



STORIES OF TRANSFORMATION: IN THEIR

OWN WORDS

2016 REPORT: NORTHWEST REGION

TABLE

OF CONTENTS



Regional Overview	3
Church Partner Profiles	5
Nueva Jerusalén Church, Comecayo	6
Zurisadai Church, San Jacinto	8
Lluvia Postrera Church, La Isla	10
Puerta del Cielo Church, El Progreso	12
Monte Horeb Church, La Reforma	13
Arca de Dios Church, Planes del Ranchador	14
Cristo Vive Church, La Bendición	15
Puerta del Cielo Church, San Juan Buenavista	16
Canaán Church, Los Pinos	18
Casa del Alfarero Church, Chantusnene	20
La Bendición Church, Agua Escondida	22
Luz de la Vida Church, San José	23
Iglesia de Dios Church, Santa Anita	24
Iglesia de Dios Church, Caña Brava	25
Betesda Church, Potrerillos del Matazano	26
Simiente de Abraham Church, Las Victorias	28
Roca Eterna Church, San Miguelito	29
Arca de Noé Church, El Cascajal	30
Jehová Jireh Church, Las Cruces	31
Palabra de Fe Church, El Carmen	32
New Church Partner Profiles	34
Rios de Agua Viva Church, La Joyita	36
Jerusalén Church, San Lorenzo, Ahuachapán	36
Gilgal Church, Piedras Azules	37
Emanuel Church, Tepecoyo	38
Beerseba Church, Santa Rosa	38
Atenas Church, Cutumay Camones	39
Bethel Church, San Antonio Pajonal	39
Emanuel Church, San Juan Opico	40
Una Luz en tu Camino Church, El Tamarindo	40
Peniel Church, El Chilar	41
Church and Community Program	42
Church Coach Supervisor Profile: Gerson De León	42
Church Coach Profile: Natalia Estrada	44
Church Coach Profile: Elmer Villalta	46
Story of Transformation	
How the Church Became the Hope for José Elías Torres	48

REGIONAL

OVERVIEW





The Northwest Region is located in El Salvador's western most provinces of Santa Ana and La Libertad with a total population of nearly 700,000. Approximately 300,000 people live in or near urban centers and the remaining 400,000 live in semi-rural or rural communities. Recent reports state that 23% of the population, or 161,000 people, live in extreme poverty (making less than \$1 per day) and 46% of the population, or 332,000 people, live in severe poverty (making less than \$2 per day). The region is diverse and has complex challenges. Urban areas are densely populated and face security issues, household waste problems, and unemployment. Rural areas are also densely populated and face critical challenges such as dilapidated roads, inadequate housing, poor health and struggling economic development.

In **2016** ENLACE trained and equipped over **340 church leaders** and **267 community leaders** on a monthly basis in **30 churches** serving **75 communities** in the region of Santa Ana and La Libertad. The total area impact for this region is **34,308 people**. One church is currently on the waiting list to partner with ENLACE.

PROJECT REPORT 2016

16
PROJECTS

8,615
PEOPLE IMPACTED

PROJECT GOALS 2017

31
PROJECTS

17,825
PEOPLE IMPACTED

CHURCH

PARTNER PROFILES

OUR CHURCH NOT ONLY PREACHES A GOSPEL OF INNER HEALING BUT ALSO A GOSPEL OF BODILY HEALTH AND WHOLENESS. WE HAVE BEGUN TO LIVE OUT THE GREAT COMMISSION, OUR LEADERSHIP HAS GROWN AND [WE] HOPE TO KEEP ON GROWING IN A HOLISTIC MANNER.

— PASTOR NEHEMIAS JUAREZ, NUEVA JERUSALEN CHURCH

NUEVA JERUSALÉN CHURCH COMECAYO

Nueva Jerusalén Church is a committed and flourishing congregation of 960 members, 175 of whom are committed leaders. Its previous pastor, Rafael González first learned about ENLACE while working with a medical clinic that was used by students from a Christian school sharing his church building. In 2008, Pastor Rafael asked ENLACE to develop a strategy that would help his church reach out to its community. In 2012, Pastor Rafael assumed a new role as the Santa Ana regional presbyter. He invited Nehemías Juárez, who had once served as an associate pastor at Nueva Jerusalén to become the new pastor.

Over the years, the church has strengthened existing relationships with school parents, teachers and students and also established a relationship with the mayor's office and the community association. As a result, the church has implemented many projects, most recently a pedestrian bridge which allows residents to safely cross the Pan-American Highway. The church's strong leadership and great capacity for outreach has extended its impact to neighboring communities like El Ranchador and Porvenir. The church has grown by 2% in recent years and has the potential to impact 3,280 people. Approximately 34% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

PROJECT GOALS 2017

New homes (6)



Rain drainage system
(El Jordán 20 meters)

Road repair
(La Granja 120 meters)



Road repair
(Cruz Verde 20 meters)

Sewer system (La Empalizada)



ZURISADAI CHURCH SAN JACINTO

Zurisadai Church is an energetic and active congregation of 175 members, 25 of whom are very strong leaders. In 2008 its pastor, Jaime Mauricio Alvarado, heard about ENLACE through conversations with Rafael González, the pastor of the Nueva Jerusalén Church. Pastor Mauricio, a dedicated leader who constantly seeks opportunities to grow, along with his wife, Yanira, who is also a talented leader, were encouraged by Pastor Rafael to lead their church into a new vision of ministry.

