



The JOURNEY

Come. Connect. Contribute.

September 2018

Greetings, Friends!

In the year 536 BC a group of exiles were sent back into Jerusalem to rebuild the testimony of God in that community. They were sent to be the solution to the problems in that neighborhood. They were commanded to rebuild the broken walls for safety and protection, to rebuild the altar and bring an awareness of God, restore worship and how we can relate to him, and to rebuild the temple – a place where we can encounter his presence. All these things were to provide a testimony and legacy for future generations.

At East Harlem Fellowship we continue to immerse ourselves in what it means to Love God, Love People and Be the Church in a practical way. We are living in a time where it seems our walls and churches are broken down. The testimony of the people of God and their public influence is weak again in the land. Through “Oasis at Lex Hill”, our new community center, we will start working on our education and social enterprise initiatives to provide the East Harlem community with opportunities for hope and life transformation.

We believe the people of God, “the Church”, has to be a transforming agent outside the four walls of the temple. This was the model of the first century church. They turned their communities upside down for God and for good. We hear a lot of talk about the gospel having power to change. We believe the full gospel has implications beyond proclaiming the good news and the spiritual formation of the disciples. Those who proclaim and carry the full gospel should demonstrate compassion, relieve oppression, alleviate poverty, and restore individuals and communities to wholeness as we partner with the Holy Spirit.



We want to see spiritual justice come to the public square once again.

Hector Vega
Senior Pastor



A Living Epistle

Yvonne Soto's Testimony

Growing up, Yvonne was physically and sexually abused by various members of her family, including her mother. At the time she hated her mom and at 14 ran away with a boyfriend that later became her first husband. He became abusive but Yvonne stayed for love and because they had a son together. Six years later when she was 24 and pregnant with her second child, she started attending a church where she got baptized with the intention of making her husband come to Christ and change his behavior. However, when this did not happen they divorced and Yvonne went back to her old ways and deeper into drugs and alcohol. One thing led to another and she started prostituting herself to get drugs until she was given an ultimatum to either get into a program or end up in jail. She decided to get clean, gave her two sons to her mother and entered a rehab program.

(Yvonne's testimony continued)

Two years later she was clean, working, and got her sons back. Her eldest son went into the Army and the youngest lived with her. It was during this time, she met her second husband. After 8 good months of marriage they started drinking. He was unfaithful and she went into another downward spiral. In 2011 she was laid off her job and went back to drinking and using. Her husband became very abusive and she finally admitted she was in a violent relationship and sought help. In October 2014 she moved into a domestic violence shelter. There Yvonne realized that in Christ she could be free of the violence, abuse, alcohol and drugs—she believed that she was free! She started attending a Sunday women's group called "Beauty for Ashes" and met various women from EHF. They spoke life into her and she began attending EHF. A couple of months later she recommitted her life to Christ, got baptized and now is fully happy and complete with no intentions to keep trying to live life her way.

After 6 months in the shelter, she was pressured to find a place to live but no doors were opening. However, in her process to find a house with a section 8 voucher she was able to help three other women get apartments and one for herself in the Bronx. Even though she did not like living there she knew it was God's hand of provision so she was content. A short time later, another miracle happened and she got a beautiful one-bedroom apartment in East Harlem - close to church. Through it all Yvonne kept trusting God because he said that he will never leave us nor forsake us as long as we live for him and obey his commandments. He is faithful to take care of the rest.

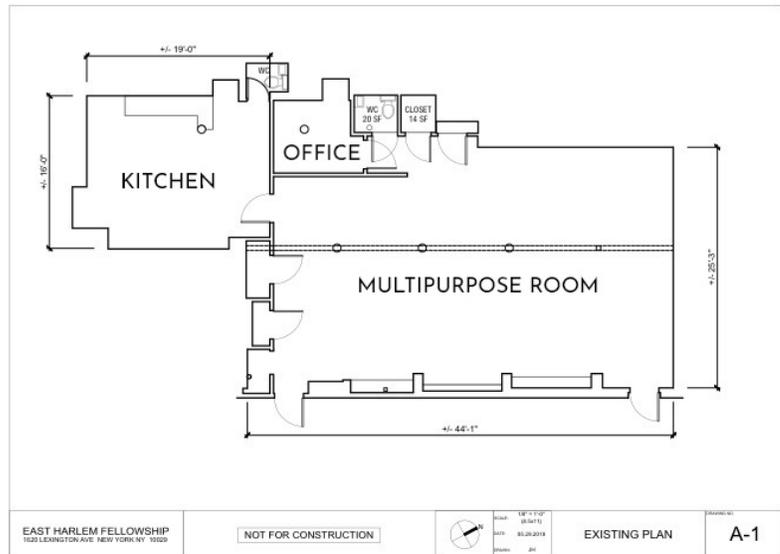
God is not dead. He is so alive! All Yvonne can say now is that if your life does not make sense and you keep on going through tough times, give up and surrender your life to Christ because we can't do it our way. Start by getting a Bible. Read it. Come to church and get connected with someone there. Find out about Bible classes. The Lord will get your life back on track because like Billy Graham said, "Without God, life is like an unsharpened pencil, it has no point."

The "O" @ Lex Hill

The Solution for the City

What is Oasis at Lex Hill?

The "O" at Lex Hill will be a multipurpose social space where the church can engage and serve the community. This social space is located at 1620 Lexington Avenue at 102nd Street (one block from the 6 train).



