera Central School



Community center



## CENTRO FAMILIAR CRISTIANO CHURCH COL. RIO GRANDE

Centro Familiar Cristiano Church, located in Colonia Rio Grande, has 51 members, 10 of whom are leaders. Its pastor, José Romeo Hernández, learned about ENLACE through pastor Isidro Reyes from the Edén Church in Nuevo Edén, San Juan. The church has worked closely with the community to help meet needs at San Juan de Dios Hospital. They have also worked with the mayor's office, Samaritan's Purse and the Ministry of Health on projects such as conducting health workshops and the delivery of grocery/clothing/educational supplies for needy families in El Molino and the hamlets of Rio Grande, Las Unidas, Ciudad Toledo, and La Paz. The church has grown by 13% in recent years and has directly impacted more than 2,500 people. Approximately 31% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

### PROJECT GOALS 2017

Water purification system



Family recreation area



## BETHANIA CHURCH MISIÓN CENTROAMERICANA, CIUDAD DOLORES

Bethania Church, located in the hamlet of Ciudad Dolores, Cabañas has 137 members, 38 of whom are leaders. Its pastor, German Bonilla González, learned about ENLACE through pastor Isidro Reyes from Edén Church in Nuevo Edén de San Juan. Ellos han fomentado una excelente relación con la organización comunitaria y con la Alcaldía, lo que les ha permitido brindar asistencia a cerca de 2,500 personas que viven en índice de pobreza del 64.70%, ayudando con canasta básica, colchonetas y botiquines. The church has grown by 52% in recent years.

## PROJECT GOALS 2017

Multipurpose community  
area/room





## MONTE SINAÍ CHURCH VILLA EL ROSARIO

Monte Sinaí Church is a congregation of 190 people, 35 of whom are leaders. Its pastor, María Luisa Orellana, who has pastored the church for over 30 years, learned about ENLACE through pastor German Claros from the Nueva Jerusalem Church in Torola. Working with the local health unit, the church led a clean-up campaign and grocery delivery for needy families. The church also works with Compassion International to provide wellness services for children in Villa El Rosario and in the neighboring hamlet of La Colonia. The church has grown by 9% in recent years and has directly impacted more than 800 people. Approximately 63% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

### PROJECT GOALS 2017

Multipurpose community  
area/room



## SOLO JESUCRISTO SALVA CHURCH DELICIAS DE CONCEPCIÓN

Solo Jesucristo Salva Church, located Delicias de Concepción, Morazán, has 300 members, 48 of whom are leaders. Its pastor, Juan Antonio Rodríguez, learned about ENLACE from pastor Isidro Reyes of the Edén Church in Nuevo Edén de San Juan. The church has worked with the community association, mayor's office and Compassion International to provide mattresses and gifts for families in need. The church has grown by 15% in recent years and has directly impacted more than 5,076 people. Approximately 60% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

### PROJECT GOALS 2017

Medical clinic



Water treatment system



## RÍOS DE AGUAS VIVAS CHURCH EL PORTILLO

Ríos de Aguas Vivas Church has 17 members, 12 of whom are leaders. its pastor, Elmer Montoya Zepeda, learned about ENLACE through pastor Isidro Reyes from Edén Church in Nuevo Edén de San Juan. The church has begun to strengthen its relationship with the mayor's office and the local school. They have led various community efforts such as a clean-up campaign on the main street that connects many different communities and provided groceries and emergency transportation for the sick. It has the potential to serve 500 people directly in the hamlets of El Portillo, Cantarrana, Cerrón, Corralito and Tierra Agria and has grown as a church by 8% in the last few years. Approximately 55% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

### PROJECT GOALS 2017

Perimeter wall at the San Jerónimo Central School (55 meters)



