

# Chickens and Church Planting

By Kyle Leon

FM Missionary to Costa Rica 360 Mission District

What do chickens have to do with church planting? Little did we know. Over the past few years, the Latin America area initiated the implementation of Community Church Planting (CCP) principles. The CCP model has prepared us for the challenges presented by the global pandemic. With an emphasis on discipleship and Houses of Peace (house churches), the transition from gathering together weekly to gathering in small groups or via the internet has been a challenge, but not as difficult as it could have been without CCP preparation.

One of the greatest challenges has been how to continue evangelism during this time. CCP training uses the illustration of the farmer who prepares the soil to plant the seed as the first step in evangelism or the "Field 1/entry strategy" of the CCP system. In response to the current worldwide crisis, the 360 Mission District here in Costa Rica has been preparing the soil through the "Pollito (Po-yi-to) Project" — chicken project.

With many unemployed people, the church wanted to provide families with food and something resourceful to do to provide for themselves and their families. We worked closely with community leaders in several neighborhoods to assess the needs and organize people.

Paulino is one of those community leaders. Within weeks of the border closing, his tour business went under, and the bank reclaimed his tour van. Because he has only one leg, many other employment options were closed to him, and he was worried about how to feed his family. Paulino's family received 10 broiler chicks through the "Pollito Project." After eight weeks, they prepared eight for their consumption and sold two. With the money from the sale, they bought 10 more chicks. Paulino's family is just one example of how the "Pollito Project" has helped families become more self-sustaining and able to provide for themselves amid the pandemic. The project has distributed over 1,400 laying hens and 5,914 broiler chicks, benefiting 935 families. These families have been given food security and the restoration of their dignity.

We pray these relationships will grow and anticipate many will become people of peace in their communities who can bring others to know God's love. Truly, we are witnesses — when we do the practical, God does the supernatural! Chickens can help plant churches!

