

CHURCH PLANTING STORIES 2025



WORLD RENEWAL

WorldRenewal.org/united-kingdom
WorldRenewal.org/israel
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WorldRenewal.org/kenya



January 2025



 Internationalradio.minharadio.fm
 Markinhos Ribeiro & Bibi
 Markinhos Ribeiro
 ProgramaPraiseandPlay
WorldRenewal.org/England
 

In 2019, Marcos and his wife Andrea moved to England from Brazil, where he had known Tele Moraes for many years. Over their long friendship, he had seen Tele plant church after church, and Marcos firmly believed that this was God's design. The Ribeiros found a robust community of Brazilians in their southwest part of England, with many of them seeking a deeper connection with the Lord. They partnered with the Baptist Church for the Nations, and are working toward forming their own house church.

1000 Listeners a Week
 MARKINHOS RIBEIRO E BIBI APRESENTAM:

PR **AI** **SE**
& **P** **L** **A** **Y**

SÁBADOS ÀS 10:00H

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As they are not supported (as yet), they are also working to provide for their daily needs. It is slow going, but building relationships and serving their neighbors and family in day-to-day life is a great adventure. Marcos is a wonderful ventriloquist, and he and his puppet friend Bibi the Black Bird have been sharing Jesus in person and on the radio for many years now. World Renewal Brazil runs International Web Radio, where Marcos' (and Bibi's) show, Programa Praise and Play, has over 1000 regular weekly listeners.



January
2025



You Tube World Renewal (Brazil & Brazil Missionaries playlist)

f Augustinho M. Santana

Sbne.com.br

WorldRenewal.org/Brazil



Pastor Augustinho Santana, with his wife Nadja and daughter Milena, serves with World Renewal Brazil as the pastor of Community Church of Carpina (the first church planted there), and as the president of the Northeast Bible Seminary (SBNE). Pastor Augustinho has been faithfully pastoring and serving Christ for over 26 years, and World Renewal is so grateful for his dedication and leadership! The Northeast Bible Seminary (SBNE) is celebrating 26 years of preparing pastors, church planters, and lay leaders (inside and outside of Brazil) to serve in their local churches! In 2024, 131 students were enrolled in programs: in person, online (including in Mozambique), and studying in local churches. The seminary hopes to continue to grow to serve in other Portuguese speaking countries as well! This school year, they've had over 60 students graduate a program and be a blessing in their own local churches. There are many who wish to pursue their theological studies to better serve their communities, but do not have the financial conditions to do so. Would you consider providing a scholarship?



Pastor Augustinho, who leads the Carpina Community Church in Brazil shares, "In 2024, I led a small group of men's discipleship. One of these men was Guilherme (pictured with his son), a local businessman whose wife, a convert, attended church regularly. He had always been attentive to the gospel, but he had not made a decision to follow Christ until he participated in a retreat sponsored by the church. When touched by the Word, he gave his life to Jesus, and today he and his entire family are in the church. He has been very committed to discipling other men and has a life transformed by the Gospel." We are so grateful for the day-in-day-out faithfulness of local churches and leaders like Pastor Augustinho. He asks for prayer as he is focusing more on building up leaders who will take more responsibility in the church, so that he can focus more on the ministry of training leaders through the Northeast Bible Seminary.



January
2025



You Tube World Renewal (Spain playlist)

f Paola Martinez Villatoro

✉ paolasaraimtz@gmail.com

WorldRenewal.org/Spain




Paola Martinez has been serving the past couple of years in Spain. She has an important update to share: "After several months of paperwork and uncertainty in Mexico, the Lord closed the door for the religious visa request (to continue serving in Spain). On January 11th, I returned to Barcelona planning to use my three month permit to close my time there. During the months of waiting in Mexico, I meet Pako... my boyfriend! We met in August during a church planting training organized to share the tools we use in Europe with churches in Mexico. After a couple months getting to know one another better, we decided to start a relationship and prayerfully seek the Lord with our future together. Though my role of serving in Spain is ending, God's calling on my life continues. It is my heart's desire to persevere in obedience to invest my life advancing His Kingdom among the least reached. Since I still do not know what that will look like after closing things in Spain, I'd like to invite YOU, my friends and supporters, to a deeper involvement in this time of discernment. For this, I will start a WhatsApp group where I will be sharing short but more regular news and prayer requests, and occasionally also opportunities to meet online to answer questions and pray together. Anyone interested please contact me via email (provided on the graphic)." Please pray for this closing time in Spain, direction/provision/peace as Paola and Pako learn to work in tandem, and for Paola's heart in this season of transitions, waiting, and more transitions.