Floor plan

The catalytic multifunctional space will serve as a safe, supportive environment where children and teens get a chance to explore academic enrichment, art of healing and music. They will also be given opportunities to grow in worship, leadership, public speaking and spiritual development. Once the education initiative is fully functional we will begin to develop and implement our social enterprise initiative by providing employment, mentorship and discipleship opportunities for teens, young adults and single moms residing within domestic violence shelters.

EHF's Education Initiative

Do we really need another community center in the neighborhood?

More than 28 million kids have parents who work outside the home, and as many as 15 million kids have no place to go after school. We can do our part to ensure that the youth in our community have a safe place to go for weekday and after-school Christ-based activities and mentoring. East Harlem is rich in support services but there is no Christ-centered space with the gospel at its heart. We want to stand in the gap!

What has been accomplished already?

Property has been leased

Building assessment has been completed

Framework for programs has been developed

How can I get involved and help?

Be a Prayer Partner: Dedicated prayer will help us accomplish these goals with full reliance on the Holy Spirit. Please continue to uphold this initiative in your prayers.

Give Your Time: Skilled volunteers in architecture, interior design, and construction to support in the remodel. We also need program volunteers to support with music, art, tutoring, and mentoring

Donate Materials: The space is getting a complete remodel so donations for building materials are welcome

Monetary Donations: To make an online donation please visit : <https://www.eastharlemfellowship.org/donate>

Or you can send a **check** via mail to:

East Harlem Fellowship,
324 Pleasant Avenue, Suite 2D
New York, NY 10035

We can't do it without YOU. We hope that you will partner with us in our endeavor to serve our community and the families of East Harlem. Thank you for being a life changer!

Contact Us

Want to know more? Have questions or suggestions?

Connect with us:

Dominick
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Joanna Ray-Rouse
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New Leadership @ EHF

Meet our new Associate Pastors



As if His love and forgiveness wasn't enough of a demonstration of His greatness, God invites us to participate in finding and bringing others into His family (1 Cor 3:9). I am humbled and grateful for those God used in my young adult past to rear and disciple me in my walk. Today His call for my wife and I is to come alongside and serve young adults as we all seek and find our place in God. Please pray for our ears to be opened. That like Zaccheus we hear Him and come out of hiding (Luke 19). That like young Samuel, we discern and respond to his call (1 Sam 3). That just like Lazarus, we follow the voice of Jesus into resurrection life (John 11).

- Pastor Mario Eusebio



How can our youth keep pure? By keeping God's Word! This is the simple, yet powerful guide that God has provided the youth of every generation, and it still holds true today. Sadly, we as a church sometimes get so caught up in strategies and activities as a means to keep our youth from being "distracted" by anything outside the "church life", that these very attempts often become just temporary "attractions" until something else catches their attention. We pray that you would join us on a mission to bringing our youth--our future teachers and preachers--back to the practical obedience to God's Word and the ultimate satisfaction of a relationship with Christ Jesus and God's Holy Spirit.

- Pastor Carlos Estremera

Missionary Report

Pastor Ivan Rios in La Perla, San Juan

Pastor Ivan Rios was a member and youth worker in Manhattan's Times Square Church and eventually was led to become a full-time missionary in Medellín, Colombia. After a few years of pastoring in Medellín, he returned to New York. In 1997, Times Square Church sent Pastor Ivan, along with others to start a community coffee house to serve the people in the neighborhood, with community services (i.e. after school homework help, teen programs, English classes, and a soup & prayer ministry) for those in need. Not long after, a church was born called East Harlem Fellowship.

In 2009, he felt led to go back to the mission field in Puerto Rico. Today he serves, as the Pastor of Iglesia La Perla in old San Juan. Early on, he decided to live among the people and by doing so has gained the trust and love of the residents; thereby being viewed as the community pastor bringing the light of Christ into the darkness. Recently he purchased a small abandoned structure that is currently in the process of being renovated and becoming an art center. The center will hold art classes for the community and also provide people the opportunity to sell their artwork. The main purpose of the center will be to present the gospel to the people in a life on life relationship. The art space is almost complete!

East Harlem Fellowship has been supporting the missionary efforts of pastor Ivan for some time, most recently sending a team to support humanitarian efforts after hurricane Maria. We believe we are being led to stand with him and invest in this mission field with a long term anchor project sponsored by the EHF congregation.

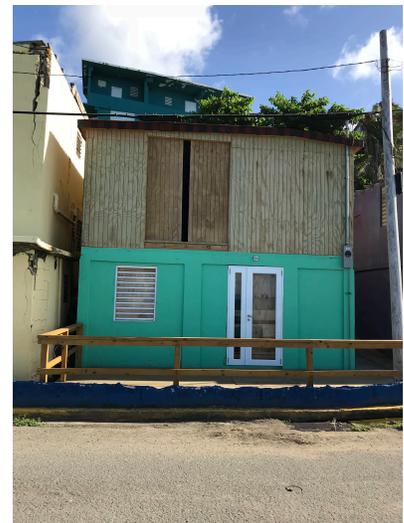
Please join us in prayer for: God's anointing, provisions, and for workers; that people would be saved through the ministry and art center.



The art center before construction when acquired.



Pastor Ivan Rios.



The art center at present.

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SERVICE TIMES

SUNDAYS 10-11:30AM | 12-1:30PM

WEDNESDAYS 7:30-8:30PM

**Manhattan Center for Science and
Mathematics**

**280 Pleasant Avenue (Cnr. 115th Street)
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