Commitment for Life

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love

March / April 2021

Moving Stories

CENTRAL AMERICA

Land of Coffee and Honey, Nicaragua is the second poorest country in Latin America and deeply affected by climate change. 80% of the population depends on agriculture. Our partner Soppexcca is an umbrella organisation representing 650 farmers and 18 coffee cooperatives.

Changes in weather patterns area affecting crop yields. Also, recent drops in the price of coffee, have forced farmers to diversify.

Arlen Joel Lopez Pineda, a young honey farmer (25) near Jinotega who works with Christian Aid's wonderful partner Soppexcca, writes:

'We started with four young farmers in 2014 with support from Soppexcca for a project specifically for young people who are family members of farmers. I had seen beekeeping before so when Soppexcca contacted us with the idea of the beekeeping project, I said yes.

The next year, we had good honey production. The next year, more farmers joined us, and we helped train them. From 20 hives in the community, it went to 50. We also make honey products that helps coughs, shampoo and honey chocolate, creamy honey mixed with chocolate and honey and peanuts.

The beekeeping is part of a strategy to diversify the farm. Climate change is affecting the coffee, with half the bean being ripe and other half not. With the beekeeping we can see the effects of climate change. In the summer, it's raining and then it's too hot and sunny, when it's dry you have the flowers and when the flowers are ready to be harvested by the bees, it rains, and the bees don't come out of the hives. In the future we want to grow and have our own trademark and a certificate of hygiene from the government. We can then start selling in supermarkets. Producing honey is something pretty. We aren't polluting, and we are helping to pollinate the flowers and it's another means of diversification for our farm. We want to thank Soppexcca for supporting us with hives and technological support.'

Join in with this Easter Online Festival

3 sessions: Sun 21st Mar & Mon 22nd Mar
Join Zoom Meeting

https://zoom.us/j/95283244787?pwd=SFBjT2VmcVdMQ

WljRE82amQrU1Y2dz09
Meeting ID: 952 8324 4787: Passcode: 784428

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https://events.tapsimple.org/page/christian-aid/united-reformed-church-supporting-a-just-vaccine-rollout