Church Planting in Spain



Paola Martinez shares the story of Amparo: "She is a Spanish woman in her late 70s living at an elderly home in Raval, the red-light district of Barcelona. When we met her she had recently lost her husband and would occasionally go out on walks around the neighborhood to try to calm her anxiety and fight her sadness with some sunlight. We tried explaining the gospel but questioned what she had understood. Each time any of us would casually run into her, we'd offer prayer, ask about ways to help meet her needs, and share a Bible story or verse. Watching our church body work together as one body to care for her was simply extraordinary! Over the course of months, this relationship slowly grew as she began to open up to God's love. One day, when we shared the gospel again, she was ready. November 2024, Amparo took the step of obedience by making her choice for following Jesus public through baptism. What a day of joy! Soon, others at the elderly home began to see the change. The Spirit's work in her led others like her, to deeper a curiosity for knowing Jesus. Amparo invited her friends to join her for studying the Bible with us. Today through Amparo, a small group of Spanish elders has started gathering weekly at the same benches of the street plaza where we first met her."



February 2025



You Tube World Renewal (Turkana Kenya playlist)

f Keshule Edapal Ali Edapal

Instagram Ali_edapal

WorldRenewal.org/Kenya




Keshule Edapal is part of the Turkana Community in Kenya. Currently living in England with his wife Ali, and their children Ben, Chloe, and Lydia, he visits in person as often as possible, continuing the distance training and mentoring of the 10 (and growing) churches and leaders that he does from England. The Edapals partnered with World Renewal in 2023, and would love personal support, support for the church communities, and sponsoring some of the older students to be able to attend high school and college or university, all of which is only available far from their rural homes. Would you partner with this incredible ministry?



1. Dig the holes



2. Attach the frame



3. Connect the roof



4. Invite the people

Keshule, World Renewal partner to the Turkana people in Kenya, arrived in his native land on January 1st. The pastors that he mentors in the Turkana areas had said they were ready for the next church to be built. They were able to put up the structure in the following days! Where there are currently 10 church plants, the leaders are still being developed for many of them, and most do not have a structure in place. Keshule's church in the United Kingdom was able to provide for about \$2300 of the cost, but with inflation and demand, Keshule had to borrow the last \$850 due, as well as \$850 for his plane ticket. Would you be able to help with this need?



February
2025



World Renewal (Israel playlist)
 KKCHerzliya
 King of Kings Community Herzliya
 Kkch.org
WorldRenewal.org/Israel

Since 2020, World Renewal has partnered with King of Kings Community Herzliya (KKCH) in Israel. Since the beginning of the war, the church has seen an increased number of Israelis being much more curious about faith in Jesus. It is also a time of mourning, as a soldier from the congregation died in the war, and daily there are stories of others, family and friends, losing their lives. Please pray for their comfort, peace, and protection, and for so many others who are suffering during this hard time. Please take some time to watch the video update, filmed close to Gaza, to hear what is happening, and how the Israeli people are doing around the current ceasefire.



The King of Kings Community Herzliya in Israel shares: "After having to cancel our Christmas Hanukkah market last year due to the war, we opened our doors again the end of 2024. With over 250 visitors and 15 exhibitors, we were able to create a lively atmosphere in which people could enjoy the anticipation of the holidays and laugh together. The variety of products and the warm hospitality of our exhibitors and our team helped make this market an unforgettable experience. The following day, our traditional "Let There Be Light" event took place. For the first time we did both events back-to-back which was a lot of work for our team but we were very blessed with great volunteers who made it work. We had our largest crowd in the history of this event and were able to share about the birth of the Jewish Messiah with neighbors and friends from school. It is always so encouraging to see guests come who probably hear this message for the very first time." Please make sure to find and watch the video update from Israel, which is posted around this post.



