

CENTRAL REGION ■



 **ENLACE**
REGIONAL REPORT
EL SALVADOR

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REGIONAL OVERVIEW

In **2017** ENLACE trained and equipped **9** pastors and over **125** church and community leaders on a monthly basis in **9** churches serving **25** communities in San Salvador, San Martín and San Pedro Perulapán. The total area impact for these regions is **6,305** people. Two potential churches are currently on the waiting list to partner with ENLACE.

The two major areas of the Central Region are San Martín and San Pedro Perulapán.

San Martín is located just east of El Salvador's capital, San Salvador, and is comprised of six communities divided into 37 hamlets with approximately 72,758 inhabitants. San Martín proper has a health clinic, public schools, private schools, and sanitation facilities. However, 88% have no access to clean water. ENLACE has worked in this area for almost two decades starting with Pastor Miguel Durán and the El Buen Samaritano Church. The area has grown to include the town of Panchimalco, just south of San Salvador, with more than 35,000 inhabitants. While Panchimalco proper is rich with ancient indigenous heritage and colonial sites dating back to the early 1700's, many of the surrounding villages are among the poorest in the country.

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





CHURCH PARTNER PROFILES

El Buen Samaritano Church is a semi-urban congregation of 54 members, 25 of whom are leaders. In 1994 its pastor, Miguel Durán, and his congregation became the first church to partner with ENLACE, establishing a friendship that has spanned two decades. As pioneers, Pastor Miguel and his church led the way in serving their community with a variety of projects, and they have been invaluable to helping ENLACE become the organization it is today. Pastor Miguel continues to be a well-respected leader within the community and also nationally. He is the president of his denomination and is serving on ENLACE El Salvador's Board of Directors. The church membership has remained steady and has an area of impact of 10,000 people. Approximately 30% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

El Buen Samaritano
Church

Las Delicias



Identified Projects for 2018



Water project - Continued Stage 7 (installed all the underground piping and spigots in residents' homes)

Identified Projects for 2018



Water project - Completion of Stage 7 (will include the installation of two pumps, one in a well and another in a boosting substation at the local school in El Rosario to help fill the tank in Las Animas)

Príncipe de Paz
Church

Santa María



Identified Projects for 2018

Road repair and improvement
(160 x 8 mts)



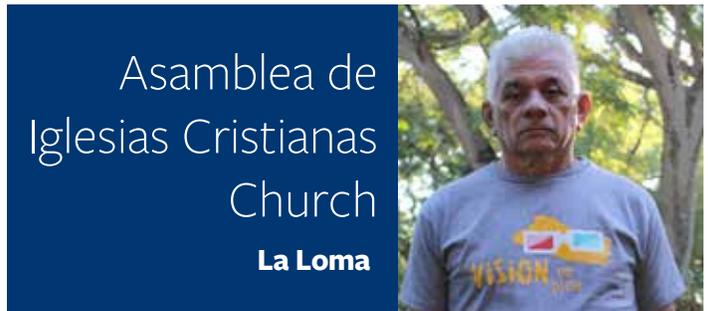
Príncipe de Paz Church is a semi-urban congregation of 78 members, 36 of whom are leaders. In 2007 its pastor, Santiago Alfaro heard about ENLACE through conversations with Pastor Miguel Durán who encouraged him to reach out and serve his community.

Pastor Santiago and the church embraced the training they received from ENLACE and began to reach out and serve those in need. Despite the fact that Pastor Santiago was a well-respected leader, the process of rallying the support of the community was extremely arduous for the church. It took over four years to organize committees and develop a relationship with the local mayor's office. The church leaders persevered, however, and by coming alongside their community, they started an important road repair and resurfacing project that has contributed greatly to community safety and accessibility. Pastor Santiago has worked hard this year to empower more leaders in his church than ever before and together they have directly impacted more than 12,000 people. Approximately 30% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).



