



STORIES OF TRANSFORMATION: IN THEIR
OWN WORDS

2016 REPORT: SOUTHWEST REGION

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REGIONAL

OVERVIEW





The Southwest region is located in El Salvador's western most provinces of Ahuachapán and Sonsonate. The region is comprised of many rural towns, each of which is surrounded by dozens of smaller villages. In the mountainous, rural villages most of the residents are subsistence farmers. They rent or own less than five acres of land and try to produce enough traditional crops (corn, beans and sorghum) to feed their families. The average person lives on between \$1 and \$2 per day. In the towns located along the coast, most families survive by fishing, a rather risky profession. They rent or own small boats, going far out into the ocean, often working all night for a few dollars worth of profit. The city of Cara Sucia is the regional center for commerce and with its close proximity to the Guatemalan border, many of its residents work in the markets that line the street leading to the border crossing. Even though it is the location of vibrant trade, it has a great need for sewage systems and latrines. In rural villages, the majority of people have limited access to primary health care services, schools, clean drinking water and sanitation facilities.

In **2016** ENLACE church coaches trained and equipped **151 church leaders** and **83 community leaders** on a monthly basis in **13 churches** serving **27 communities** in the Southwest Region. Three potential churches are currently on the waiting list to partner with ENLACE. The total area impact for this region is **14,937 people**.

PROJECT REPORT 2016

5

PROJECTS

650

PEOPLE IMPACTED

PROJECT GOALS 2017

19

PROJECTS

10,925

PEOPLE IMPACTED

CHURCH

PARTNER PROFILES



“

**AS A CHURCH WE HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY AND MANDATE
FROM GOD TO HELP PEOPLE HOW EVER WE CAN.**

— PASTOR MARCOS MELARA, JERUSALEN CHURCH

”

JERUSALÉN CHURCH, SAN JOSÉ EL NARANJO

Jerusalén Church located in San José El Naranjo proper, is a semi-rural congregation of 210 members, 50 of whom are strong leaders. Pastor Marcos Antonio Melara began working with ENLACE 1994, making him one of ENLACE's pioneering pastors. Over the last 22 years, the church has worked with its community to implement a variety of projects such as hosting medical teams; installing eco-stoves and latrines; and building dozens of homes, a water tank and a Cistern for Liceo Cristiano School, a pedestrian bridge, roads, a school room, and retaining walls for the health clinic. In the process the church established solid relationships with its neighbors and started teaching other churches nearby how to reach out and serve their communities. The church has grown by 17% and has an area of impact of 2,259 people. Approximately 60% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

PROJECT GOALS 2017

Composting latrines (24)



Water tank and piping



Road repair
at local Christian school





VOZ QUE CLAMA EN EL DESIERTO CHURCH SAN ANTONIO EN MEDIO

Una Voz que Clama en el Desierto Church, surrounded by hills and rivers, is a humble congregation of 27 members, six of whom are leaders. In 2004 their former pastor, Jeovany Rivas, learned about ENLACE through the Jerusalén Church. In 2010 Pedro Flores became its new pastor and wanted to continue the church's vision of working alongside their community supported by ENLACE's coaching and training. After working hard over the last few years, the church has become a well-respected entity in the community. Working with the community in the past, the church repaired many of the main roads, built a water tank, installed 25 latrines and also implemented a reforestation plan. The church has grown by 7% and has an area of impact of 674 people. Approximately 60% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

PROJECT GOALS 2017

Footbridge



Road repair



Composting latrines (25)





**“ENLACE HAS BEEN AN INSTITUTION THAT HAS COME TO
HELP US GROW IN OUR VISION; WE CAN NOW SEE
FUTHER.”**

— PASTOR FERMIN SANCHEZ HERNANDEZ, ROSA DE SARON CHURCH

ROSA DE SARÓN CHURCH METALIO

Rosa de Sarón Church, located on the western coast of El Salvador, has a congregation of 60 members, 10 of whom are leaders. In 2011 its founding pastor, Fermín Sánchez Hernández, learned about ENLACE through Jerusalén Church. The church began training and has focused on creating an effective management system for future projects such as eco-stoves, a retaining wall and electricity. In 2013 the church worked with the community on its first project, which was building 50 eco-stoves. This church's work has become a model for implementing eco-stoves due to the incredibly organized way the church worked together and involved two community associations while installing the clean cookstoves in record time. By the close of 2015, the community had experienced a decade of the worst flooding it had ever seen. The adversity actually helped the church to strengthen its ties with its neighbors, the mayor, and local merchants as they worked together to address their problems. The church has grown by 5% and has an area of impact of 4,500 people. Approximately 40% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