With incredible excitement and speed, this church joined with its local community association and helped to inspire a desire to serve. Since that time, a myriad of projects such as road repairs, new homes, an improved water system and home gardens have gone forward. Both the landscape of San Jacinto and the hearts of hundreds of its residents have been transformed. Pastor Mauricio serves on the ENLACE Pastoral Steering Committee and his church has experienced a 15% growth and has the capacity to serve 1,548 people. It now has completed the entire process with the Church and Community Program. Approximately 35% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

PROJECT REPORT 2016

Road repair



PROJECT GOALS 2017

Road repair (100 meters)



Drainage culvert
(El Romance 15 meters)

Retaining wall at the central school,
stage 1 (460 meters)

Drainage culvert
(Las Peñitas)



LLUVIA POSTRERA CHURCH LA ISLA

Lluvia Postrera Church is small congregation that has grown rapidly and wants to serve its community. Its pastor, Miguel Ramírez, learned about ENLACE from his brother, Juan Ramirez of Chantunene, a partner with ENLACE.

The church began with just 7 people and has grown to 28, 12 of whom are recognized leaders and many more members are involved in various ways. The DNA of this church is made of service, commitment and dedication to the community. They've already begun to implement a community safety project that includes street lights and a water system, medical teams in tandem with the local community association and the mayor's office. The church has the potential to impact approximately 500 people or 64 families. The church has grown by 1% in recent years and has the potential to impact 268 people. Approximately 36% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

PROJECT REPORT 2016

Road repair



PROJECT GOALS 2017

Medical teams



Clean water system:
tank construction



Road repair (100 meters)



PUERTA DEL CIELO CHURCH EL PROGRESO

Puerta del Cielo Church is a rural congregation of 30 members, 7 of whom are leaders. In 2008 its former pastor, Mario Ernesto Mejía, learned about ENLACE through conversations with Pastor Mauricio Alvarado from the Zurisadai Church in San Jacinto, who encouraged him to reach out and serve his community.

Pastor Mario, a man of great passion and faith, inspired his church to serve. He and his church established new relationships with several community organizations as well as the mayor's office. Additionally, the church created strong friendships with community members and churchgoers from different churches in the community. In June 2012 Orlando Majano became the church's new pastor. Pastor Orlando, a devoted leader with a strong personal testimony, and the church implemented their first housing project and led a joint effort with the community to repair the main road. In 2016, however, Pastor Orlando faced health challenges that made it impossible for him to continue his work. The congregation is now led by Pastor José Elias Morán who is striving to continue the partnership with ENLACE. The church has directly impacted more than 1,500 people. Approximately 24% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

PROJECT GOALS 2017

Medical teams	
Water filters (120)	
New homes (10)	
Recreation area	
Road repair (505 meters)	

MONTE HOREB CHURCH LA REFORMA

PROJECT REPORT 2016

New homes (6)



PROJECT GOALS 2017

Household waste
management system



Water system improvements



New homes (5)



Street security improvements:
signs and speed bumps



Street drainage and curbs

Monte Horeb Church is a motivated and well-connected congregation that has 145 members, 23 of whom are leaders. In 2010 its pastor, Elman Meléndez, learned of ENLACE through conversations with Pastor Rafael González from the Nueva Jerusalén Church.

The church already had close relationships with its community as a result of having collaborated with the Ministry of Health in previous projects. Through ENLACE's training, the church improved its project management and strengthened relationships with other organizations. Together the church and community have implemented health initiatives, such as home gardens and latrines. After coordinating effective relief efforts in response to a devastating tropical storm in 2011, the church has maintained its role as a well-organized and responsive group within its community. After Pastor Elman moved on to another church, the new pastor, Angel Otoniel Ramirez, took on his role and has continued to desire a partnership with ENLACE. The church has directly impacted more than 1,440 people. Approximately 34% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

ARCA DE DIOS CHURCH PLANES DEL RANCHADOR

The Arca de Dios Church is a semi-rural congregation of 110 members, 40 of whom are leaders. In 2010 the its pastor, Francisco Javier Mendoza, heard about ENLACE through conversations with pastor Rafael González from the Nueva Jerusalén Church. One of the greatest challenges facing this community is the presence of gangs. Despite this, he and his church committed to being a place of love and care for all the people of El Ranchador. Sadly, Pastor Francisco died in 2016. The new pastor, Elman Menéndez, began his tenure here. His previous church had been partners with ENLACE and so now, he continues with the same vision.

As a result of working with Compassion International, the church had developed a close relationship with its community. ENLACE strengthened their community ties by helping them to become better organized and more integrated with other leaders and families in the community. ENLACE also helped to establish new relationships with other organizations. While most residents have access to clean water and electricity, they struggle with inadequate housing, infrastructure problems, malnutrition, and lack of development opportunities. By the end of 2011, the church, together with the community, implemented home gardens and home construction projects along with the construction of a new bridge and a clinic. All of these projects have combined to impact every resident in greatly needed and profound ways. The church has a capacity to impact 6,000 families. Approximately 12% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

PROJECT REPORT 2016

New homes (10)



PROJECT GOALS 2017

New block homes (10)



Road repair
(100 meters)



Public safety lighting
(20 street lamps)



CRISTO VIVE CHURCH LA BENDICION

PROJECT REPORT 2016

Water tank



PROJECT GOALS 2017

Drainage system
(Casa Blanca 70 meters)



Community center



Road repair (200 meters)



Cristo Vive Church, located on beautiful Lake Coatepeque, is a congregation of 45 members, 15 of whom are leaders. In 2010 its pastor, Mauricio Reyes, learned about ENLACE through conversations with Pastor Rafael González from the Nueva Jerusalén Church who invited him to attend an ENLACE seminar about how a church can work effectively with its community.

Pastor Mauricio and his young and dynamic leaders inspired and motivated their congregation to actively begin to connect to their community. They strengthened existing relationships with the local public school and the community association. They implemented projects such as eco-stoves and home gardens. In August 2015, Pastor Mauricio retired and a new pastor, Pablo Crespín, stepped in to transition the church to the new fulltime pastor, Walter Antonio Gutiérrez. The church has an area of impact of 800 people. Approximately 35% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day). The name of their town, La Bendición, means "The Blessing" in English and the church has truly embodied that in their community.