Asamblea de Iglesias Cristianas Church is a semi-urban congregation of 70 members, 15 of whom are leaders. For many years its pastor, Felix Amaya, witnessed the impact of the Buen Samaritano Church in Las Delicias, led by his longtime friend and ENLACE pioneer, Pastor Miguel Durán. In 2007 Pastor Miguel invited Pastor Felix to an ENLACE training meeting and soon after, he decided to become a partner. Despite a recent increase in gang activity in this area, making it presently inaccessible to ENLACE staff, the church has continued its work and grown in its effectiveness.

Initially, Pastor Felix was unsure about the importance of reaching out to his community; his biblical training focused his energy on projects and people inside the church. But after working on a road repair project, he recognized the importance of the church's presence in his community. Since that time, the church has implemented a thriving home garden initiative benefiting many community families. Pastor Felix's own home is the site of the training center. He also provides space to families that do not have their own land. In 2012, Pastor Felix and some of the home garden participants started a pilot project selling organic fertilizer in order to create jobs. Through its continued efforts, the church has been able to broaden its efforts over by starting a broiler chicken microenterprise project. The church has directly impacted more than 2,500 people. Approximately 54% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).



Project Report 2017

Chicken coops (15)



Broiler chicken production (21 microenterprise participants)



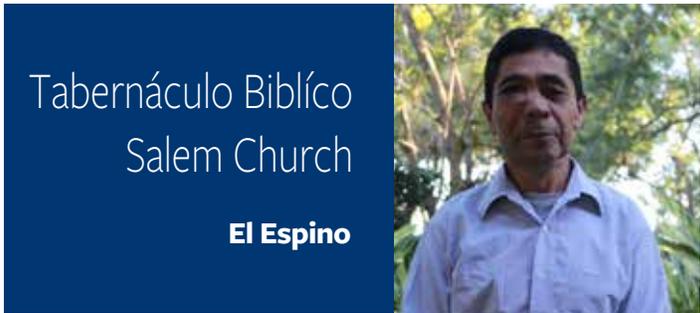
Greenhouses (2)





Tabernáculo Bíblico Salem Church is a vibrant and growing congregation of 117 members, 25 of whom are strong leaders. In 2008, their pastor, Santos Carpio, learned about ENLACE through conversations with Pastor Miguel Durán (a pioneer with ENLACE), who encouraged his calling and desire to serve those in need in his community.

Pastor Santos and his church created an outreach committee that works closely with a variety of community organizations such as the mayor’s office. The committee has also taken on many projects such as medical teams, home gardens, tilapia ponds and the construction of 24 homes. The church has also developed ministries serving men struggling with alcoholism and people with special needs. These projects have helped the church to create collaborative relationships with its community and Pastor Santos to become a greatly respected community leader. Because of their work, this church is on track to becoming a Leader Church by the end of the year. Additionally, the church has grown with 14 new members, and through its work with the community, it has directly impacted the lives of more than 4,000 people. Approximately 34% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).



Project Report 2017

Chicken coops (28)



Identified Projects for 2018

Pit latrines (60)



Expanding the community water system



Beginning technical assistance and training in laying hen microenterprises



“Since 2008, when the church started working with ENLACE, we have shared many gratifying experiences. It has been a great learning process for all the leadership and this has helped us to change our thinking, making ourselves known to the community so that we have the opportunity to work together.”
 Pastor Santos Carpio



Fe y Gracia Church is a congregation of 110 members, 25 of whom are leaders. Like many churches in El Salvador, a pervading belief of exclusion and inwardness once characterized this congregation. However, its pastor, José Molina, along with many church members could not stifle a growing passion to love and serve their neighbors. After Pastor José learned about ENLACE at a local meeting, he and four church leaders decided to attend the 2011 Annual Pastors and Leaders Retreat. It was there that their smoldering vision turned to flame, leading the church to break out of its four walls. Since that time, the church has worked hard to create a solid relationship with the local community association, the mayor’s office and the local health unit. These connections have empowered community building efforts such as the building and repairing of major roads, which has made a huge impact on community safety and accessibility. The church has directly impacted more than 2,150 people. Approximately 51% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less than \$2 per capita per day).



