God put in our hearts the question: What more can we do for our community? We had no idea how to really help. That’s when we met ENLACE and they opened the doors of understanding.

PASTOR MARVIN RIVAS, Mahanaim Church, Caluco, El Salvador
Dear World Changer,

2016 was truly a year for us to celebrate at ENLACE. Two words come to mind for us: GROWTH and RESULTS!

Due to YOUR support and the hard work of our tireless ENLACE staff, we equipped 90 churches, trained 1,358 leaders serving 238 communities, and implemented a total of 640 life-saving and community building projects directly impacting the lives of 210,811 people in El Salvador and Nepal.

We are also so excited to report that we welcomed our first local church into its role as a LEADER in its community. A church that has reached this milestone, is now poised to continue its community transformation vision on its own, and the process of working with ENLACE has come to its fullest fruition. That is, the church is filled with committed leaders who have a passion to serve their communities along with the capacity and tools to manage and create new initiatives that are responsive to their neighbors’ needs. Empowering churches to reach this moment is a key part of ENLACE’s long-term vision and is necessary for exponential growth. We hope to graduate five more churches in 2017 and 25 by 2020.

Additionally, ENLACE’s work became more powerful in 2016 with the creation of a community-specific transformation scorecard. With the help of Dr. James Huff and other academics from Wheaton College (Wheaton, IL), we now have an extremely sophisticated analysis tool that identifies opportunities and validates initiatives while also helping to evaluate in great detail the impact of projects.

In this way, YOUR giving is supporting local churches as THEY serve their poor communities. And YOU are making a direct impact in the lives of thousands of people now and in the future.

We would love to hear from you! Visit our new and improved website and let us know what you think!  www.enlace.link

THANK YOU for your prayers, love and support! We hope you will continue this adventure with us in 2017 and beyond!

Sincerely,

Ron Bueno,
Co-Founder and Executive Director
GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER

2016 highlights

Annual Pastors and Leaders Retreat

This year’s retreat in El Salvador was attended by 247 pastors and leaders from 71 churches! During these incredibly important four days of activities, attendees from all over the country came together in prayer and fellowship, shared experiences, and learned from each other and from galvanizing speakers. Commitments to God’s vision for every community were ignited and renewed. The retreat is hosted by the amazing Salvadoran office staff (65 people!) who sacrifice much time and labor every year to create an enriching and rejuvenating experience for our pastors and leaders.

Welcome Aboard, Christine Brooks Nolf

As an extremely capable and effective leader, Christine became our newest ENLACE member and will fulfill the role of Church Partnership Representative. She has many years of experience working with church and community leaders to develop solutions to poverty in low-income neighborhoods in the U.S. and in Venezuela. We are honored to have her on our team to further develop relationships with North American churches and organizations.

First Projects in Nepal

ENLACE Nepal was legalized this year and the staff was increased to include two new church coaches in the Dang region and a head administrator. We are working with eight committed church partners who collaborated with their communities to serve almost 19,000 people in three extremely poor areas with infrastructure and health projects.
Thanks to the generosity of Priscilla Negron McKinney and her team of incredibly creative peeps at Little Bird Marketing (Joplin, MO), we launched a revamped website and corresponding communications strategy that will help keep our present donors more informed and grow our potential partner base. Haven’t experienced it yet? Check it out here and subscribe to our blog. www.enlace.link

ACHIEVING RESULTS: 2016 By the Numbers

2 COUNTRIES
90 CHURCHES
1,358 CHURCH LEADERS TRAINED
238 COMMUNITIES SERVED
640 TOTAL PROJECTS
210,811 PEOPLE IMPACTED

"ENLACE has taught us that the needs in the community are opportunities for the church to serve.