PROJECT REPORT 2016

50 Eco-stoves



15 New homes



PROJECT GOALS 2017

Composting latrines (25)



New homes (10)





AGUAS VIVAS CHURCH CARA SUCIA

The Aguas Vivas Church is a congregation of 200 members, 45 of whom are leaders. Its pastor, Victor Manuel Herrera, learned about ENLACE through Jerusalén Church, where he served as one of its previous pastors. As he witnessed the process of transformation that San José El Naranjo was experiencing, his desire to connect with ENLACE grew. The church now has begun training and is in the process of getting to know the community and its needs in a more intimate and thorough way. Over the past year, the church has grown by 5% and is impacting 500 families. The church desires to impact its own community and the neighboring communities of La Vega, La 19, and La Génesis. Approximately 58% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

PROJECT REPORT 2016

30 Composting latrines



PROJECT GOALS 2017

Composting latrines (50)



Retaining wall (80 meters)



New homes (10)





APOSENTO ALTO CHURCH EL COCALITO

Aposento Alto Church is a congregation of 97 members, 16 of whom are leaders. Its pastor, José Israel Pineda, learned about ENLACE through Principe de Paz Church. This church has built an excellent relationship with its Community Association, the mayor's office, and the local school and health unit. The church has an area of impact of 1,192 people. Approximately 60% of the community members live in moderate to severe poverty (making less than \$2 per capita per day).

PROJECT REPORT 2016

15 New homes



PROJECT GOALS 2017

Composting latrines (40)



Bathrooms
at the local public school

New homes (15)





TEMPLO EBEN-EZER, DIOS DE LA PROFECIA CHURCH EL CANAL - KILO 5

Eben Ezer, Dios de la Profecía Church is a congregation of 30 members, nine of whom are leaders. Its previous pastor, Abraham Eliseo Segovia, learned about ENLACE through his friendship with Pastor Miguel Bolaños from Príncipe de Paz Church in San Antonio. The church has worked hard in a variety of community health areas including safety retaining walls, mosquito fumigation, clean-up campaigns, and providing basic groceries for needy families. In so doing, the church has strengthened its connections to the mayor's office and the Community Association. The church closed the year with a new pastor, Elmer Wilfredo Hernández, who has embraced the vision to impact 1,077 people. Approximately 40% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

PROJECT GOALS 2017

Water system consultation



Road repair (50 meters)



Public playground





MANANTIALES DE VIDA ETERNA CHURCH EL ESCONDIDO

Manantiales de Vida Eterna Church is a congregation of 25 members, six of whom are leaders. As of August, Isaac Benjamín Orellana Mena became its new pastor. Its previous pastor, José Manuel Torres, learned about ENLACE through Jerusalén Church. This church has built an excellent relationship with the local Community Association, the mayor's office and the local public school. In 2014, the church worked in the village of San José El Naranjo proper on home building and community clean-up campaigns and thereby gained a lot of experience at managing and implementing projects. The church has an area of impact of 325 people. Approximately 60% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

PROJECT GOALS 2017

Composting latrines (50)



Retaining wall (80 meters)



New homes (10)





THE OASIS DE GLORIA CHURCH SAN ANTONIO DEL MONTE

The Oasis de Gloria Church is a congregation of 60 members, 16 of whom are leaders. Pastor Juan Antonio Fuentes Morales began pastoring the church in 2014. In his desire to find effective ways to be a blessing he approached ENLACE and encouraged a nearby pastor and his church to join him. So together with ENLACE's support, Pastor Fermín Sánchez and the Rosa de Saron Church began to raise funds for a water project that would help 125 families. Starting from that project, the church has built an excellent relationship with the Mayor's office, local health unit and the Community Association. The church has grown by 14% and has an area of impact of 2,625 people. Approximately 33% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

PROJECT REPORT 2016

Baseline community study



PROJECT GOALS 2017

Water system consultation



New homes (15)



Community economic
development fund



MAHANAIM CHURCH LAS VICTORIAS - CALUCO

Mahanaim Church is a congregation of 115 members, 22 of whom are leaders. Its pastor, Marvin Esaú Rivas, learned about ENLACE through his friendship with Pastor Fermín Sánchez from Rosa de Sarón Church in Metalio. As he witnessed the process of transformation that Metalio was experiencing, his desire to connect with ENLACE grew. Mahanaim Church has embraced ENLACE's approach and all the leaders feel very called to serve their community. They have already begun smaller projects such as cleaning streets, providing food to families in need, and nutrition services for young children. Additionally, the pastor is also runs a Christian radio program and has a great deal of influence on the national level. The church has grown by 38% and has an area of impact of 1,395 people. Approximately 80% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