Multipurpose community area/room



## FUENTE DE SALVACIÓN CHURCH EL JUNQUILLAL

Fuente de Salvación Church, located in Junquillal, San Vicente, has 55 members, 12 of whom are leaders. Its pastor, Javier de Jesús Juárez heard about ENLACE through other pastors in his denomination during a training seminar. The church began to work with its community in 2012 with medical brigades and grocery/clothing/kitchen supplies delivery for needy families. They have built good relationships with the community association, the water board and the local health unit. The church has the potential to impact 500 people. Approximately 47% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

### PROJECT GOALS 2017

Community center



## GETSEMANÍ CHURCH SAN RAFAEL ORIENTE

Getsemaní Church, located in San Rafael Oriente, San Miguel, has 110 members, 20 of whom are leaders. Its pastor, Gabriel Melsar Andrade, learned about ENLACE through pastor Walter Herrera of the Dios de la Profecía Church in La Estancia. The church has built stronger relationships with the community association, the mayor's office and Compassion International. They have provided grocery deliveries for needy families. The church has the potential to impact 13,290 people. Approximately 49% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

## PROJECT GOALS 2017

Bathrooms at the local school



# NEW CHURCH

PARTNER PROFILES

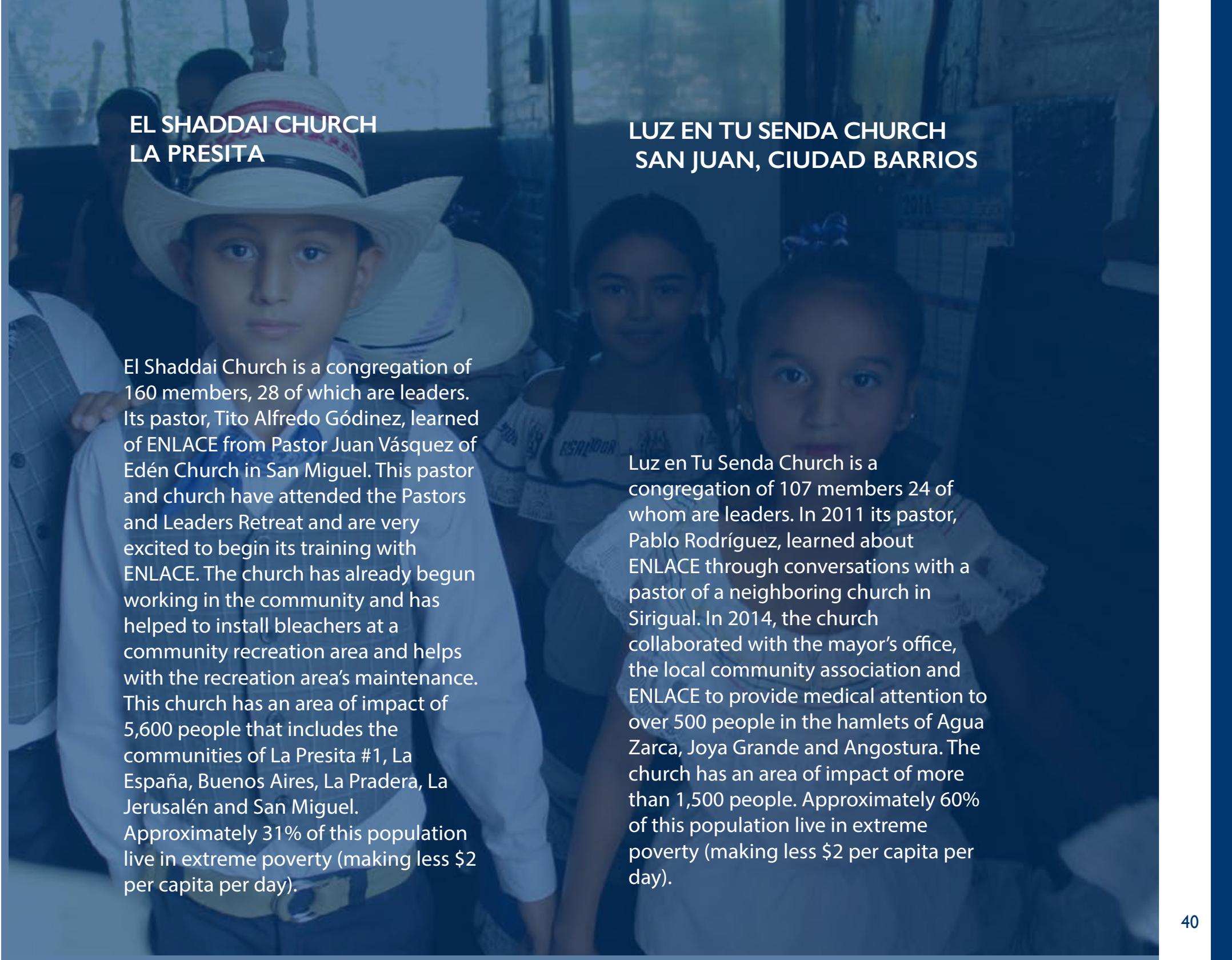