Project Report 2017

Road building and repair

Greenhouses (2)

Broiler chicken microenterprises (36)

Identified Projects for 2018

Road repair (400 mts.)

Perimeter security wall at local public school (183 x 2.5 mts.)

Building and paving a street on María Auxiliadora (400 mts.)

Conducting a baseline community economic development study



“I am overjoyed to see what God is doing and I praise him. God has given us the vision and the resources. ENLACE has helped us to see the potential and to discover the capacity that we have in our church. This accompaniment gives us confidence and motivates us.”

Pastor José Molina



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

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



Project Report 2017

New homes (6)



The Sol de Justicia Church is made up of 75 members, 15 of whom are leaders. In 2014, its pastor, Victor Manuel Castillo, learned about ENLACE from pastor José Molina of the Fe y Gracia Church in La Labor, who gave his testimony at a meeting Victor was attending. Since that time, Victor and his church have begun to get to know their community and work on projects such as installing street lights for better community safety and road clean-up campaigns designed to invest in community pride and cleanliness. The church has grown by 5% last year and directly impacted more than 1,250 people. Approximately 22% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

Identified Projects for 2018

Repair of main street (200 mts.)



Repair of main intersection (45 mts of road including gutters, curbs, and 18 mts of sidewalk)



The Misión Cristiana Casa de Dios Church is a congregation of 60 members, 12 of whom are leaders. In 2015, its pastor José Fermin Sánchez learned about ENLACE through Pastor Jose Molina the Fe y Gracia Church in La Labor when he talked about a road repair project his church was involved in. Pastor Joseph was excited to hear about how the church was creating collaborative relationships with local organizations like the school and government offices. The Casa de Dios church is greatly motivated to serve its community and have started by serving neighbors through repairing homes, providing funerary assistance to needy families and basic grocery and supplies (clothing and shoes) deliveries to extremely impoverished households. The church has directly impacted more than 400 people. Approximately 38% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).



Identified Projects for 2018

Composting latrines (12)
Electricity installation to homes (20)



Roof repair to local public school auditorium (20 x 16 mts.)



Conduct a baseline community economic development study





Three churches began to partner with ENLACE since last year. 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.



“With ENLACE we have learned to be more organized and manage our projects. This has really helped us. Before I didn’t know how to do effective community service but now I feel confident with these new skills. I can go to the mayor and solicit funds for something. Before I never felt confident to go to the mayor’s office or even talk to them. Now they know who we are, what we do and they trust us.”

Pastor Santiago Alfaro



The Centro Evangelistico Church, is a congregation of 64 members, 18 of whom are leaders. In 2017, its pastor José Ricardo Sánchez learned about ENLACE through Pastor Santos Carpio del Tabernáculo Biblico Salem. The church has already been directly serving 489 people from the Copalchan hamlet by hosting medical clinics, clean-up campaigns, literacy days, and sporting activities. Approximately 52% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

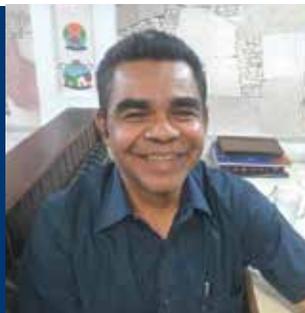
Centro Evangelistico Church

Tenancingo



Nueva Sión Church

Milán



The Nueva Sión Church, is a congregation of 125 members, 25 of whom are leaders. In 2017, its pastor Marcos Alexander Arias learned about ENLACE through Pastor Jose Molina the Fe y Gracia Church in La Labor and Pastor Fermín Sánchez the Casa de Dios Church. The church has already been directly serving 100 people from the Milán hamlet by hosting general medical clinics with the help ophthalmologists, and clean-up campaigns. Approximately 60% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