PROJECT REPORT 2016

20 Eco-stoves



Baseline community study



PROJECT GOALS 2017

Eco-stoves (40)



New homes (15)



Road repair (100 meters)





“WE ARE SO THANKFUL TO ENLACE BECAUSE THEY OPENED OUR EYES TO THE POSSIBILITIES AND GAVE US THE CAPACITY FOR US TO WORK WITH OUR COMMUNITY. IT’S OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO CARRY THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST IN A HOLISTIC WAY, BECAUSE OUR LIVES ARE NOT JUST SPIRITUAL BUT PHYSICAL AND JESUS HIMSELF PREACHED IN THIS WAY.”

— PASTOR GERMAN ARNOLDO MELGAR, FE Y AMOR CHURCH

FE Y AMOR CHURCH MANDINGA

Fe y Amor Church is a small congregation of 18 people, eight of which are leaders. Pastor German Arnoldo Melgar has been pastoring this church since 2012 and met ENLACE through Pastor Victor Manuel Herrera of Aguas Vivas Church in Cara Sucia who had a great passion for serving his community and had built an educational center. Despite the small size of the Fe y Amor Church, it has served 100 families (approximately 500 people) on an ongoing basis by repairing roads and delivering food, clothes and shoes to severely impoverished households. It desires to do more and learn effective ways to serve in the coming year. The church has an area of impact of 500 people. Approximately 33% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

PROJECT GOALS 2017

Eco-stoves (25)



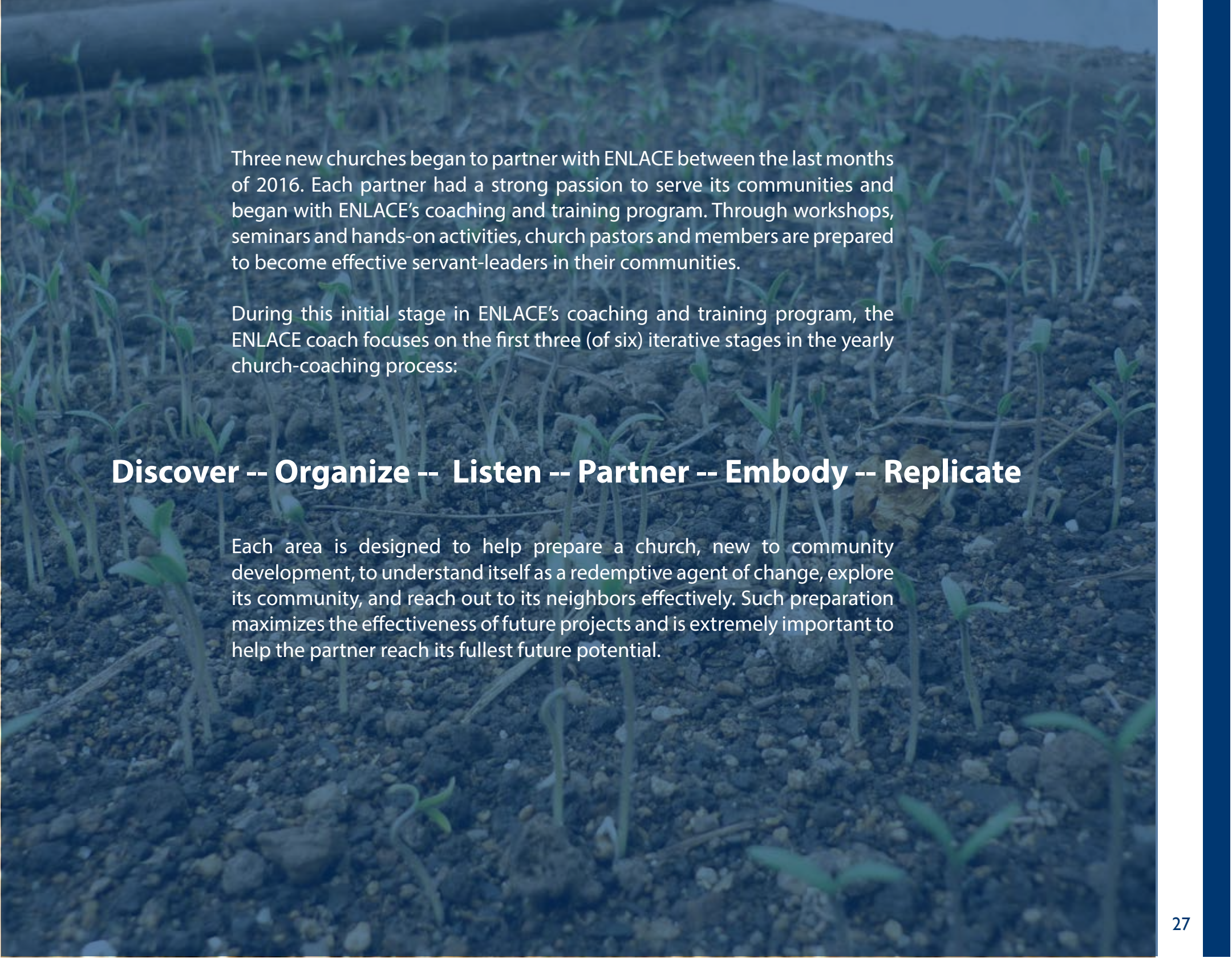
Composting latrines (25)



