



 ENLACE
2017
Annual Report



Equipping Churches : Transforming Communities



GUATEMALA

The Guatemalan pastors and leaders are so excited because this is what they dreamed about more than 10 years ago! They had been talking about what the mission of the church was but could not find how to take the next steps. So when they began to receive ENLACE's accompaniment and learn our methodology, it inspired them to take the next steps in making their dream a reality.

ISIDRO RAMIREZ,
ENLACE CHURCH COACH





Dear Friend of ENLACE,

It is hard to believe that in 2018 ENLACE is celebrating 25 years of God mobilizing his Church to transform communities. I feel so honored and proud to be a small part of what God is doing, restoring people's spiritual and physical lives worldwide. I am truly grateful to all our donors, partners, local church leaders and staff who have given sacrificially for so many years to help mobilize churches to transform the lives of so many in great need.

Over the last 25 years, we have tried to stay faithful to **three principles**

1. God's singular focus and desire is to transform people's lives completely- physically, emotionally and spiritually;
2. God has called his followers to be a church that joins him in walking through the most difficult places and care for the poor, the displaced and most marginalized;
3. God has called us at ENLACE to walk alongside and support church leaders as they listen to God and courageously serve those in greatest need in their communities to bring joy, peace, hope and health.

It is humbling and exciting to see **local churches in Guatemala already bursting with enthusiasm, creativity and growth**. After churches had been asking us for many years to provide them training in our methodology, we finally took a leap of faith and established ENLACE Guatemala pilot program last year. Since that time we haven't been able to keep up! It's a good problem to have, but we pray that the funding will match the enormous potential.

Within the next five years, we aim to **equip 75 churches** in community transformation **directly impacting over 200,000 people** in greatest need in urban, rural and indigenous communities throughout the country.

Thank YOU for the incredible love and support and for YOUR incredible generosity to care for those who are suffering so greatly in this world.

I am so excited to see how God will continue to call us all to join him in transforming this world over the next 25 years!

Sincerely,
Ron Bueno, Co-founder & Executive Director

CELEBRATING 25 Years of

- **Churches**, leading transformation in their communities
- **Impact** created by effective and sustainable church and community collaboration
- **Commitment** of staff, donors and volunteers who have supported and empowered transformation



SINCE 1993 ENLACE has walked alongside and mobilized 162 churches in El Salvador, Nepal and Guatemala in sustainable community transformation.

GUATEMALA

- Estimated population of 16 million people, making it the most populous nation in Central America. 60% Mestizo/European and 40% Indigenous (23 distinct groups)
- 53% lives in poverty, 13% extreme poverty
- 4th highest rate of chronic malnutrition in the world (highest in Latin America)
- High levels of infant, child and maternal mortality
- Complex religious context with traditional Mayan religious spirituality practiced, particularly in the highlands, along with Catholicism and Evangelical Christianity
- Over the last thirty years, the fastest growing religion in the country has been Evangelical Christianity, especially among marginalized and indigenous populations
- A vast number of these churches are smaller congregations spread throughout the countryside, embedded in marginal or rural, poor communities

Churches are already reaching out to meet the physical and spiritual needs of their communities but have expressed a great desire for practical training to mobilize and connect effectively to their communities with sustainable solutions to poverty.

2017 Highlights

- **Salvadoran Pastors, Vital Friendships:** In August, seven Salvadoran pastors, who have worked with ENLACE for many years, visited Guatemala to offer guidance and encouragement to pastors and church leaders as they began their journeys into effective and strategic community service.
- **Strong Theological Roots:** The churches we are working with are part of a 80-member network that has a well-established theological foundation of community transformation. They sought out ENLACE in order to receive practical tools and guidance in order to serve effectively in their own communities.
- **Excitement and Exuberance:** Last year Guatemalan churches organized and hosted their first Pastors and Leaders Retreat! 43 people from 12 churches attended, coming away with new ideas and deeper friendships. The intentional camaraderie between congregations is contagious!
- **Strength in Human Capital:** Many churches in the network are replete with well-trained and resourced professionals who desire to offer their skills as churches serve their communities. Pastors and leaders are creating ways in which to integrate their expertise into community projects.



ENLACE has been the school
where I was taught to embody
the gospel of God in my
community.

BYRON RAMIREZ,
FIELD FACILITATOR, U.A.
ENLACE GUATEMALA



2017 By the Numbers

- Worked with 12 churches
- Trained 159 church leaders in church-based community transformation
- Coached 8 churches in the “Interested” church stage
- Identified and trained 4 churches in the “Introduction” church stage
- Trained and mentored 3 church facilitators in the first 2 church stages
- Identified and trained 2 church pastors as volunteer facilitators
- Identified and trained an Advisory Board to oversee the pilot project in Guatemala
- 43 pastors and leaders from 12 different churches attended the first Pastors and Leaders Retreat in Guatemala
- 4 churches began working with their communities to identify and implement development projects



2018 Projections

- Train 240 church leaders and pastors and 13 churches in church-based community transformation
- Equip and mentor church leaders to serve 20,000 people in 11 low-income communities
- Train and mentor 3 church facilitators and 2 volunteer facilitators in the “Committed” church stage
- Strengthen the leadership and governance of the Advisory Board
- Coordinate two exchanges between El Salvador and Guatemala for staff and pastors