PUERTA DEL CIELO CHURCH SAN JUAN BUENAVISTA

Puerta del Cielo Church is a semi-urban congregation of 100 members, 15 of whom are leaders. Pastor Francisco Javier Portillo was the pastor of one of ENLACE's first local partner churches in the hamlet of El Cambio, El Tinteral. Pastor Francisco moved to San Juan Buenavista and contacted ENLACE in 2011 to help him create a vision for his church and community with this new congregation. After Pastor Francisco relocated to a different church, and Pastor Carlos Linares helped out for a time and then the present pastor, Esau Bermudez, became the church's full-time pastor in 2013. According to Gerson, the ENLACE Church Coach, Pastor Esau is continuing to work with the church's motivated and diverse group of leaders in community transformation.

The church has built strong relationships with many community organizations and implemented health projects such as home gardens, eco-stoves and latrines. With each project the church has strengthened ties with the public school and the community's water board while also increasing their own management capacity and organizational ability. The church has grown by 5% and is directly serving 350 families. Approximately 35% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

PROJECT REPORT 2016

Eco-stoves (25)



PROJECT GOALS 2017

Public safety lighting
(25 electric streetlamps)



Road repair



Clean water system





CANAAN CHURCH LOS PINOS

Canaan Church, located in the community called Los Pinos, Santa Ana, is a small congregation of 50 members, 12 of whom are leaders. In 2011 the church's new pastor, Mario Mejia, contacted ENLACE. He had previously been the pastor of Puerta del Cielo Church in El Progreso and had worked with ENLACE since 2010 and sought to work with ENLACE again. Because he had previous training, Pastor Mario inspired his congregation to address some pressing needs and without hesitation, they began to lead mitigation efforts in Los Pinos. The church desires not only to help its immediate community but also the nearby villages of El Porvenir and Montebello, impacting 1,500 people. Since February 2016, Pastor Jose Lopez has been pastoring the church. Pastor Jose has been inspired by all that the church has achieved so far and is anxious to continue serving the community. The church has directly impacted more than 2,500 people. Approximately 20% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

PROJECT REPORT 2016

Medical team
(400 patients)



Pit latrines (30)



New homes (2)



PROJECT GOALS 2017

Medical teams



Pit latrines (15)



Reforestation



School classrooms (2)



New homes (10)





“ TO TALK ABOUT ENLACE IS TO TALK ABOUT A GOOD ORGANIZATION. AS A CHURCH WE TRIED TO GET ORGANIZED BUT WITH ENLACE WE HAVE SEEN A HUGE IMPROVEMENT. MANY OF US (IN THE CHURCH) ARE NOW MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS AND THE COMMUNITY HAS NOTICED A GREAT CHANGE.

— PASTOR JUAN RAMIREZ, CASA DEL ALFARERO CHURCH

CASA DEL ALFARERO CHURCH CHANTUSNENE

Casa del Alfarero Church is a strong congregation of 110 members, 18 of whom are leaders. The church was founded in 1998 with the establishment of a new neighborhood in Chantusnene made up of 64 families. In 2011 its pastor, Juan Ramírez, attended a conference in which he learned of ENLACE from an inspiring presentation given by Pastor Rafael González from the Nueva Jerusalén Church. He spoke about what his church had been doing in the city of Comecayo. Up to that point, Pastor Juan had believed that the church should not get involved with outsiders even though he had been quite involved with his neighbors' needs for many years. Pastor Rafael invited him to meet the ENLACE team. After connecting with ENLACE, Pastor Juan became excited and a desire to serve his community was born. Paston Juan is now serving on the ENLACE Pastoral Steering Committee and the church has experienced a 11% growth. With the completion of a major road project, the church is serving more than 2,320 people. Approximately 33% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

PROJECT GOALS 2017

Clean water system
improvement with new
water channels



New block homes (12)



Road repair
(Valle Gracia 600 meters)



Road repair
(Chantusnene 500 meters)

Drainage culvert

LA BENDICION CHURCH AGUA ESCONDIDA

La Bendición Church, is a very motivated and well-connected congregation that has 60 members, 23 of whom are leaders. Pastor José Alvaro Franco learned of ENLACE from Pastor Juan Ramírez from Chantusnene. Pastor José got very excited about the impact that the Chantusnene church was making and wanted to join them. To that end, they hope to strengthen and expand efforts to the area of San Juan Opico.

Currently, the church is very active in providing food and clothing to the poorest in its community and has worked with the local Kimberly Clark Factory to provide food for poor families in the community. The church also has a strong relationship with the local Community Association and the Mayor's Office. The church has the potential to impact approximately 1,500 people. Approximately 33% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

PROJECT GOALS 2017

Public safety lighting
(8 streetlamps)



Rainwater drainage system



Road repair (200 meters)

New block homes (6)



Water tank and
distribution system



LUZ DE LA VIDA CHURCH SAN JOSE

PROJECT REPORT 2016

Pit latrines (30)



PROJECT GOALS 2017

Pit latrines (30)



Water pump and
distribution system



Road repair (700 mts)



Footbridge



School classrooms (2)

Luz de la Vida Church, located in the community called San José, is a congregation of 46 members, 6 of whom are leaders. This congregation has a great passion and desire to transform its own community and the immediate neighborhood of Hacienda Santa Adela. Close to 500 residents in San José have access to electricity but they struggle with water (access and quality), school infrastructure problems, health care, and lack of development opportunities.

Oscar Ernesto Villalta, the church's original pastor, first began to inspire the church to serve by leading by example. He and his church established good relationships with the Community Association and created strong friendships with community members and churchgoers from nearby churches already working with ENLACE, such as Cristo Vive in La Bendición. After a change in leadership in 2015, a new pastor, Casimiro Santos Castillo, was installed in 2016. The church has experienced a 2% growth and its area of impact is more than 200 people. Approximately 12% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

IGLESIA DE DIOS CHURCH SANTA ANITA

Iglesia de Dios Church is a congregation of 20 members, 4 of whom are strong leaders. Even though the church's denomination discouraged community interaction, Pastor Manuel Landaverde along with many church members could not close their eyes to the problems that their neighbors were facing from extreme poverty and a lack of economic opportunities to the strong gang presence.