NEW CHURCH

PARTNER PROFILES





Three new churches began to partner with ENLACE between the last months of 2016. 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.

MONTE DE LOS OLIVOS CHURCH EL CASTANO

Monte de Los Olivos Church is a small congregation of 106 people, 22 of which are leaders. Pastor Mario Alexander Fermán has been pastoring this church since 2003 and met ENLACE through Pastor Victor Manuel Herrera of Aguas Vivas Church in Cara Sucia who had a great passion for serving his community and had built an educational center. Despite the small size of the Monte de los Olivos Church, it has served 365 people) on an ongoing basis by delivering food, clothes and glasses to severely impoverished households. Also help with funeral aid, It desires to do more and learn effective ways to serve in the coming year. The church has an area of impact of 1,511 people. Approximately 58% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

MONTE DE LOS OLIVOS CHURCH 13 DE ENERO

Monte de Los Olivos Church is a small congregation of 48 people, 12 of which are leaders. Pastor José Antonio León has been pastoring this church since 2010 and met ENLACE through Pastor Fermín Sánchez from Rosa de Sarón Church in Metalio. As he witnessed the process of transformation that Metalio was experiencing, his desire to connect with ENLACE grew. Despite the small size of the Monte de los Olivos Church, it has served 450 people on an ongoing basis by day care and celebration for kids and medical aid, It desires to do more and learn effective ways to serve in the coming year. The church has an area of impact of 450 people. Approximately 59% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).



MARANATHA CHURCH LOS TROZOS

Maranatha Church is a small congregation of 38 people, 12 of which are leaders. Pastor Rigoberto Antonio Mejía has been pastoring this church since 2012 and met ENLACE through Pastor Fermín Sánchez from Rosa de Sarón Church in Metalio. As he witnessed the process of transformation that Metalio was experiencing, his desire to connect with ENLACE grew. Despite the small size of the Maranatha Church, it has served 250 people on an ongoing basis by food delivery and road repair. It desires to do more and learn effective ways to serve in the coming year. The church has an area of impact of 250 people. Approximately 59% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

PROGRAM

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY



I'M EXCITED TO BE PART OF THIS PROCESS...[I LOVE] WALKING WITH THE PASTORS...WALKING DOWN THE STREETS OF THEIR COMMUNITIES, MEETING WITH THEM, TALKING ABOUT THE CHALLENGES IN THEIR COMMUNITIES AND COMING UP WITH SOLUTIONS...[I LOVE] DISCUSSING HOW GOD HELPS [TO] BRING DEVELOPMENT AND CHANGE.

— NOE CANALES, CHURCH COACH



NOÉ CANALES CHURCH COACH SUPERVISOR PROFILE:

When Noé Canales was just a teenager he already had a strong passion to serve Christ. He devoted much of his time as a volunteer with the Royal Rangers, a Christian wilderness program for boys. After High School he took on many odd jobs while he began to study theology. Three years into his studies, Noé was hired by World Vision as a Christian Commitment Coordinator, and began a career in community development. Through this experience, Noé saw a glimpse of what rural churches can accomplish when they work with their communities. When the World Vision program concluded, Noé encountered ENLACE and joined its staff in June 2011.

