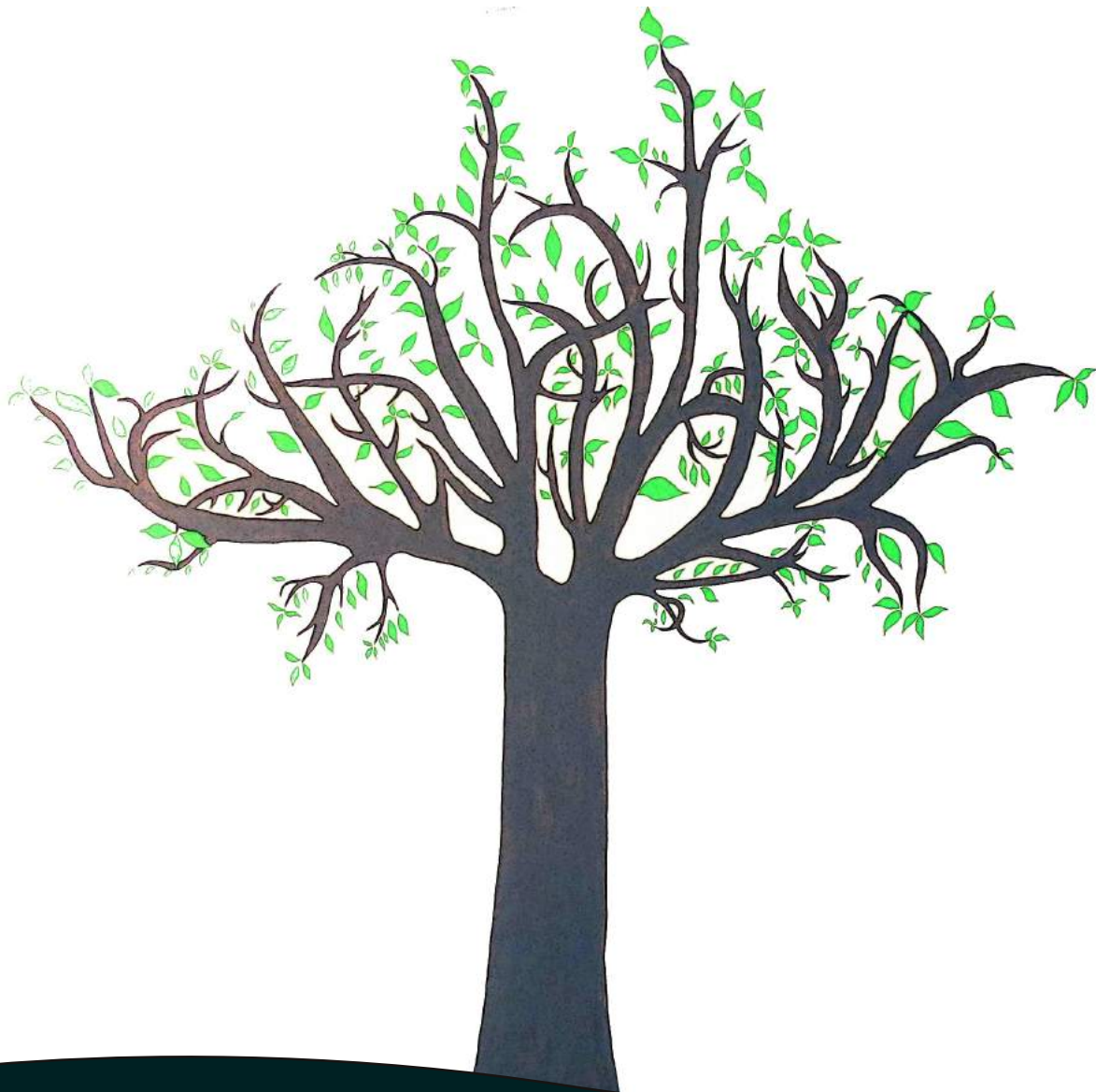




Nehemiah
Center
Cultivating Transformation

Annual Report 2017



Biblical Worldview · Servant Leadership · Centrality of the Church

Holistic Mission · Collaboration



Cultivating Transformation

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”

Colossians 2: 6-7

In the context of agriculture, the process of cultivating or tilling the earth is to prepare the land to raise crops and produce fruit. At the Nehemiah Center we cultivate transformation in pastors and leaders. The process of cultivating is to promote growth and development so that these pastors and leaders can bear fruit in their churches and communities.

How has the Nehemiah Center cultivated transformation in 2017?



Words from the Director:

Ecclesiastes 3:1 - "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens;"

The Bible reminds us "there is a time for everything"; encouragement and relief is brought to our hearts with this reminder that God is not in a hurry, and that everything happens in His timing. As an institution, we have made an effort to follow God's way so that we can walk in the purposes that He has for us.

Ecclesiastes 3:11..."He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end."

The sense of time that God has placed in our minds allows us to develop the ability to adapt to the changes that come and to prepare us for new phases and challenges yet to come.

Ecclesiastes 3:12-13..."I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God."

The writer of Ecclesiastes invites us to find satisfaction in our toil; to reach the best possible level of achievement, adjust our priorities and motivations so that while we work hard we can still be happy and enjoy because these are gifts from God.