The Una Voz de Esperanza Church, is a congregation of 112 members, 12 of whom are leaders. In 2017, its pastor José René Rivera learned about ENLACE through Pastor Santiago Alfaro from the Principe de Paz Church in Santa María. The church has already been directly serving 607 people from the Ramírez de San José Guayabal hamlet by building new homes, repairing roads, providing agricultural support for the elderly, widows and single mothers who live off the corn, beans and vegetables they produce. Approximately 57% of this population live in extreme poverty (making less \$2 per capita per day).

Una Voz de Esperanza Church

San José Guayabal





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



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

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

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

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

Fabiola is graduated with a degree in Theology and in December 2016 she married Wilber Rivera. The welcomed their first child, Nicolás, in November 2017.





Evelin Marroquin de Galán grew up in a very conservative but non-Christian home. Her parents allowed her to attend Sunday school. As an adult, Evelin and her husband, Reyes Antonio Galán, would listen to Christian sermons on the radio but neither attended church. One day, however, a cousin asked Evelin to accompany her to church. Evelin decided to go and upon entering the church, all the memories from Sunday school, the words from the radio and the hopes of her yearning heart converged. On that day, she felt compelled to follow Christ, especially as a leader in her local church.

Evelin Marroquín
de Galán

Church Coach Profile



Eventually, Evelin's desire to serve in the church brought her to consider pursuing a degree in Theology. But at the time, Evelin was a devoted mother of two boys, Luis and Caleb (who are now both teenagers) and was hoping to have a third child. But another pregnancy, said her doctors, would be dangerous due to ongoing health issues. This news was very difficult for Evelin to bear. She felt her hopes and dreams were being taken from her. Reyes saw his wife's sadness and encouraged Evelin to go back to school by registering her at the Assemblies of God University, taking a leap of faith. Even though she worried about their family's finances and was daunted by the time a degree would imply as a very busy mother, Evelin plunged in with gusto.

After graduating, Evelin joined the ENLACE team. "I never imagined," said Evelin soon after she began her work as a Church Coach, "that my third child would be my university studies. It is a blessing to have a degree in Theology, do ministry and participate in the redemptive work of Christ as a part of ENLACE."

Evelin believes strongly that God's hand has been on her life ever since she was a young child attending Sunday school. The expenses of school that Evelin was worried about were partially covered by members of her extended family. This support has ministered to her and her family incredibly. Just another way, says Evelin, that God has confirmed his purpose for her life.



STORY OF TRANSFORMATION:

A Family Dreams of a New Life Together: The Transformation Story of Maria Paula, In Her Own Words

I am 39 years old and I live with my husband and my five children. When we were told about a broiler chicken microenterprise project this April, we were ecstatic. I had always wanted a business of our own. We'd never had the chance before. And this was perfect timing. We have one daughter in high school, another in ninth grade and the other three are in Elementary. This would be our way to really support them in their studies. We applied to join, and we're so thankful to God that we were given the opportunity to participate. In fact, I remember the minute we found out that we qualified for the project, my husband went out immediately looking for wood to build the coop.

We started with 100 chickens. These are the ones we have right now. I feel that we are doing well because I have taken three batches of chickens to market and am already starting the fourth one. We all work as a family, my husband helps me, my children help me, and I go out to sell. I have them already prepared for cooking, so I earn a little bit more.

For us, the change has been very big, mostly economically. My husband's salary isn't always consistent; we don't get paid every two weeks or every month. But with the proceeds from the chickens, he invests in our small farm. Another change has been that united as a family. There are times that my husband and I go out to the coop just to talk and have fun with the chickens. That's when we make future plans and dream of a new life together as a family.

I want to thank ENLACE and everyone who supports them. They have been available to support us with technical training and any questions or problems we have. This initiative encouraged us to try something we've always wanted to do but had no resources with which to do it.





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