

The Spinning Plant Cooperative is heavy into trainings as they wait for money. Bureaucratic delays in the Inter-American Development Bank continue to postpone the grant to the cooperative. We are now on our 7th IADB specialist assigned to deal with the grant. Kathy suggested that maybe that job was like the Defense of the Dark Arts teaching job in Harry Potter, since the person never lasts for long!



Organic cotton seed ready to be planted

We do have the money for organic cotton production from ICCO, a Dutch ecumenical organization, and have bought a truck, ordered boll weevil traps, and explored ginning machines. Cotton is getting planted and can be sold, spinning plant or not.

A Honduran cooperatives consultant, Oscar Leiva, came to evaluate the spinning plant and the Fair Trade Zone cooperatives, through funding from Winds of Peace. He wants to come do a two-month workshop that will have a production aspect as its final goal. This will take lots of money but has lots of promise as well.



Photo: David Cheng

For clothing information & suppliers:

- www.FairTradeZone.jhc-cdca.org
- www.maggiesorganics.com
- www.pcusa/sweatfree
- www.ethicalgoods.org
- www.mycorset.com

COPROEXNIC, the organic grower's cooperative, is hoping to expand the agronomist's job to full-time. Once Again Nut Butter is interested in buying peanuts on a large scale from our growers, which will help pay for the agronomist.

El Porvenir, the coffee cooperative, has received a pump for their water through a small group of engineers at Bucknell University (Lewisburg, PA). The engineers got the pump installed and a pump house built. The project still lacks electricity and piping to get the water up the mountain...but it is a start!

For coffee & organic food suppliers:

- www.buildingnewhope.com
- www.their-buckscoffee.com
- www.onceagainnutbutter.com
- www.bumblebar.com



Photo: Bucknell engineers



Photo: Wes Martin

The clinic has a dentist! Ana Clemencia Williams González is working half-time now and advising us regarding all the equipment she will need. St. John's Methodist Church, Rock Hill (SC), came with three dentists, lots of supplies, and professional advice. They, together with Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church (SC), have funded this project.

We celebrated the dedication of the dental clinic on the 15th of August and remembered Risher Brabham, a pastor at St. John's who made this dream of his a reality. He died that day a year ago. His widow, Kathie, and granddaughter, Brooke, spoke about his love for Nicaragua.

The clinic has an eye examining machine! A Cuban ophthalmologist has helped us review it and clean it. He is also training Mario, our lab technician, in how to use it. Now we need glasses and are finding ways to get used ones.

We are receiving lots of short-term help at the clinic this summer thanks to volunteers who come to learn and help. They have really helped us catch up in areas where we were behind (e.g., computer tallies, etc.)

The clinic also has a water storage system! Many thanks to Engineers Without Borders from Cal Poly (San Luis Obispo, CA). They designed and installed the system in an already dug pit. The hole was dug by a three-week class on development work from Bucknell University. A class from University of Florida, Gainesville, helped lay block in the hole. Hopefully by the time you get this we will have a generator at the clinic, because....



Photo: Ryan Dominguez



Photo: Katherine Holloway

Brooke and Kathie Brabham in dental clinic doorway

Our electricity is being rationed at least five hours daily. Fortunately we do know the hours most of the time and can plan, but [Nicaragua](#) is not producing enough electricity. The electricity is still owned by a private

company and the “weird” thing is that even though we have five hours of no power; the bills still go up and up. Do the math... it’s not right.

It has affected the production of our bio-diesel, which needs eight hours of constant energy to work. This means the generators cost more to run. Vicious cycle.



JUBILEE HOUSE COMMUNITY
“You shall not oppress one another for I am the Lord your God.” —Lev. 25:17

Community: We are thrilled that we have a grandbaby (**Sarah** is doing a Snoopy dance!) on the way! **Jessica** is due in early January. And of course we are anxiously waiting **Becca** and **Paul**’s new one due in September (**Eibhlín**, 1½ years old,

is just now beginning to understand). **Kathleen** is really hoping to be back from their US trip to help with the birth. She and the family are in the States now. **Coury** is looking at colleges and **Mike** is doing some presentations. **Daniel** and **Joseph** are hanging out.