March
2025



You Tube World Renewal (Brazil Missionary playlist)
Building Living Stones (Boa Esperanca playlist)

f Flavio S Travassos
Mercia Elizabeth

Instagram Projeto Boa Esperanca Oficial
Building Living Stones

WorldRenewal.org/Brazil
WorldRenewal.org/Boa-Esperanca




Flavio and Mercia Travassos are church planters and the leaders of Boa Esperanca Living Stones and the Community Baptist Church there. In 2020, they were sent from headquarters (and their home) in Caprina, Brazil, to serve in a community 8 hours away, that many people call “the middle of nowhere.” There is a great need in the rural Northeast for Bible-believing churches, and the Travassos have answered that call. The Travassos LEND (love, educate, nourish, and direct to Jesus) to at-risk children with other local leaders in their local church who are passionate about seeing their communities flourish and know Jesus: this is Living Stones! This has led to the flourishing of their church plant, and has opened many other doors of sharing and possibly planting churches in other communities nearby. The harvest is ready: please pray for God to call and send more workers to the rural Northeast of Brazil!



Pastor Flavio Travassos, our World Renewal Brazil partner in Boa Esperanca Brazil shares: “This couple (Francuí and Cleide) are a blessing among us. Cleide was the first person to give her life when we opened the Church in 2020, and right away, she started praying for Francuí. He was always open to the Gospel, but not surrendering his life to Christ. Francuí had a serious heart problem and underwent surgery at the hospital. There, he made a promise to God, saying that if he was cured, he would accept Jesus as his Savior. The miracle happened: he was cured. But for almost two years he did not fulfill his promise. But then a second miracle happened. One afternoon when we were out visiting homes to share Jesus, he decided to surrender. Cleide’s prayers were heard and they are currently participating in discipleship, where he has grown in faith in Jesus. Together we can see God act and miracles happen.” In rural Brazil, many people do not have cars, and live far from church. Being able to transport people is a huge blessing. Last year, the Travassos family traded in their 5-seat car for a 7-seat car, to be able to transport their family and some others at the same time. But this upgrade is costly for their monthly payments. Would you help with transportation costs for the Travassos family in Boa Esperanca Brazil?



March
2025



Pastor Luc Joseph, in Haiti, has partnered with World Renewal since 1995. He has planted and oversees 14 churches as well as the Christ Compassion Orphanage, working with the children to provide their needs, and seeing them into further education. Please continue to pray for his eyes, as he needs surgery, but it can only be done in the USA, and is costly. Many people have fled from Port-au-Prince to Gonaives to try to escape from the gangs. Most of these people have had to leave everything, and can't go back. Pastor Luc shares, "Currently, the situation in Haiti has worsened significantly, and the country is facing severe challenges. A tragic incident recently occurred when a group of bandits took a baby boy from his mother's arms and threw it into a fire in her presence. Sadly, the mother passed away just 24 hours later from the trauma of witnessing this horrific act. In the city where I live, Gonaives, we are particularly affected, with several gangs controlling one of the main exits and entrances. We are living in constant fear, as there is little functioning infrastructure in the country."



Pastor Luc shares, "Many churches have closed their doors, as the gangs have taken over various areas. However, by God's grace, the church in Gonaives continues to operate, albeit cautiously during the day. At this time, one of the most pressing things I can ask of you is prayer. We desperately need God's intervention for peace in Haiti. Please pray that He will bring peace and stability to the country and protect the people here. I truly believe that Haiti will not perish, and with God's help, we can endure these challenges." Pictured is Madam Jal, who is 83 years old and has faithfully served at the church in Gonaives. She fled her home under gunfire, and is now living with the Josephs. Twelve others from their church have had to flee. Please consider how God is calling you to care for our brothers and sisters in Haiti.



May
2025



Ricardo Silva, with his family, have been church planting with World Renewal Brazil since 1998. Ricardo planted Community Church of Guadalajara (1998-2010), Amexas (2002-2005), Lagoa de Itaenga (2003-2024), and Feira Nova (2018-current). The Silva family works together well, with Kattia running the women's ministry and teaching Bible for Living Stones, Rebecca (in college) leads worship and helps with Living Stones on the weekends, Eric (9th grade) runs the media for the church, and Ricardo oversees the church and focuses on men's and couples ministry. They ask for prayer for strength in the day-to-day work, for the kids and families that they serve, and for personal financial support, as they are about 65% funded.