Being involved with ENLACE has provided Noé a way to continue his passion to serve Christ. He says, "I'm excited to be part of this process...[I love] walking with the pastors...walking down the streets of their communities, meeting with them, talking about the challenges in their communities and coming up with solutions...[I love] discussing how God helps [to] bring development and change."

Over the last four years, Noé helped to foment an amazing growth in the number of churches in the region of San José El Naranjo, going from two to 12! These churches now form a regional network that meets on an ongoing basis to share experiences and coordinate efforts. This region's cohesiveness was displayed in an amazing way during a thanksgiving service late in 2013. More than 500 community members from all over the region and the mayor celebrated the year's successes with representatives of all nine churches and ENLACE. Noé's hard work and vision has made these successes possible. Noé will finish his studies at Theology at Assemblies of God Christian University with a specialization in Missions this year and graduate in 2018.

Noé and his wife, Mirna Quiñonez, have one nine-year-old son, Ricardo Ernesto.



“***ENLACE IS THE PLACE WHERE I CAN APPLY [MY PASSION].***”

— WILLIAMS RODRIGUEZ, CHURCH COACH

A background image showing Williams Rodriguez and other people in a church setting. Williams is in the foreground, smiling, wearing a grey t-shirt and a grey baseball cap. Behind him, another person is visible, wearing a white t-shirt with the word 'FUE' on it. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people and a chain-link fence.

WILLIAMS RODRIGUEZ CHURCH COACH

Williams Rodriguez was just 13 when he committed his life to Christ and began to live a life of incredible desire and devotion. As the years progressed, his passion grew until he realized that God had a specific calling on his life.

As a result, Williams enrolled in the Bible Institute in Santa Ana. During those years he became an associate pastor at Cristo Vive Church where he learned about ENLACE. His church began to partner with ENLACE and every time a church coach came to visit his community, he loved learning from them but often found himself wanting to join them as they went out to other communities and churches in the Abelines region. His desire to explore other places and minister to people far and near was a passion he could not deny.

His time came in 2012 when Williams had the opportunity to go on a mission trip to Nicaragua. It was there after ministering to people and then taking some time out to see the rainforest that he felt God's presence. In the silence, surrounded by

God's creation, it became clear to him that the strong missionary call could be combined with the kind of work he experienced with ENLACE's training. For Williams this moment was "the step God used, the last link in the chain," that combined his "desire to serve others" with his missionary calling. "ENLACE is the place where I can apply this [passion]" said Williams.

Williams finished his studies at the Bible Institute and Theology at Assemblies of God Christian University with a specialization in Missions and will receive his degree in 2017. In April 2013, he began to serve as a church coach for ENLACE and could finally travel with other coaches throughout the Abelines and San Miguel region. After a few months of being a church coach, Williams stated, "I'm astonished at the poor conditions in which people can live...but their simplicity, their dedication, their loyalty to God and their passion to help others is incredible; to see all that in the midst of difficulties they face, in the midst of what we call poverty, they give and give from what they have."



I THOUGHT I WAS THE ONLY CRAZY ONE. I ALWAYS WANTED OUR CHURCHES TO START REALLY CARING AND WORKING WITH THE CHURCHES THAT HAD FEWER RESOURCES. WHEN I CAME TO LEARN ABOUT ENLACE'S MISSION--THIS THEORETICAL IDEA BECAME REAL. IN MY CHURCH WE BUILT A HOUSE, HELPED STUDENTS TO ATTEND UNIVERSITY, AND BOUGHT GROCERIES FOR NEEDY FAMILIES. THIS IS WHAT I ALWAYS LIKED TO DO. BUT WITH ENLACE THIS SERVICE IS MADE SYSTEMATIC AND INTEGRAL TO THE CHURCH'S MISSION. I LEARNED ABOUT IT AT THE UNIVERSITY AND NOW I FEEL PRIVILEGED TO PARTICIPATE.

— JHONY PEREZ ROSALES, CHURCH COACH

A smiling man, Jhony Pérez Rosales, is shown from the chest up, sitting at a desk. He is wearing a dark blue polo shirt. In front of him is a laptop and some papers. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a church interior with a poster on the wall.

JHONY PEREZ ROSALES CHURCH COACH

Jhony Pérez Rosales is one of the youngest church coaches at ENLACE but his years of service in the church and devotion to his family have afforded him wisdom beyond his age.