Pat and **Kathy** are getting ready for their fall speaking tour in Ohio and Michigan. If you want them to come speak, let us know by **email**. While they get ready we are losing **Emily**, who has worked with us for over two years. We will miss her dearly.

We are saddened by the death of the brother of our agronomist **Raul**, who treated our allergies. Raul’s extended family’s income revolved around his brother’s clinic. We are also saddened by the death of **Enrique**’s mother and **Maestro**’s wife, Norma. Maestro was our mechanic and now Enrique is. Maestro and Norma were raising their two grandchildren ...now there is only Maestro.

Reflection...

As a community we recently watched a DVD on quantum mechanics, which for us lay people, seems to be the branch of physics that deals with the particles and “stuff” we can’t see, as well as energy. It also includes the lack of energy and matter (or “dark energy” that makes up 80% of the universe and our environment). The movie was really fascinating. They interviewed scientists, philosophers, psychiatrists, medical doctors, plus other PhD types and these thinkers all agreed that **what we think can change what happens...can change reality**.

So not understanding all this stuff that is “magic” to me like computers, electricity, etc., I decided to ask the scientists in the family. Bill, a PhD in physics and devout Christian, said that from a purely physics mindset we cannot assume that thoughts from one place can influence something far away. But he also said that when something happens in one place, then that something has an effect in another place. Well, we have heard of that famous butterfly in Asia changing weather around the world from the chaos theory of mathematics. I wonder, “Can thoughts travel through that 80% ‘dark energy’?”

We tend to think of the *Divine* as *Light* but what if the *Divine* is *Dark* as well. *God/the Divine* is an “AND” not an “either/or”...light and dark...energy and void...life and death. What if in our prayers and meditations we can indeed send healing around the world...through the world...as well as inside ourselves and to our loved ones?

I’m an action person. I tend to think if someone is hungry then FEED them, don’t pray for them. What good does prayer do if the belly is hungry? BUT maybe I’ve missed it...maybe “it” is the *Holy AND*. Maybe what we need here in our work is not only funds, volunteers, cheerleaders (those who write such sweet, encouraging notes), but also meditation and prayer. Maybe we really NEED people “out there” to send positive energy here, to pray in earnest for the work here, and to meditate on all of us to stay on track. One area that we seem to be at a loss about is the Fair Trade Zone (the Women’s Sewing Cooperative).

As the cooperative grows and expands as a business and learns more and more of the business aspect, they are losing that essential part of being a cooperative. This saddens and worries us. They talk a great line but exclude the ones they need to include... SO...

Maybe the time is right...or way past due...for us and whomever to spend time daily meditating, praying, or sending positive thoughts to them. There is power in the 80% dark. I KNOW there is. There is life in the “And” more than the “either/or”. If we accept this then maybe there can be real healing in our work, in our world.

-Kathleen



Photo: www.tqny.org

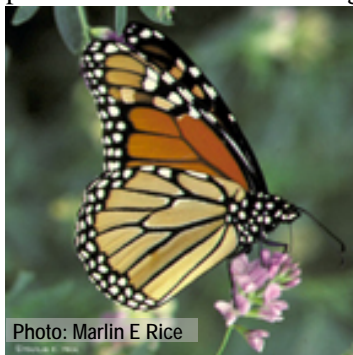


Photo: Marlin E Rice

Center for Development in Central America

Jubilee House Community Inc
820 Kensford Ct
Lewisville NC 27023-7636
USA

U.S. Phone Messages: 1-828-398-4823
Nicaragua Phone: 011-505-269-8001
Email: jhc@jhc-cdca.org Web: www.jhc-cdca.org

Jubilee House Community Inc
de km. 11, Carr. Nueva a León, 1.6 km. Abajo
Ciudad Sandino, MGA
Nicaragua

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