At the Community Church of Feira Nova in Brazil, there are a lot of different ministries: for couples, women's, youth/kids (called Living Stones), and for men. On Thursday nights, it is open gym night, and they play some soccer, and then they sit down (some more sore than others) to some Bible study. Alexandro was one of these guys who came to play soccer. Then he started coming to church. One recent Sunday, he brought his wife Ciele, to church, and gave his life to Jesus. They are welcomed into this church, into this family! Praise God for pastor Ricardo Silva and his family who are serving so faithfully in the Feira Nova community!



July
2025



You Tube World Renewal (Turkana Kenya Playlist)

f Keshule Edapal

Instagram Ali_edapal

WorldRenewal.org/kenya



Keshule Edapal is part of the Turkana Community in Kenya. Currently living in England with his wife Ali, and their children Ben, Chloe, and Lydia, he visits in person as often as possible, continuing the distance training and mentoring of the 10 (and growing) churches and leaders that he does from England. The Edapals partnered with World Renewal in 2023, and would love personal support, support for the church communities, and sponsoring some of the older students to be able to attend high school and college or university, all of which is only available far from their rural homes. Would you partner with this incredible ministry?



In January, Keshule Edapal arrived in his native land in the Turkana area of Kenya. Keshule and the pastors he mentors were able to purchase, transport and construct the newest church building! There are currently 10 church plants, the leaders are still being developed for many of them, and most do not have a structure in place. In March, Keshule and Drew Fitzpatrick, the Turkana representative in the USA, returned. Drew shares, "We took a pair of soccer goals to a dirt clearing where the neighborhood youth play soccer. Community members took turns digging the post holes before Keshule and his team placed the goals and poured concrete. Prior to the highly anticipated donation of the soccer ball, Keshule briefly shared the message of gospel in his mother Turkana tongue. A spirited soccer match ensued! Later that afternoon, Keshule's team of pastors (shown in photo) traveled on their motorcycles (shown in photo) for a time of worship, prayer, and a meal of stewed goat and other traditional Turkana cuisine. Since they're distributed about the greater Turkana area, it is rare that they all have the opportunity to get together as a team, so the time and fellowship was especially sweet."



August
2025

Paola Martinez Update



Paola Martinez Update



Paola Martinez shares: "On April 8th 2025 I left Barcelona, Spain--the city and community that had become my home since the Fall 2022. This decision was the result of much prayer, my religious visa being denied, and starting a relationship with Pako (more on him later!). The last weeks in Barcelona were both deeply joyful and profoundly sad. Parting ways with family is one of the hardest parts of living out a missionary calling. The word that encompasses the many final meals, words of affirmation and parting gifts both given and received, plus shared worshipful prayer times is: GRATITUDE. God gave me time to cover all the many aspects required of leaving well. There was the deep grief of leaving these beautiful people, but also the incredible peace seeing God's hand leading SO clearly and confirming my next steps through leaders, God's timing, and new doors opening. Ending well was the deep desire of my heart so that I could embrace the next season well, and also a God-desire to be filled with and display His LOVE to the Body and the world. Spain and Barcelona will always have a special place in my heart (as Kansas, Greenville, and EdoMex also do). And by God's grace, even though I left, the work there remains and continues to bear fruit. Though leaving Spain was a hard step of faith, God continues to affirm that my calling to serve Him by taking the gospel to make disciples of all nations continues."

Now, she shares what has happened since then: "From 2019-2021 I served with an NGO called Mosaico Urbano focused on holistically developing some of the toughest marginalized communities on the outskirts of Mexico City. Then, 2022-2025 were intense years for me, full of learning, serving, and adapting to the diverse cultural environments where we engaged the lost and trained believers of different nationalities. My spiritual leaders (at my church and World Renewal) have recommended that I take some time to REST. The Lord had already been speaking to me about pausing to reflect, to practice stillness and reentering communion with Him. Returning from Spain has seen a jump right back into busy life and ministry: in Panama for a conference (COMIBAM), El Salvador to support my mom through a family death, living in a friends' ministry-center, visiting vital friends, and family vacation: I slept in 15 different beds in the first two months back! This past month, my fatigue levels began to sound the alarms (like health problems arising and experiencing frequent emotional exhaustion). After prayerfully exploring some options for debriefing, my leaders and I have agreed that I'll be taking August as a Sabbatical month. I sense God preparing a new and exciting season ahead, but for now He's calling me to be still and enjoy His presence first and more."