The church began working with ENLACE in 2013 when Pastor Rigoberto Villacorta learned about the work a church was doing in the same denomination. Along with starting the training, the church began to get to know the local leaders of ANDA, the government water agency. Over the last two years, the church helped to serve 100 families with a new clean water system. The church is excited to continue because there are more families in their community who need access to clean water and the church is hoping to impact 1,500 people in their area with that and other projects. Approximately 12% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

PROJECT REPORT 2016

Public safety lighting



PROJECT GOALS 2017

Medical teams



Public safety lighting



Curbs and drainage



IGLESIA DE DIOS CHURCH CAÑA BRAVA

PROJECT GOALS 2017

Water tank



Multipurpose room



Road repair (100 meters)



New block homes (6)

School classrooms (2)



Iglesia de Dios Church is a very motivated and well-connected congregation that has 65 members, 12 of whom are leaders. Pastor Rigoberto Villacorta learned of ENLACE from Pastor Elman Meléndez from La Reforma and was excited to strengthen the work the church was already doing in its community.

The church had been working with an association of engineers to build a home for a family in need. The church also has a strong relationship with the local health unit and collaborated with them in fumigation campaigns and and medical teams. The church has experienced an 8% growth the church is serving more than 3,000 people. Approximately 36% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).



BETESDA CHURCH POTRERILLOS DEL MATAZANO

Betesda Church is a small congregation of 110 members, 20 of whom are leaders. In 2012 its pastor, Victor Hugo Ortiz, heard of an organization that could help to better focus their efforts to work with the community. The church was already reaching out with a food program and computer classes for children and when he met pastor Rafael González from the Nueva Jerusalén Church, he was excited to learn about how he could establish a partnership with ENLACE. In 2015, the church purchased a plot of land with the hope that they will soon begin construction on a recreation and business development area for the community. This congregation has grown of 10% in recent years and impacts 1,440 people directly with hopes to reach nearby villages of La Luz, San Carlos and Santa Elena. Approximately 35% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

PROJECT REPORT 2016

Eco-stoves (15)



New homes (10)



PROJECT GOALS 2017

Water tank



New block homes (10)



Public safety lighting
(11 streetlamps)



Road repair (300 meters)



SIMIENTE DE ABRAHAM CHURCH LAS VICTORIAS

Simiente de Abraham Church, located in the community called Las Victorias, San Juan Opico, La Libertad, is a congregation of 87 members, 12 of which are leaders. Its pastor, Arturo Orellana Carrillo, has pastored this church since 2008. He first learned about ENLACE through Pastor Juan Ramírez from the Casa del Alfarero Church en Chantusnene. Pastor Arturo and the church participated in building a home for a very impoverished family and from that experience, the pastor and church became fired up about all the ways they could continue serving their community. There are many needs in their community such as clean water and improved roads and with ENLACE's help they hope to learn about how to reach out effectively and sustainably. The church has a direct area of impact of 1,100 people. Approximately 14% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

PROJECT REPORT 2016

Community center



PROJECT GOALS 2017

Road repair (100 meters)



Sewer system



New block homes (10)

ROCA ETERNA CHURCH SAN MIGUELITO

PROJECT GOALS 2017

Roof repair and infrastructure improvements of local school



Community center

Road repair (100 meters)



Agricultural technical support



Water tank



Roca Eterna Church, located in San Miguelito, Coatepeque, Santa Ana, is made up of 69 members, 16 of which are leaders. Its pastor, Israel Guardado, learned of ENLACE from Pastor Orlando Majano of the Puerta del Cielo Church in El Progreso. Pastor Israel and his church had already been working in their community in various ways since 2013. They had coordinated many efforts with the local Community Association to repair roads and the roofs of many homes that were very run down. This congregation has grown of 11% in recent years and impacts 1,750 people directly. Approximately 23% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

ARCA DE NOE CHURCH EL CASCAJAL

Arca de Noé Church, located in the community called El Cascajal, Santa Ana, is a congregation of 95 members, 27 of whom are leaders. Its pastor, Tito Consuegra Morán, learned about ENLACE from Pastor Orlando Majano of the Puerta del Cielo Church in El Progreso. The church has been active in its community with grocery distribution, repairing streets, and constructing one new home. They are excited to work with ENLACE in order to create sustainable projects that will impact more people in their community in effective ways. They wish to impact the approximately 4,500 people in El Cascajal, San Luis, El Centro and Israel. Approximately 12% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

PROJECT REPORT 2016

Composting latrines (25)



PROJECT GOALS 2017

Pit latrines (15)



Water distribution system



Eco-stoves (25)



Road repair (190 meters)



New block homes (10)



JEHOVA JIREH CHURCH LAS CRUCES

PROJECT GOALS 2017

Eco-stoves (30)



Electricity for one hamlet
sector serving 14 homes



Public safety lighting
(18 streetlamps)



School classrooms (2)

New block homes (9)



Jehová Jireh Church, located in the community called Las Cruces, on the road that leads to Santa Ana and Sonsonate, is a congregation of 82 members, 19 of whom are leaders. Pastor Victor Hugo Ortiz of Betesda Church introduced ENLACE to the church and its pastor, Jennifer Bautista. She has pastored this church since 2003. Las Cruces is divided into three main areas, all of which are extremely poor. They lack electricity and the closest water source and medical clinic is 3 kilometers away. Pastor Jennifer and her congregations are currently providing nutrition services for children and have led road repair and street cleaning projects. They hope to continue to serve their community with sustainable projects. The church's area of impact is 2,500 people. Approximately 16% of community members live in moderate to severe poverty (less than \$2 per capita per day).