Three new churches began to partner with ENLACE between the last months of 2014 and during 2015. Each partner had a strong passion to serve its communities and began with ENLACE's coaching and training program. Through workshops, seminars and hands-on activities, church pastors and members are prepared 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.

A group of children, mostly boys, are wearing white shirts and wide-brimmed hats. They are looking towards the camera. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people and what appears to be an outdoor or semi-outdoor setting. The overall tone is blue-tinted.

## EL SHADDAI CHURCH LA PRESITA

El Shaddai Church is a congregation of 160 members, 28 of which are leaders. Its pastor, Tito Alfredo Gódinez, learned of ENLACE from Pastor Juan Vásquez of Edén Church in San Miguel. This pastor and church have attended the Pastors and Leaders Retreat and are very excited to begin its training with ENLACE. The church has already begun working in the community and has helped to install bleachers at a community recreation area and helps with the recreation area's maintenance. This church has an area of impact of 5,600 people that includes the communities of La Presita #1, La España, Buenos Aires, La Pradera, La Jerusalén and San Miguel. Approximately 31% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

## LUZ EN TU SENDA CHURCH SAN JUAN, CIUDAD BARRIOS

Luz en Tu Senda Church is a congregation of 107 members 24 of whom are leaders. In 2011 its pastor, Pablo Rodríguez, 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 and Angostura. The church has an area of impact of more than 1,500 people. Approximately 60% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