He grew up in a Christian home. His parents have served as pastors in the Church of God for over twenty years. He has seven brothers and two sisters. (Two siblings have died.) His childhood was characterized by going to church, getting a strong education and living in communities that were battered by gangs and poverty. Despite the difficulties, Jhony's parents led their church to reach out and serve the poor—even providing meals for boys coerced into and trapped in gang life.

While Jhony's life of service has been meaningful, it has not been easy. He has lived in one of the most violent neighborhoods in El Salvador controlled by gangs where fear and risk are daily companions. For Jhony, even as he attended school or worked at a gas station, the dangers of robbery and assault were and are constantly real.

After a few years of choosing to play fútbol instead of going to church as a pre-teen, Jhony became more serious about his pastoral calling and began to serve with his father when he was 12 years old. He worked hard at his theological studies and is just one year shy of receiving his Master's in Theology. (He hopes to complete his degree when the funds become available.) Over time, however, he came to believe that not only was Bible training necessary, but other tools were needed to be an effective pastor. To that end, he enrolled at the Universidad Tecnológica and has almost completed his degree in Psychology. During that time, he also became interested in ENLACE and its vision of the church.

According to Jhony, "I thought I was the only crazy one. I always wanted our churches to start really caring and working with the churches that had fewer resources. When I came to learn about ENLACE's mission--this theoretical idea became real. In my church we built a house, helped students to attend university, and bought groceries for needy families. This is what I always liked to do. But with ENLACE this service is made systematic and integral to the church's mission. I learned about it at the university and now I feel privileged to participate.

Jhony joined the ENLACE staff in 2016. He married his wife, Jaqueline Teresa Méndez de Pérez, in 2014. She is finishing her degree in Education with a specialty in English. They live with her mother and niece.

OWN WORDS

STORY OF TRANSFORMATION






War Refugee to Community Servant: Teresita's Story of Moving From Fear to Helping Others

One night in 1980 during the height of the Salvadoran civil war, Teresita and her family were forced to flee their home in San Vicente. She and her children settled into the hamlet of Metalio but for many years she was too afraid to leave her home. "I didn't want to leave my house because I was afraid of everyone and didn't know anyone." Then a group from World Vision came to her community and began to offer trainings on caring for children. Not only did this awaken in her a desire for helping others, but it also coaxed her from her home and birthed in her a deep love for her community. Soon after, she ventured to San Salvador to get a degree in kindergarten education.

As the years went by, however, life was not easy. Like many in her community, she and her family struggled to make enough to survive and lived in health-compromising situations due to a dilapidated home and open cooking fire. Despite the challenges, she continued to serve her neighbors and faithfully attended her local Catholic Church.



A photograph of a community project in a rural area. In the foreground, a young child in a white tank top and dark pants stands looking towards the camera. Behind them, several people are working on a structure, possibly a house or a community building. The background shows lush greenery and trees. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple filter.

It was while attending church that in 2013 she met the pastor of the Rosa de Sarón Church, a local pentecostal congregation. He and his church invited her and everyone at the Catholic church to attend a meeting to learn about a project they wanted to propose to the community. As a result she began to participate in a series of ENLACE projects beginning with a life-saving eco-stove and presently a new home.

According to Teresita, however, the projects were only a portion of the blessings that have come from the Rosa de Sarón Church and its community involvement.

“When we were working on [the eco-stove project], I was going through a very difficult time. One of my sons was imprisoned unfairly...very far from here. I would leave my house at one in the morning and when I arrived at the prison I would have to wait four hours standing up just to find out that I wasn’t able to see him. I could only deliver his things and leave. On some occasions when I arrived home I would find the brothers and sisters of the church working in my house on my stove. Throughout this whole process I felt supported by all of the community and the pastor. Even a group of North Americans who

were working prayed for me... Also at that same time, my youngest daughter got sick and had to be hospitalized for several days. There were moments when I didn’t know what to do but ask God for strength. Thanks to Him, my daughter got out of the hospital and my son got out of prison free of all charges. Since then I have been committed to working much more for the community because they never left me alone and always supported me.”

When the church proposed to start a housing project that would provide new homes to the neediest families in their community, Teresita was on the top of the list. But she didn’t own any land which is a prerequisite. But according to Teresita, even this obstacle was overcome because of the strong relationships that had been built within the community. “I didn’t have my own land to be able to apply for construction,” she said, “but God touched my boss’s heart and she gave me part of her land...I feel even happier and grateful for this because [the Rosa de Sarón Church and I] haven’t been working for our own benefit but for the community...God has seen our work and without us expecting it, he sent us all enormous blessings.”



 ENLACE
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