PALABRA DE FE CHURCH EL CARMEN

PROJECT GOALS 2017

Footbridge over highway
(15 meters)



Road repair (500 meters)



New block homes (5)

Water tank construction



Palabra de Fe Church, located in the community El Carmen, Santa Ana, is a congregation made up of 40 members, 7 of whom are leaders. The church's previous pastor, Edwin Israel del Valle, learned about ENLACE from Pastor Juan Ramírez of the Casa del Alfarero Church in Chantusnene. Pastor Juan and the church have already been involved with the community of El Carmen by participating in medical campaigns, food/supply delivery to poor households and repairing roads. These projects have already benefited close to 700 people. Even so, the Palabra de Fe church and its new pastor, Efraín Alvanez, have said that they have a long way to go because there is so much to be done. They hope to address more road projects along with the urgent need for a footbridge that would allow residents (including school children) to cross over the busy Panamerican highway to and from work and school to continue to serve their community. The church's area of impact is 1,620 people. Approximately 12% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

NEW CHURCH

PARTNER PROFILES



Ten new churches began to partner with ENLACE between 2014 and 2015. Each partner had a strong passion to serve its communities and began ENLACE's coaching and training program. Through workshops, seminars and hands-on activities, church pastors and members are prepared to become effective servant-leaders in their communities.

During this initial stage in ENLACE's coaching and training program, the ENLACE coach focuses on the first three (of six) iterative stages in the yearlong church-coaching process:

Discover -- Organize -- Listen -- Partner -- Embody -- Replicate

Each area is designed to help prepare a church, new to community development, to understand itself as a redemptive agent of change, explore its community, and reach out to its neighbors effectively. Such preparation maximizes the effectiveness of future projects and is extremely important to help the partner reach its fullest potential.

RIOS DE AGUA VIVA CHURCH LA JOYITA

Rios de Agua Viva Church, located in the community called La Joyita, La Libertad, is a small congregation of 54 members, 9 of whom are leaders. Its pastor, Alfonso Nuñez, has only a few years of leading this congregation but has 30 years of experience pastoring other rural congregations. After hearing about ENLACE through pastor Elman Meléndez of the Monte Horeb Church in El Progreso, the congregation has been actively trying to connect with its neighbors through various ways such as working together carrying groceries, cleaning the community, repairing streets and conducting medical campaigns in La Joyita and Nueva Inglaterra. The main source of income is derived from corn, bean and sugarcane crops. However, many residents have to supplement their incomes by working at nearby factories. And while these jobs are valued, they are also synonymous with long working hours for extremely low pay. Additionally, young children and older adults are often left unattended at home while able-bodied caretakers are away at work. This congregation has grown of 2% in recent years and impacts 2,800 people directly. Approximately 36% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

JERUSALEN CHURCH SAN LORENZO, AHUACHAPAN

Jerusalén Church is a small congregation of 37 members, 7 of which are leaders. It's located in the hamlet Las Pozas which is inside the municipality of San Lorenzo in the department of Ahuachapán. Its pastor, Obed Otoniel Cáceres, learned of ENLACE from Pastor Juan Ramírez of the Casa del Alfarero Church in Chantusnene. The church has been involved in various outreach efforts since 2008 with projects such as meals for children, a piñata shop, meetings with the local police force, fundraising for street lamps, and mosquito fumigation. The church is ready and excited to take the next step in broadening their scope and make a more long term of impact with their efforts. This congregation has grown of 23% in recent years and impacts 562 people directly. Approximately 28% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).



GILGAL CHURCH PIEDRAS AZULES

Gilgal Church is located on the border with Guatemala and has 105 members, 23 of which are leaders. Its pastor, Eliseo Recinos Gómez, learned of ENLACE from Pastor Orlando Majano who used to pastor the Puerta del Cielo Church in El Progreso. The church has been involved in the hamlet of Piedras Azules (actually located in Guatemala), an extremely poor community. They have provided home cleaning, agricultural support during harvest, home visiting and detention center visitation. The scope of the church's impact is approximately 2,500 people in this very humble community. Approximately 22% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