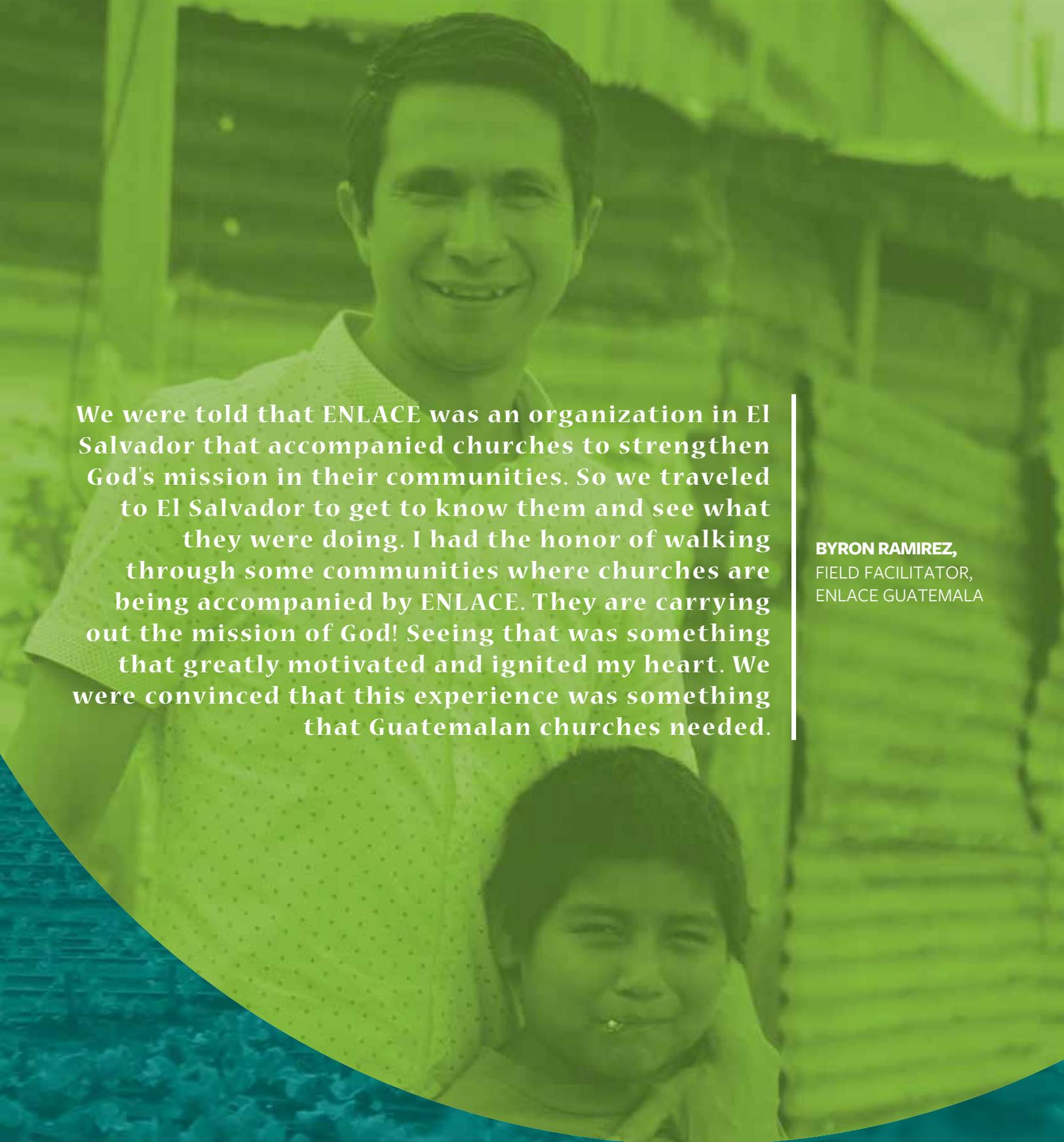
We serve the church so that it transforms its community and its social realities with faces of injustice and slavery... [W]e will continue to serve with greater excellence, and [I know] the work we are developing in Guatemala and Nepal will have transformative impact.

GERSON RAMIREZ,
ENLACE CHURCH & COMMUNITY
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

[Guatemalan churches] want to connect to their communities to create effective projects, but they need some guidance... Many are very theologically knowledgeable but lack the practical side. And they need people who will jump into the water with them

PASTOR ISRAEL PINEDA,
PASTOR OF LEADER CHURCH,
APOSENTO ALTO, COCALITO
EL SALVADOR





We were told that ENLACE was an organization in El Salvador that accompanied churches to strengthen God's mission in their communities. So we traveled to El Salvador to get to know them and see what they were doing. I had the honor of walking through some communities where churches are being accompanied by ENLACE. They are carrying out the mission of God! Seeing that was something that greatly motivated and ignited my heart. We were convinced that this experience was something that Guatemalan churches needed.

BYRON RAMIREZ,
FIELD FACILITATOR,
ENLACE GUATEMALA



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