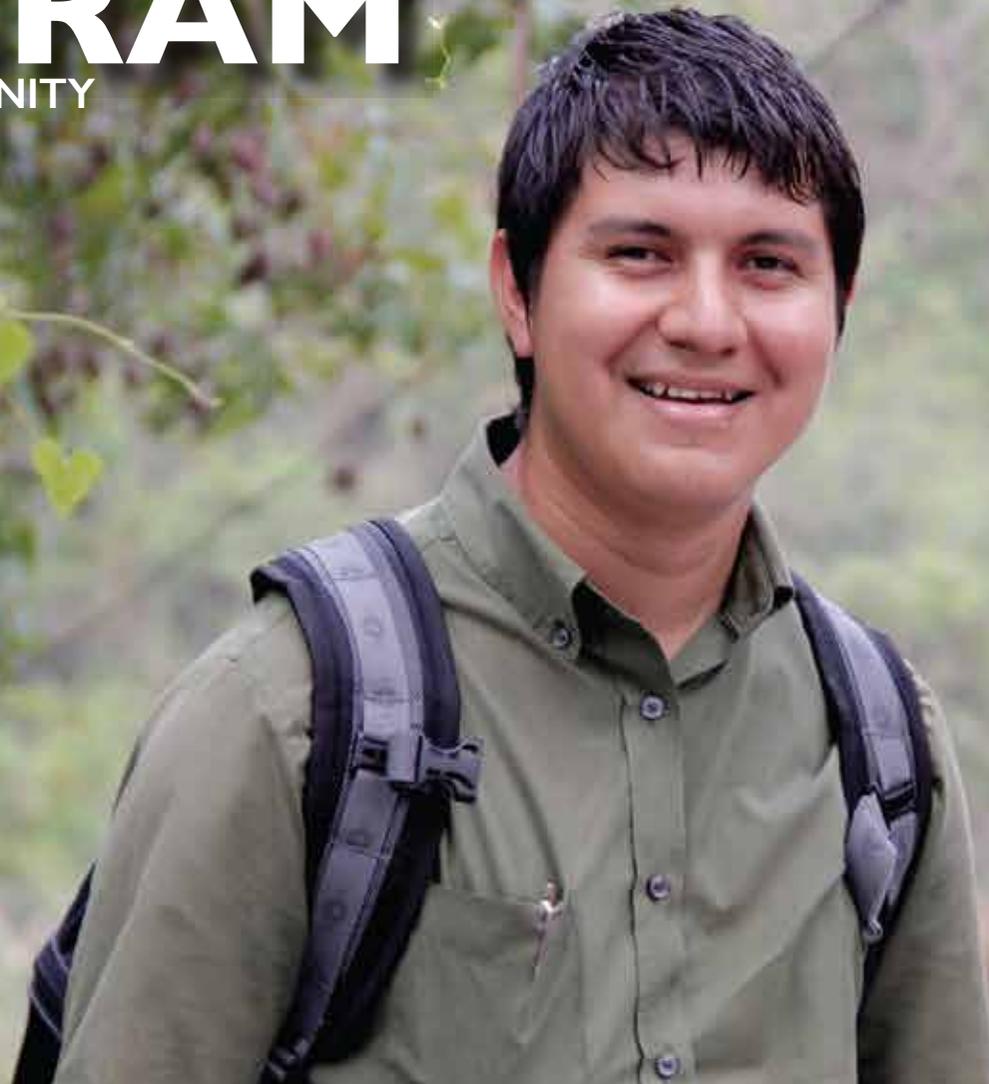


## MONTE DE LOS OLIVOS CHURCH LOS HATOS

Monte de los Olivos Church, located on the El Carmen Ranch, Los Hatos, San Miguel, has 40 members, 12 of whom are leaders. Its pastor, Joel Mauricio Calixto learned about ENLACE through pastor Tito Gódinez from the El Shaddai Church in San Miguel. The church has been working with its community to deliver groceries to needy families and financial help for people struggling with health issues. The church has an area of impact of more than 600 people. Approximately 31% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

# PROGRAM

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY



**“ 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 SUPERVISOR**

## JAIME ROQUE CHURCH COACH SUPERVISOR PROFILE

Jaime Roque 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 and will graduate from the Universidad Evangélica with a Masters in Theology in 2017.

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.



**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.**

**— GERMAN AYALA, CHURCH COACH**



## 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."



**“ I HAD ONLY HEARD OF MISSIONARY WORK, BUT HAD NEVER HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE IT. ”**

**— GERZON LUIS MANUEL GOMEZ, CHURCH COACH**

## GERZON LUIS MANUEL GOMEZ 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 nine siblings were left orphaned. It was a scary and uncertain time, one that Gerzon still grieves over.