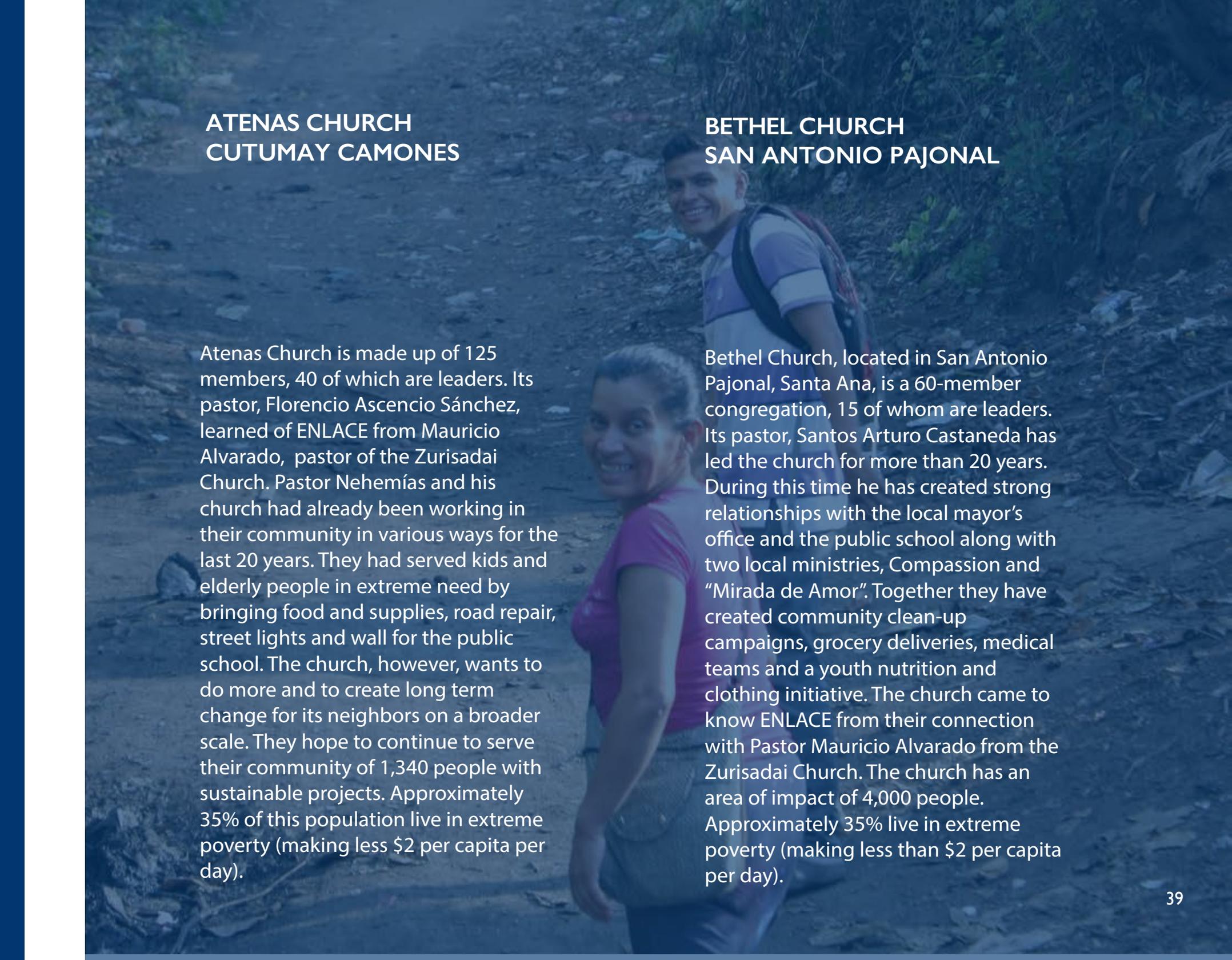


EMANUEL CHURCH TEPECOYO

Emanuel Church, located in the hamlet of Tepecoyo in the department of La Libertad, is a congregation of 60 members, 19 of which are leaders. Its pastor, Heber Neftalí Chávez Recinos, learned of ENLACE from Pastor Elman Meléndez of the Monte Horeb Church in La Reforma. The church has been involved in various outreach efforts since 2004 with projects such as repairing of roads, temporary shelters, toys and clothes for children, support for the infirmed, and basic food baskets for extremely impoverished households. The church is ready and excited to take the next step in broadening the scope of their work and make a more long term of impact with their efforts. The church has the ability to impact 365 people directly and hopes to serve others in the hamlets of La Meca, Las Tres Marías, La Chutía and El Mango. Approximately 21% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

BEERSEBA CHURCH SANTA ROSA

Beerseba Church is made up of 45 members, 8 of which are leaders. Its pastor, Nehemías Natanael Arcia Pacheco, learned of ENLACE from Pastor Juan Ramírez of the Casa del Alfarero Church in Chantusnene. Pastor Nehemías and his church had already been working in their community in various ways since 2004. They had served families in extreme need by bringing food and supplies, repairing homes and providing medication. The church, however, wants to do more and to create long term change for its neighbors on a broader scale. They hope to continue to serve their community of 1,985 people with sustainable projects. Approximately 26% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).



ATENAS CHURCH CUTUMAY CAMONES

Atenas Church is made up of 125 members, 40 of which are leaders. Its pastor, Florencio Ascencio Sánchez, learned of ENLACE from Mauricio Alvarado, pastor of the Zurisadai Church. Pastor Nehemías and his church had already been working in their community in various ways for the last 20 years. They had served kids and elderly people in extreme need by bringing food and supplies, road repair, street lights and wall for the public school. The church, however, wants to do more and to create long term change for its neighbors on a broader scale. They hope to continue to serve their community of 1,340 people with sustainable projects. Approximately 35% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

BETHEL CHURCH SAN ANTONIO PAJONAL

Bethel Church, located in San Antonio Pajonal, Santa Ana, is a 60-member congregation, 15 of whom are leaders. Its pastor, Santos Arturo Castaneda has led the church for more than 20 years. During this time he has created strong relationships with the local mayor's office and the public school along with two local ministries, Compassion and "Mirada de Amor". Together they have created community clean-up campaigns, grocery deliveries, medical teams and a youth nutrition and clothing initiative. The church came to know ENLACE from their connection with Pastor Mauricio Alvarado from the Zurisadai Church. The church has an area of impact of 4,000 people. Approximately 35% live in extreme poverty (making less than \$2 per capita per day).

EMANUEL CHURCH SAN JUAN OPICO

Emanuel Church, located in the hamlet of San Juan Opico in the department of La Libertad, is a congregation of 250 members, 50 of whom are leaders. Its pastor, Pedro Cardoza, learned of ENLACE from Pastor Mauricio Alvarado of the Zurisadai Church. They have worked with their local mayor's office and public school on infrastructure improvement projects including roof repair and a retaining wall. Their area of impact is 900 people. Approximately 14% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less than \$2 per capita per day).

UNA LUZ EN TU CAMINO CHURCH EL TAMARINDO

Una Luz en tu Camino Church, located in El Tamarindo, Texistepeque, Santa Ana, is made up of 80 members, 22 of whom are leaders. Its pastor, Williams Ademir López Morán, learned of ENLACE Pastor Mauricio Alvarado of the Zurisadai Church. Pastor Ademir and his church had already been working in their community in various ways since 2015. They had coordinated many efforts with the local Community Association, Mayor's office and local school, working on projects such as community-building soccer tournaments, clean-up campaigns within streets as well as in the rivers. This church has a potential impact of 500 personas. Approximately 35% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less than \$2 per capita per day).



