



ENLACE 2017 Annual Report



PIONEERING TRANSFORMATION IN NEPAL



Environmental Livelihood & Community Empowerment

वातावरणीय जिविकोपार्जन तथा सामुदायिक सशक्तिकरण



NEPAL

**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





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 Nepal becoming PIONEERS OF TRANSFORMATION. The community transformation approach is proving to be an incredible bridge-building strategy that sets local churches into the center of their communities, giving them capacity and influence, and opening the way for local and regional impact.

Within the next five years, we hope to equip **50 churches** in community transformation impacting 50,000 people in one of the poorest countries of the world. Even though Christians make up less than 1% of the population and often face discrimination and violence, **churches want to engage** their communities with a vision of unity and wholeness.

Thank YOU for the incredible love and support you have shown us personally as a staff 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.

The Context of Nepali Churches

Even though Christians make up less than 1% of the population and often face discrimination and violence, churches want to engage their communities with a vision of unity and wholeness. In this way Nepali Christians are true pioneers. A typical Christian Church in Nepal is extremely poor and yet despite their own challenges they are stepping beyond their four walls, walking into communities, and finding ways to serve sacrificially and effectively.

Being a part of the church service committee I understood one thing; that is, 'more hands more work

KHADAK DAHIT,
ROAD REPAIR VOLUNTEER
AND BENEFICIARY,
KARUNA AG CHURCH,
BELGANAR

2017 Highlights

■ Encouraging the Education of Girls

Balidan Church is working with community leaders and organizations in Rampur to build a local high school so that students, who travel on foot and who presently have to seek a secondary school seven kilometers away, can continue to study locally. The lack of educational options close to home especially affects girls who often carry a greater amount of home-related responsibilities and are at greater risk of human trafficking.

■ Becoming a Trusted Community Collaborator

Road and medical team projects led by the Karuna Church working with its community of Belganar are building leadership capacity and great excitement. The new road has increased travelling safety, especially during the rainy season, and improved access to local markets and grazing lands for farmers, along with access to schools and emergency services. The medical teams have also encouraged community trust and improved quality of life.

■ Paving the Way to Long-term Change

After being ignored by their government for decades and suffering from a severe lack of funds and vision, the Dwangpur community and Abhishekh Church led the building of one of the first road projects in 40 years. The church has taken the lead in connecting and building strong ties to community organizations and government offices, bringing about much excitement and hope for the future.



There is transformative
power in unity.

SABITRA BANTHA
HOUSEWIFE AND VOLUNTEER,
SHRISTI AG CHURCH,
DHIKPUR



2017 Highlights

■ Connecting Those on the Extreme Margins

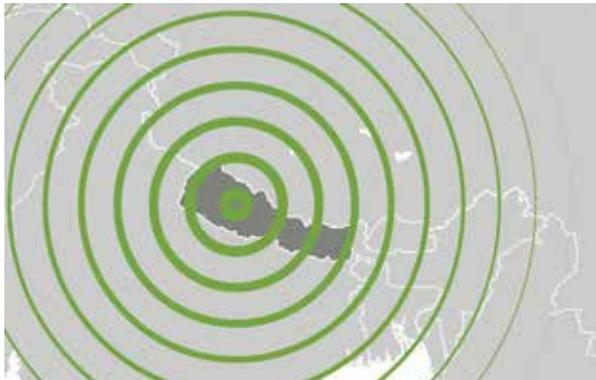
For 90 extremely poor families in the community of Dhikpur life is one of marginalization and hardship for many reasons. The lack of an adequate road made getting to school, work, markets or hospitals a constant challenge. The Shristi Church stepped beyond its four walls last year and connected to the community and local government, resulting in a road project that made life for the approximately 450 people in this hamlet safer, better and easier. The project also has also built trust and transparency between the church and community, laying the groundwork for future collaboration.

■ Salvadoran Staff Provide On-site Training in Nepal

In addition to weekly check-ins via skype with ENLACE Director, Ron Bueno, Church Coach Program Director, Gerson Ramirez, and Programs and Projects Director, Zuleyma Chahin, traveled to Nepal last Autumn to provide the Nepali staff additional training on ENLACE's approach. Over a three-week period, Gerson and Zuleyma offered guidance, training and reflections on the next stages in the LEADER church methodology. They also had a chance to reconnect with dear friends and colleagues, Felix and Dina Orellana, staff from El Salvador who have served in Nepal for over three years.



2017 By the Numbers



	2017	Projections 2018
Total churches	15	17
Intro stage churches	7	6
Churches in process	8	11
Leaders trained	90	250
Projects	5	11
People impacted	25,500	40,000
Total communities	30	39

Before I thought that the duty of the church was just fulfilling a religious role, but now our vision is broader and includes our community.

MAN BIR CHAUDHARY,
 FARMER AND SERVICE COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER, ABHISHEKH CHURCH, DWANGPUR

Sabitra Bantha is a 30 year old mother and housewife who has worked as a volunteer in her community for one year. She worked hand-in-hand with leaders from the Shristi Church on a road initiative in their community of Dhikpur, Dang. The church worked alongside local volunteers, committees and government offices, organizing and leveraging labor and funding, overseeing project implementation and evaluation. In a recent interview, Sabitra talked about her experience.

Ninety families had been facing serious transportation problems. People had to carry their crops on their shoulders, which is an extremely hard job, on a pathway that was extremely worn down and treacherous. Almost 200 students use this route every day and during rainy season these students had to carry their shoes in hand so they wouldn't get soaked in muddy water. Students would often skip their classes, which would directly affect their education. Many times people had fallen into pits and hurt themselves. People of these villages could not call ambulances or any other emergency services. We were so desperate that we thought about migrating to other areas. But since we couldn't afford moving, we were forced to face this hardship in our daily lives which has been going on for more than 11 years.

Even though we had extremely hard lives, we didn't know where to go or who to approach for help. [Me and my neighbors] always felt marginalized and had no voice. Even though we used to have community meetings and sometimes we identified the needs still we didn't have strong leadership to work on solutions... We had no ideas...and thought we were too poor to do it by ourselves.

But now we have finished a road project together with the church. It's 2.5 kilometres long and 8 metres wide. It's completely brand new road for us! It was nice to work together with the whole community, but one of the best ways I said it to myself was, 'there is transformative power in unity.'

I think we could not change our community before because we didn't have unity. Without unity we lacked ideas, but when the pastor of the church encouraged us with such a new idea of working together in unity and investing the little that we have, other local groups like "Magar Bhailo" Youth Club, the church, and local families, then we found tremendous courage. ENLACE Nepal joined us and helped us with the required materials and finally we did it! This is awesome to me.

I now feel empowered, capable and I think even a small participation in group work brings us joy. I am very much grateful to the Pastor and his team for helping us unite and bring road in our community. I learned that once we are together [united] the change will happen.





ENLACE

5405 Alton Pkwy Suite 5A #458 Irvine, CA 92604
info@enlace.link | www.enlace.link
1.888.675.2313

