

BUILDING ANEW

IGLESIA CRISTIANA
RENUENO
in Winston Salem

SEEKING NEW SPACE

Iglesia Cristiana Reneuvo, led by Pastor Juan Jose Lagos, began as a collective of discipleship groups meeting in the homes of three church families. Weekly bible studies took place laying out plans to make new disciples in local neighborhoods. Central to ICR's mission was to carry out the great commission: share and live out one's faith in Christ with others who do not know Christ.

Each church home offered a comfortable place for communion, worship, sharing, and meals. Neighbors found a faith community they could walk to within the boundaries of their own neighborhood.

The formation of disciples, however, is incomplete if *all* brothers and sister of these home churches cannot gather together for communion and companionship. Corporate encouragement and exhortation, offering of support and forgiveness, and exaltation and worship toward our Lord God was limited to the size of one's living room. In order to testify what God was doing every day and every week, in and through the body, a larger and conditioned space was needed. To enjoy the love of God, unleashed by the power and direction of the Holy Spirit in our midst, a new building in a central location was needed.

MAKING IT HAPPEN

With the leadership of Pastor Juan Jose Lagos, and the support of his wife Cecilia and the Virginia Mennonite Missions Ministerial Support Team - and the many hands and feet of fellow disciples and friends - Iglesia Cristiana Reneuvo moved into its new space on October 20th, 2022.



THE MULTIPLICATIVE EFFECT

Now with a new building, Iglesia Cristiana Reneuvo has an established, central location intended for the formation of new disciples, who will then be instructed to use their testimony of conversion to Christ to enlist their own neighbors into the community of followers of our Lord.

ICR's goal for 2024 is to bring 25 neighbors into the building as new disciples, with the hope that each of these new members reaches at least one more person for Christ. This goal would be repeated in following years with the hope to see the multiplicative effect of God's work taking place in the new space. The church building will also function as an outreach to its immediate neighbors by offering spiritual and psychological counseling.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Discernment of Leadership
 - Carlos Erazo
 - Gladis Nunez
 - Juan Jose and Cecilia Lagos
- Movement in the spirits of other church members to join leadership roles
- We pray that we will have 50 members who make at least one disciple each in 2024
- Ricardo and Nicia's discipling of four married couples in Honduras.
- Successful launch of Wednesday Bible Study classes

PRAISES:

- Praise God that we are now 25 active members.
- We exalt God because we have the new space to hold AMEP meetings
- The launch of music classes with three teenagers from the church.



FURTHERING THE BRANCH

While the move to the new church building is celebrated, two home churches have had to close due to members' varying work schedules. Friday and Sunday options for worship in the new building, however, offer opportunities for these former home church members to congregare with the collective body of ICR. Meetings continue in the home of brother Faustino every Tuesday evening, emphasizing the mission of maturing spiritually as disciples, and sharing one's faith with others as evangelizers. Persisting in the home church model allows for Iglesia Cristiana Renuevo to demonstrate how to make new disciples at a hyperlocal level.

While local discipleship and evangelism are the leading approaches for ICR, Juan Jose's efforts are far-reaching, with outreach taking place remotely via Zoom in the state of Washington and in Honduras. For the past couple of years, Juan Jose has been meeting a family in Washington weekly to encourage them in their walk with Christ, and mentoring Ricardo and Nicia Torres in Honduras who are themselves discipling four married couples in their country.

This past October, the ICR celebrated (pictured right) four years since the initial church planting meeting which laid out the basis for the ICR home churches to have a building of their own. By the grace of God, not only does ICR now have a building to call home, they are also using their gift to host meetings for the Asociacion de Ministros Evangelicos del Piedmont (AMEP). The Lagos family expresses their gratitude for the contributions of VMissions, Piedmont Mennonite Network, and the Tennessee-Carolina-Kentucky District.



Juan Jose continues to meet every Wednesday with Pastor David Kindy for support and communion. May the efforts of the Holy Spirit and all who contribute result in the further expansion of the Kingdom within the Winston Salem community. Join Juan Jose and his wife Cecilia in praising our Lord God for the blessing of this new space, and pray for the Holy Spirit to act in the communities surrounding it.