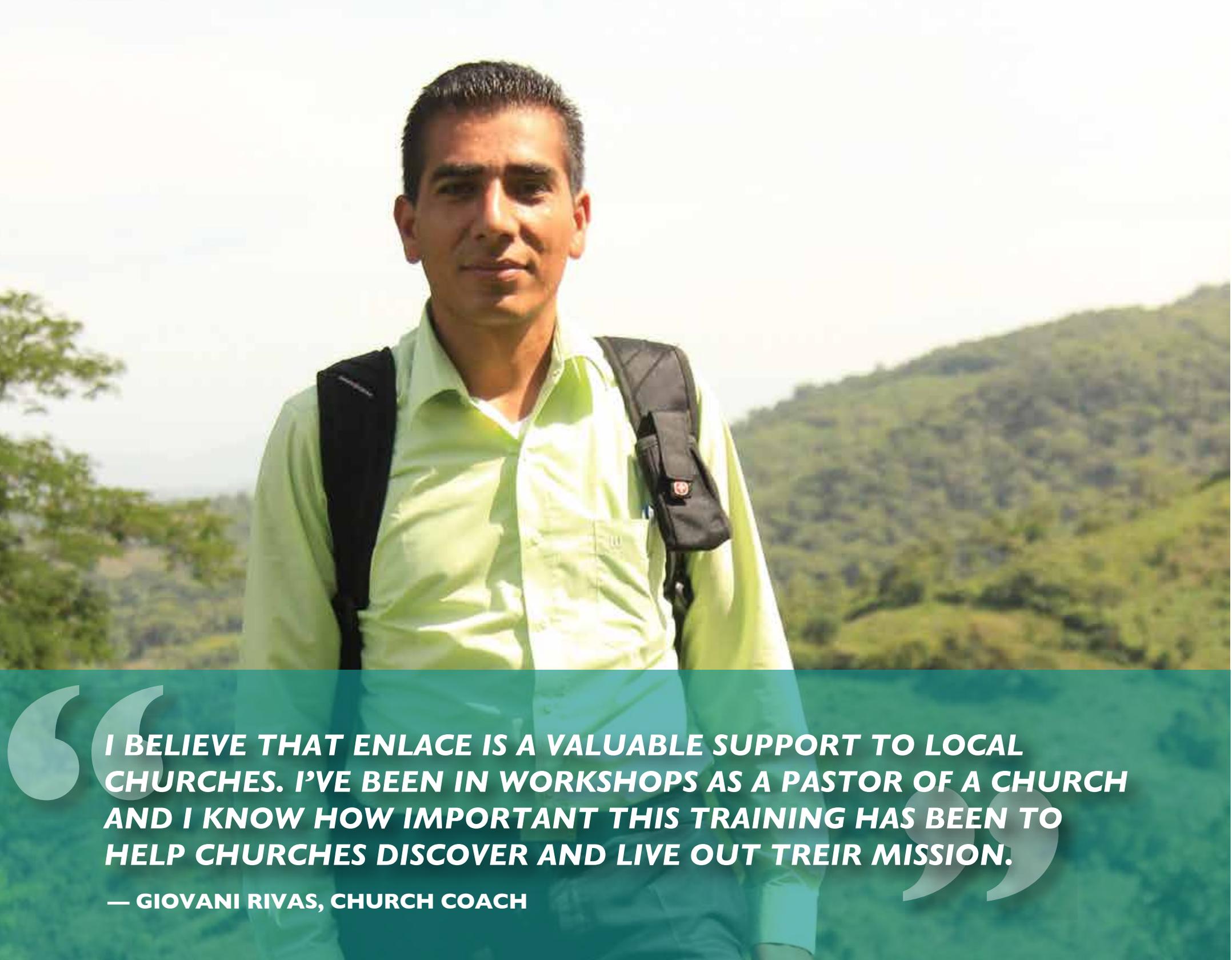
However, his uncle, Orestes, took Gerzon in and provided a place of love and refuge. Uncle Orestes not only took the children under his wing, but he also paid for Gerzon to attend school and taught him about God. Gerzon responded to this by working hard and ultimately winning a scholarship from the Mayor's 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 a job 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 was surprised to find an organization dedicated to helping churches reach out in both spiritual and physical ways. But it was a good fit. When he was younger, he'd always desired to help people in some way, just like his Uncle Orestes helped him. Now, working with ENLACE, his understanding of the mission of the church and the calling of servant-leaders has come full-circle.

"When I came to ENLACE, I had only heard of missionary work, but had never had the opportunity to live it. Now I understood that God was guiding me this way. Unfortunately, many times one becomes selfish and wants the Lord to give and to bless... Working in Abelines has impacted me greatly."