PENIEL CHURCH EL CHILAR

Peniel Church is a small congregation of 40 members, 8 of which are leaders. It's located in the hamlet El Chilar which is inside the municipality of San Juan Opico in the department of La Libertad. Its pastor, Oscar Antonio Vásquez, learned of ENLACE from Pastor Miguel Ramírez from the Lluvia Postrera en La Isla Church. The church has already been working closely with the local school by helping to build a kitchen and provide computer learning courses. The church has the ability to impact 300 people. Approximately 14% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less than \$2 per capita per day).

PROGRAM

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY



GOD HAS LED ME TO MISSIONS AND REFINED ME THROUGH THIS WORK.

— GERSON DELEON, CHURCH COACH SUPERVISOR

GERSON DE LEON CHURCH COACH SUPERVISOR PROFILE:

Gerson DeLeon was only 19 years old when his pastor noted his hard work ethic and asked him to lead a small congregation. During that time, he found that his heart was most burdened for young children and youth. That burden led him to an opportunity to work for one year with a project with The Samaritan's Purse. After that work concluded, he joined the staff of Compassion International where he worked for the next seven years. According to Gerson, both experiences were very rewarding and allowed him to learn much about working in rural communities.

When the contract with Compassion International ended, Gerson began looking for a job that would support both his wife of three years, Ada, and their year-old son, Esteban. Even though he had a degree in International Relations, Gerson found work as a school teacher. Soon, however, the opportunity to join the ENLACE staff as a Church Coach appeared. Gerson believed it was God's leading and said, "God has led me on this path for years."

Over ten years have gone by since Gerson pastored a small group of believers. Now he serves as a Church Coach to five churches in the Santa Ana Region. Explaining his experience he says, "I believe the role of a Church Coach is vital because he spends more time in the community and can see not only the community's needs but also the opportunities that exist for the church to collaborate with its community to bring about solutions...And I like to be where there is need."



EVEN AFTER ALL THESE YEARS OF MINISTRY, IT WAS INCREDIBLE TO SEE WHAT WE ONLY TALKED ABOUT BEFORE. WITH ENLACE WE BEGIN TO LEARN THE TRUE MODEL OF JESUS. A CHRISTIAN LIFE ISN'T LIMITED TO THE PULPIT. GOD WANTS US TO LIVE IT OUT...

— NATALIA ESTRADA, CHURCH COACH

NATALIA ESTRADA CHURCH COACH

Natalia Estrada was born in a Christian home and grew up with a strong respect for God. After making her own decision to follow Christ when she was six years old, she continued faithfully to serve in church and live a dedicated Christian life. After high school graduation she decided to study at a Christian Bible studies program called Castillo del Rey (King's Castle) in El Salvador. At the close of the program Natalia was sent to Nicaragua where she worked with a variety of ministries which included encouraging mothers in neonatal programs and mothers who were incarcerated.

While working in Nicaragua, Natalia met and later married her husband, Ronald Alexis Cerna Constanza. Together they returned to El Salvador and began volunteering in church. But the cost of living also meant they needed to find work to pay off bills. For many months Ruth worked for a fashion business which she found very unfulfilling. After looking at many options she talked with a friend who worked at ENLACE.

"I was so surprised to find ENLACE!" said Natalia. "Even after all these years of ministry, it was incredible to see what we only talked about before. With ENLACE we begin to learn the true model of Jesus. A Christian life isn't limited to the pulpit. God wants us to live it out... Even though our churches are small and poor, God has no other strategy. And to come alongside these churches is a joy... We have a lot of responsibility as church coaches. We have to learn a lot and live as true servant leaders."

*Bienvenidos a la inauguración
de las dos aulas del Centro Escolar
Hacienda el Amatillo*



ELMER VILLALTA CHURCH COACH

Elmer Mauricio Villalta Ochoa has lived a rich life filled with family and faith since he was born. He grew up in a Christian family with nine siblings--five sisters and four brothers. Even though his father died in 2001, Elmer's parents provided a loving home and a strong base from which to learn and grow in Christ. His father, who was an adult Sunday school teacher, had an extensive library. With those books surrounding him, and a special Bible that his mother gave him, he grew up loving to read and learn.

Although his education was repeatedly interrupted due to the long civil war and then earthquakes, Elmer pressed forward by getting degrees in music and engineering. He became a teacher of music (which he intended) and a pastor (which he did not). Even though he found himself in a pastoral position, he realized that it was the person of Jesus--a man who always sought out the outcast--that compelled him to want to serve. And while being a pastor was a natural fit to his theology, participating with other pastors and churches that didn't follow Jesus' examples and instead remained inwardly focussed, grieved him.

In 2011 Elmer began a Master's degree in theology from the Universidad Evangélica de El Salvador with this burden in mind. Soon after, he came to know about ENLACE and was thrilled to discover that there was an organization that helped churches discover and develop a vision for their communities. As Elmer puts it, "To me, ENLACE is the church the way the Bible defines it--a community of faith that is looking to transform the lives of others...based on a belief that God is at work among a community of people, not limited inside a building."

Elmer is married to Milagro Elizabeth Gómez González and has an adult son, César Alejandro.

THEIR OWN WORDS

STORY OF TRANSFORMATION





Story of Transformation: How the Church Became the Hope for José Elías Torres

When his mother drowned during a family excursion at age 11, José and his four siblings became orphans. “I never knew my father,” said José, and so from that point on life became a fight for survival. “Our only solution was to join a gang.”

It wasn’t a good life, but in sad ways it kept the children from starving and the family somewhat together. During one particular stint in prison, said José, “I ran into my older brother [and] at the same time my younger brother was in another prison.” And when they weren’t in prison, one brother or another was always there with drugs to help ease the fear, grief and stress.