PASTOR JUAN RAMÍREZ,
Casa del Alfarero church,
Chantusnene, El Salvador"
IMPACT STORY

War Refugee to Community Servant: Teresita’s Journey 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. She and her children settled into the hamlet of Metalio, but for many years she was too afraid to leave her home. “I was afraid of everyone and didn’t know anyone,” she says. But when a nonprofit group knocked on her door to see if she’d like to attend child care workshops, everything changed. The possibility of learning new skills that would help herself and others resonated with Teresita, and she was coaxed from her cocoon. As she joined the training sessions she met her neighbors and according to Teresita this moment was a milestone that birthed in her a deep love for her community.
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.

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 who wanted to participate to take part in a series of community-identified projects. With ENLACE’s guidance, life-saving eco-stoves and new homes became their first initiatives, both of which Teresita desperately needed. But the projects were actually just the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

“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. Because of the church’s love and support I have become committed to working with my community. “

When the housing project began, Teresita was on the top of the list, but she didn’t own any land which is a prerequisite. According to Teresita, however, even this obstacle was overcome because of the strong relationships that had been built. “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… Even so, God saw our work and without us expecting it, he sent us all enormous blessings.”

Read more of her powerful story and other stories of transformation at www.enlace.link
We are so grateful for the ENLACE team! Being able to build classrooms was a dream come true for our church because we had been praying a lot wanting to impact the lives of our neighbors... And now to see this dream come to pass makes us want to do even more projects!

PASTOR WILBER DIAZ,
Cristo Viene Church, San Gerardo, El Salvador
Nepal

13 churches
224 church leaders trained
21 communities served
4 total projects
22,500 people impacted

The church is the light of the community. Without its contribution change is impossible.

THARU MAHATO, Hindu Political Party Leader in Dang, Nepal
Center for Community Transformation

The Center for Community Transformation (CCT) trains students and practitioners to become passionate and effective leaders working with or in local churches to alleviate spiritual and physical poverty in under resourced communities. The CCT is presently partnering with two Christian universities to provide three semester-long courses in El Salvador: Poverty and Development, Church-based Community Transformation, and Social Entrepreneurship. By 2020, we hope to partner with 10 universities and colleges and provide courses and internships in El Salvador and Nepal. For more information go to enlace.link/go/center-for-community-transformation

Expansion in Nepal

After piloting a program in Nepal since 2013, we successfully launched the program in 2016. We had extraordinary success! In 2017, we aim to equip 25 local churches, train 250 church leaders in church-based community transformation, implement 15 projects that will impact the lives of 25,000 people in low-income communities. We already have more than 15 churches on a waiting list. We believe that our 2020 goals of equipping 50 churches will be surpassed! Follow the Nepal adventure at www.enlace.link and download the 2016 Nepal Annual Report at enlace.link/grow/news-reports

Pilot Project in Guatemala

Responding to the request of a network of over 80 churches serving their communities in Guatemala, we began to train nine churches in our church-based community transformation approach in 2016. ENLACE’s training has been so well received that more churches from the network have requested coaching. In 2017, we hope to add five new churches, train 150 church leaders and implement eight projects impacting the lives of 15,000 people. We believe that we will be able to develop and manage a pilot program to coach 25 churches by 2019. To find out more how you can partner with us in Guatemala, please contact us!
Up until now I was only taught the inward ministry of the church, but now I know that the church can transform the world.

RAMESH KUMAR, Church Coach, Nepal
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Central Christian Church, Wichita, KS
Cornerstone Baptist Church of West Los Angeles, CA
Covenant Family Fellowship, Portland, ME
CrossWay Christian Church, Nahua, NH
Evangel Family Church, Singapore
Meadowbrook Community Church, Champaign, IL
New Community Church, Mesquite, TX
Newport Mesa Church, Costa Mesa, CA
Northpark Community Church, Fresno, CA
Orange County First Assembly of God, Santa Ana, CA
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Newport Beach, CA
The Oaks Fellowship, Red Oak, TX
The Summit Church, Indiana, PA
Timberline Church, Fort Collins, CO
Vineyard Christian Church, Pataskala, OH
Willow Creek, Chicago, IL
Willow Creek, Crystal Lake, IL
Willow Creek Community Church, South Barrington, IL

*Churches contributing at least $5,000 annually

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