**I BELIEVE THAT ENLACE IS A VALUABLE SUPPORT TO LOCAL CHURCHES. I'VE BEEN IN WORKSHOPS AS A PASTOR OF A CHURCH AND I KNOW HOW IMPORTANT THIS TRAINING HAS BEEN TO HELP CHURCHES DISCOVER AND LIVE OUT THEIR MISSION.**

**— GIOVANI RIVAS, CHURCH COACH**



## GIOVANI RIVAS CHURCH COACH

Giovani has served in the church for most of his life. When he was 13, he began to help in Sunday school. At 15, he became the leader. His passion to serve young people as they walk with God was very great. However, over the years he also saw how much a burden pastors carry throughout their years in ministry. And even though he felt called to pastoring and was encouraged by his own pastor to follow the call, he was tentative to jump into it full-time.

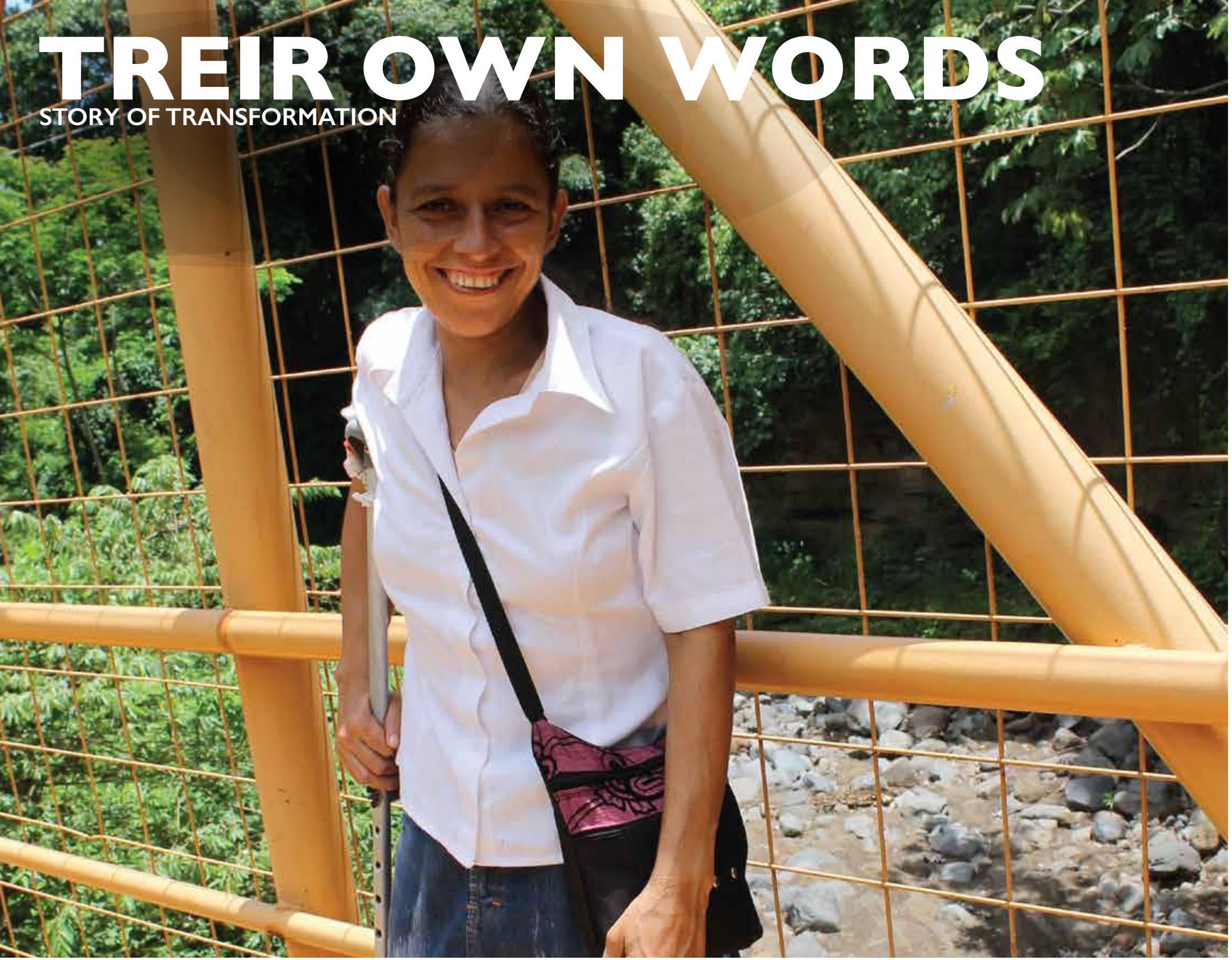
Eventually, Giovani did jump in. He began by pastoring a church in the community of San Antonio and then Cara Sucia. From the vantage point of the role of pastor, Giovani learned about ENLACE. Through a variety of projects, such as hosting medical brigades, building latrines, and constructing retaining walls with the local school, he and his congregation began to walk with their neighbors through the process of community transformation.