Eventually, however, José felt like he was going to fall apart. One night in particular he remembers crying out to God asking for help. He was in prison without any hope of release and made a bargain with God in return for help. Five days later, he was called before a judge. Because of some confusion regarding the correct spelling of his name, his three months in jail was considered time served and he was given conditional freedom.

After going home, however, “I completely forgot what I had told God,” said José. Then one morning he watched as groups of young people walked into Emanuel Church, three blocks away from his home, for a crusade. The night before had been filled with drugs and alcohol and had left him hazy and hung over. In that moment José realized that nothing he was doing provided him any peace. “Let’s go to the crusade and hear what those noisy people are talking about,” José asked his brother. But his brother only laughed. José remembers handing his brother his remaining cigarettes and heading to the church.

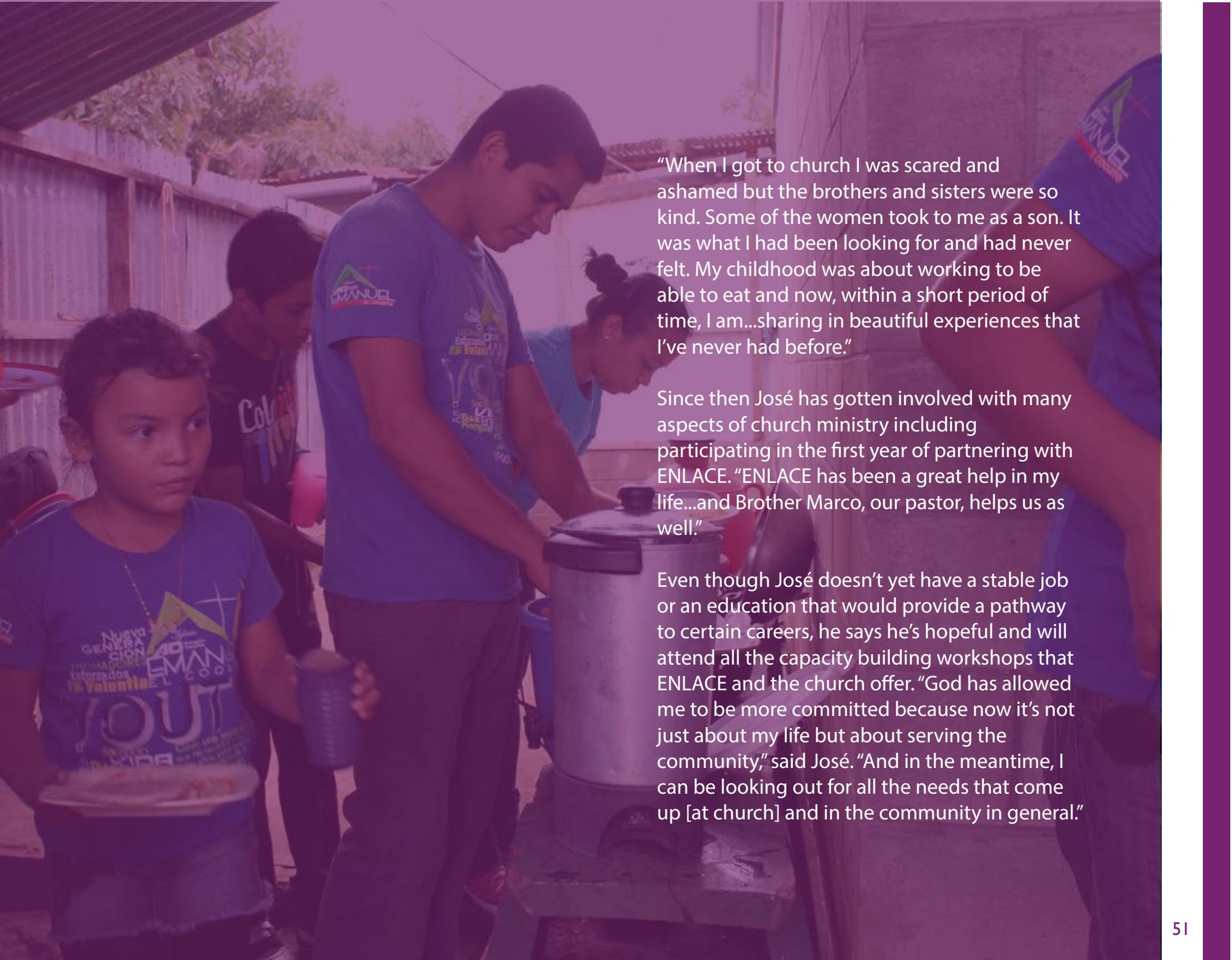


EMANUEL
Yo soy el futuro
Amor
Solidaridad
Programa

EMANUEL
Nueva
Generación
de
Luchadores
Por
Valentía
EMANUEL
Luchadores
Por
Valentía
OUT
SOCIO
COMUNITARIO

Colombia

EMANUEL
Luchadores
Por
Valentía



“When I got to church I was scared and ashamed but the brothers and sisters were so kind. Some of the women took to me as a son. It was what I had been looking for and had never felt. My childhood was about working to be able to eat and now, within a short period of time, I am...sharing in beautiful experiences that I’ve never had before.”

Since then José has gotten involved with many aspects of church ministry including participating in the first year of partnering with ENLACE. “ENLACE has been a great help in my life...and Brother Marco, our pastor, helps us as well.”

Even though José doesn’t yet have a stable job or an education that would provide a pathway to certain careers, he says he’s hopeful and will attend all the capacity building workshops that ENLACE and the church offer. “God has allowed me to be more committed because now it’s not just about my life but about serving the community,” said José. “And in the meantime, I can be looking out for all the needs that come up [at church] and in the community in general.”



 ENLACE

www.enlace.link