August
2025



While the largest IMPACT outreach in Brazil is in January, mini-IMPACT outreaches happen throughout the year, when a church planter asks for help to impact a strategic community. In July, the IMPACT team traveled to Caruaru, one of our new church plants and Living Stones program, to work with Pastor Cesario and his wife Cida. Like all IMPACTS, a call goes out to all of the churches to send their brightest and best (that are willing to give up vacation time) for a time of training and worship- and then go to a strategic location, working with church planters to IMPACT that community for Christ. It is a vital training tool (a mission trip) for the already existing churches in Brazil, as well as a way to establish/grow new churches and encourage/strengthen the church planters. IMPACT Caruaru led to 85 people giving their lives to Christ, and 8 Christians who are joining Bible studies to further their walk with the Lord.



We have an exciting NEW opportunity! At the latest IMPACT outreach in Caruaru, someone loaned the team 4 pickleball rackets and 5 balls. Like the 5 loaves and 2 fish in the Bible, this became a great tool to gather groups of kids and adults together and then share the gospel with them! 85 people gave their lives to the Lord during this IMPACT! After seeing the instant draw of pickleball, World Renewal Brazil would like to begin a pickleball ministry, connected with IMPACT and Glory Sports. We need pickleball rackets, balls, and nets. Unfortunately, Pickleball is new in Brazil, and it is hard to buy the items. It costs about \$200 to buy a net, rackets, and balls to start. Would you help us begin our new pickleball ministry? At WorldRenewal.org/brazil, please give under Glory Sports with the memo "Pickleball."



September
2025

Celebrating 8 years in
Mozambique: what a team!



Church Planting in Mozambique



Assuerio Naque shares, "We spent 3.5 months in the USA due to an unsafe political climate in Mozambique, during which we were able to witness the birth of our first granddaughter. It was a time of refuge and celebration! In March, we gathered to commemorate 8 years of ministry in Africa. Our teaching team delivered the TBI (Local Church-Based Training) program to 88 people at Bible schools and churches in southern Mozambique. Unfortunately, we had to cancel all trips to the center and north of the country due to conflicts in those regions. As a result, 135 pastors and leaders will be without training this year, unless we can raise the funds for these longer trips later in the year. We've been able to distribute 480 Bibles, and have begun planting the Mozambique Community Church together with Pastor Johane, in a highly populated neighborhood with a large presence of African sects. Due to poverty and challenges in education, nutrition, and vulnerable situations, we understand that as a church in the community, we must contribute to the best possible growth of these children. There is no better way to do that than to begin a Living Stones program, with the greater purpose of Living Stones being to open doors to reach these children's families for Jesus. In September, we will launch the Living Stones program along with our inaugural church service in our rented building." Pressing needs are \$400 per month to cover the ministry budget, \$500 per month to support Pastor Johane's family, and \$40 monthly sponsorships for children at Living Stones Mozambique. Would you partner with Pastor Assuerio and his team in Mozambique?



OPPORTUNITY: fill up two
suitcases for kids in Mozambique

Steve Turner will be leading a trip to visit Assuerio Naque in Mozambique! We have the wonderful opportunity to bring TWO SUITCASES full of supplies, as they start the very first LIVING STONES program in Mozambique! Assuerio, who started the Living Stones Brazil program in 1998, has always had a heart for children: and he knows from experience how powerful a tool Living Stones is in planting churches! Living Stones Mozambique will be the catalyst for their church plant, and we are so excited to help provide the school supplies that are hard to get or too expensive for the children they are serving. You can check out our Amazon wish list (https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3NN6YPMOUXPK?ref=wl_share), or bring notebooks, pencils, colored pencils (the top needed things) to the World Renewal office by September 8th! How exciting to get to be a part of this new program!