Eventually Giovani's vision of pastoring changed as he worked with his communities. He desired to become a support to other pastors who also wanted to participate in a vision of transformation. He helped to install a new pastor at Cara Sucia and applied to work for ENLACE's Church and Community Program as a Church Coach. His invaluable experience in ministry and in rural settings has contributed greatly to the quality of the ENLACE team.

"There are many churches that don't serve their communities...But we as the church have a calling to serve...Through my role as a Church Coach, I can help motivate them to join with God's work in their communities...I believe that ENLACE is a valuable support to local churches. I've been in workshops as a pastor of a church and I know how important this training has been to help churches discover and live out its mission."

# TREIR OWN WORDS

STORY OF TRANSFORMATION





## Stories of Transformation: A Footbridge Builds Community: María Ercilia Zalda from Sendero de Dios Church, El Platanar

María Ercilia has a physical abnormality and has struggled with walking her entire life. She can't go anywhere without her crutches. This struggle was made more acute when, after God touching her heart, she wanted to return as a congregant to the church she had attended as a child. In her joy she wanted to go as often as it was open, but because the walk took over a half hour she could only manage twice a week. "The worst of it," said María, "was that I had to go through a ravine that was full of water in the winter and full of rocks in the summer. With the problem I have with my foot, many times it was impossible for me to cross."

Sometimes María would arrive at the river but realize it was too difficult to cross on her own. "The only thing I could do was wait for a sister from the church to carry me because I was afraid of falling." And once at church, if the rains came, her return would become a problem. "Since my mother is already older [she couldn't carry me] so the pastor had to hire a pick up truck to take us home. This was difficult because it would take more than an hour because the way was long...This discouraged [everyone]."



A woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a white t-shirt, is smiling warmly. She is carrying a large, light-colored bundle on her back, secured with a strap. She stands on a wooden bridge with a metal railing. The background shows a building with a grid-like facade and some greenery. The entire image has a soft, reddish-pink tint.

“Thank God that many sisters’ and brothers’ hearts were touched and through the church ENLACE was able to come to this community and see all of the needs that we have. It was with them that we proposed that they could help us build a pedestrian bridge to facilitate access of the two communities. They told us that the work would be up to everyone, not just them and that’s how the mayor’s office and everyone began to work on the project that lasted almost six months. I saw how the brothers and sisters came to work every day in the sun and with the heat. Even if it rained they were there. It was difficult...Everyone worked hard together to get the materials...When I saw the project moving forward I only thought about going to church every day, not just when it didn’t rain or when someone could help me cross, but every day I could be there early.

“When they inaugurated the footbridge I felt so happy...That day many brothers and sisters came to celebrate with us. Everyone in the community was very grateful that this enormous project had been finished. I remember the first day I tracked how long it took me to get to church. Within 15 minutes, I was already there.”



 ENLACE  
[www.enlace.link](http://www.enlace.link)