In this report, we communicate to you the gifts that God has given the Nehemiah Center in 2017, so that together we may celebrate that God has made all things beautiful in his timing.

With renewed enthusiasm for God's plans in 2018.

Luz Urania Lopez de Largaespada
Executive Directors

Growth and Development 2017



60 participants at Kingdom Finance Vision Conference resulted in 15 graduates from the Good Sense course

\$22,500 raised from "The Trumpet Call" Fundraising Campaign in 2017

12 Nicaraguan churches and 3 North American churches participated in Church Friendships Program

109 ETU community members completed a 9 month course in Restorative Justice

2nd Vision Conference with 52 pastors representing 39 churches which resulted in 47 pastors pre-registering for Better Churches I course



June 2017
US affiliate
Friends of Nehemiah Center
was founded



1721 people passed
through the
Nehemiah Center
either through
national events or international
team and individual visits

11 service projects were
accomplished in the
respective neighborhoods of
IMPACT Clubs
and one regional project

76 pastors
representing
27 churches in Managua
graduated from
Better Churches II
course

9 IMPACT Club members
made the decision to follow
Christ and become connected
with a church in their
community



September 2017
NEW
Kingdom Finance
program begins

Stories of Transformation

Church Strengthening Completes First Cycle of Training

“Pastors need to be pastored, and in the Marriage & Family Counseling course we felt pastored. We found what is often times difficult to find in other places.”

With these words, Marcos and Josefa Vargas expressed gratitude to God for being able to participate in the 10 sessions of the Marriage & Family Counselling course. Not only does this couple pastor the Peniel – FIEMCA church, they also are professors at the Nicaraguan Bible Seminary; they pastor many people but nobody pastors them. “Here at the Nehemiah Center, we felt pastored; we received fellowship, advice and confidence.” concluded Josefa Vargas.

Not only Marcos & Josefa but another 76 participants, among them pastoral couples, pastors and local leaders participated in the graduation of the Better Churches II course. Participants had the opportunity to choose from the following courses as part of Better Churches II; Street Psalms, Timothy Institute, More Churches and Good Sense Financial Planning.

Pastor Manuel Hernandez, participant in the Timothy Institute summed up his experience saying “Here I learned that I continue to be a disciple of Jesus and I need to keep learning about Christ to gain a vision for our ministry.”

“Here at the Nehemiah Center, we felt pastored; we received fellowship, advice and confidence.”



Rediscovering their Marriage after an Empty Nest

As a teenager in the church Centro de Fe y Vida Nueva, Gilberto first fell in love with Nuria's feet. As he stared at rows of shoes and socks of his peers in youth group, he decided that Nuria was the girl for him. However, Nuria didn't feel the same. She rejected him for over a year because of a previous bad relationship. She thought that she couldn't trust men, not even those in the church. However, with time she realized that Gilberto was different. Over the course of two and a half years, Gilberto showed Nuria that he was a man of God, and he could always make her laugh. Thirty years of marriage, three daughters, and one granddaughter later, they are still very much in love.

After taking the "Better Churches I" course at the Nehemiah Center, now Gilberto and his wife, Nuria, are participating in the Family Counseling class.

The Family Counseling class has been very helpful to Gilberto and Nuria because they have discovered unhealthy behaviors that they have dragged from their past or copied from their families. Nuria said that the greatest achievement in their marriage as a result of the Family Counseling training has been to learn to rest and to respect each other. "Over the course of time, our economic situation has become tense, and he [Gilberto] gets uptight. But we are learning to listen instead of fight during tense times, and we talk about our circumstances instead of fighting about them." They have learned that God allows them to rest and to entrust their burdens to Him. This frees them to spend time with each other and enjoy outings. Since they have recently become empty-nesters, Gilberto expressed that it has been a challenge for him to realize that his daughters have their own lives. They always went places as a family, but not necessarily focusing on quality time together. Now when he wants to do something, Gilberto needs only to invite Nuria, and they can go without taking the whole family. "Now we can rest in the sense that others – their husbands – take care of our girls, and Nuria and I take care of each other."

When asked what their main goal is now as a couple, Gilberto cheekily replied, "Not to die right now." After a chuckle from everyone, he seriously said that he wants to improve every day to serve the Lord and the church better. They dream about a truck and a better house, but really, Nuria said that their priority is "seeing families in the congregation serving God and working in the church."

They want to encourage churches to continue to support Nehemiah Center trainings because "they are touching many families more families with each couple in the course." Gilberto commented that Nehemiah Center trainings "make churches and believers grow more because that makes all Christians grow more," and he encourages North American churches to "maintain and sustain these types of events because they bring great blessing to your brothers and sisters here in Nicaragua."



"Seeing families in the congregation serving God and working in the church."

VISION

We see healthy churches, actively growing in holistic mission.

MISSION

We facilitate opportunities of growth and collaboration for churches and para-church organizations in order to serve them and to strengthen them in holistic mission for the advancement of the Kingdom of God, locally as well as globally.

To donate to the ministry of the Nehemiah Center go to:
(tax-deductible for US residents only)

Friends of Nehemiah Center
www.friends-nc.org

For more information about the ministries of the
Nehemiah Center:

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