



Photo: Gene Helfman

Genesis, the spinning plant cooperative, is working on their bathroom as they wait

for the machinery to arrive from Venezuela...and as they also wait for more capital to install electricity to run said machinery.

And heavens! Are they **tired** of waiting! They are **more** than ready to work, to produce, to actually have a wage! Therefore...

We are asking people who are willing to join us in appealing to the Divine

(or Universe) to provide us with funds to put in the electricity, to buy cotton, to pay them a small wage until they sell their first shipment...we do not want these amazing women to give up and lose **three** years of work with no pay. Please pray, send good energy, meditate – whatever feels right to you - for the money will come. Our budget has become really tight so we do not have additional money to loan out. They, as well as we, are desperate!



Photo: Reynolds Risseuw



Photo: Don Meador

The Vida Fund

to donate or invest to our shared-risk investment fund:

<http://jhc-cdca.org/help.html>

or email jhc@jhc-cdca.org

For more information:

<http://jhc-cdca.blogspot.com>

and

<http://jhc-cdca.org/microent.html>

The ginning plant processed last year's cotton harvest,

which was not a plentiful as we would have hoped. More growers are planting this year.

We sold one container at the end of last year and it was stolen...hijacked! What a mess! Another container was sold recently and it did reach its final destination intact.

Representatives from Once Again Nut Butter (OANB) came to reconnect with the small farmers

with whom we work. They also want to locate more products like sesame. It was wonderful seeing Lloyd, an old friend, and meeting two other members of their cooperative in New York. OANB is a valuable partner and hope for growers here just like Maggie's Organics is to Genesis and the cotton growers.

For coffee & organic food suppliers:

www.buildingnewhope.com

www.their-buckscoffee.com

www.onceagainnutbutter.com

www.bumblebar.com

Slightly Twisted Spoons:

SlightlyTwistedSpoons@jhc-cdca.org

<http://jhc-cdca.org/SlightlyTwistedSpoons.html>



Photo: Gael Orr

In our last newsletter we reported that the rains stopped early and then started up too late but the coffee at El Porvenir looked good and was going to be about 50,000 pounds. Well, deep sigh, when the coffee fruit was processed off the beans, the beans themselves were much smaller due to the drought... more than two-fifths smaller. Instead of yielding 50,000 pounds, their harvest was just shy of 28,000 pounds.

A common expression around our home is "These people canNOT catch a break!" We say this often with regards to El Porvenir, Genesis...actually with more people than you can imagine.



Photo: Holly Schoch

Many came to help in the clinic in January and February.

A small group from Lopez Island (WA) is trying to help us stabilize our energy fluctuations in the clinic and hopefully – down the road – get off the grid. This will enable the dentist and lab technician's equipment to function smoothly and last a whole lot longer.

Four volunteer doctors came to help in the clinic. For three out of the four, it was their first visit. They brought injections to ease pain in the joints caused by arthritis and tendonitis.

Our health outreach to El Porvenir continues to expand*. All of these doctors rode up that mountain to tend to patients there. While visiting the community, one doctor paid a house call to a member of the co-op who has severe rheumatoid arthritis. She is bound to her wheelchair with deformed, swollen joints in a house that is about 10 feet by 12 feet, dirt floor, nothing but a bed, and positioned on the side of the mountain. She hurts...no, she suffers in the true sense of the word! She is a testament to the struggle, the pain and yes, the violence of poverty to survive under such torturous conditions.



Photo: Don Meador

Gandhi said, "Poverty is the worst form of violence." And he was right.

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[*We now treat chronic conditions (i.e. diabetes), provide birth control, suture materials, and a battery-operated nebulizer with medications.)



Photo: Carly Overly



Photo: Don Meador

dancing & celebrating with Genesis

A **brigade** from Bucknell University (Lewisburg, PA) and a combination brigade from North Anderson Community Church Presbyterian (Anderson, SC) and the above mentioned Lopez Island group worked on the bathrooms for the spinning plant. NACCP and Lopez celebrated with Genesis their **three year anniversary!** Dancing the What-have-we-done-in-three-years was a highlight! Dancing shoveling sand, slapping finishing concrete on walls, hauling buckets, etc...it was quite creative and fun.



Four new volunteers have joined us in the work: Jason, Jay, Kate, and Felicia (our new volunteer coordinator). Ben, former coordinator or fearless leader, continues on in a more in-depth role...for which we are most grateful.



JUBILEE HOUSE COMMUNITY

"You shall not oppress one another for I am the Lord your God." —Lev. 25:17

Community: Sarah is headed to the northeast of the US beginning in March for her spring speaking tour (email Sarah@jhc-cdca.org for scheduling if you live east TN to New England).

In April, Becca and Paul (and the girls) will head to Ireland to speak at the Friends Yearly Meeting. They will also speak around Ireland (Becca@jhc-cdca.org for scheduling if you live in Ireland).

Our community enjoyed visits from parents/grandparents recently: Paul's father, Derry, came from Ireland and Kathleen's parents, Bob and Peggy, from South Carolina. We also relished in the presence of the adult children over the holidays: Tiff from California, Jessica and Waxor from Boston with the one adored grandchild, Elliot. And speaking of adult children...Cory is now attending med school in Managua!



Photo right: Grant Gallup

Our spring speaking tour runs 9 March — 5 May through many parts of SC, NC, VA, east TN, PA, DE, NJ, NY, and New England. Please see <http://jhc-cdca.blogspot.com/2010/02/spring-tour.html> for speaking events near you!

Our community was saddened by the loss of Grant Gallup: a dear friend, an Episcopal priest, founder of Casa Ave Maria here in Nicaragua, author of Homily Grits (sermons shared with many), and a true voice for the poor, justice, and peace.

REFLECTION: Today as I write it is the day that the U.S. notes as Presidents' Day that was the combination of the acknowledgment of Pres. Washington and Pres. Lincoln, two presidents that are known for their roles in freedom. Freedom is a cherished concept for us who are US citizens.



Photo: Lauren McMenamin

Politicians know this, preachers know this, novelists know this...want a bill passed **or** banished...claim it helps or hinders freedom. Preachers preach on the rights we should have **or** should **not** have because of the "freedom" to live the life they think is appropriate. Writers do well to write a novel where freedom is threatened and then thwarted.

Freedom is a word that brings tears to our eyes, puffiness in our chests, and a determination in our voice.

BUT...and this a **HUGE** "but"...our concept of freedom is so, so limited...it is limited to the freedom from tyranny for ourselves and our own.

We seldom think of freedom from hunger being a right. What about the freedom to have decent shelter? What about the freedom from drinking dirty water? Or the freedom...not to choose one's own doctor...but the freedom to receive health care in order that diseases that can be cured easily are treated or preventive care so that children live longer than the age of five?

These are freedoms...and without these freedoms the harsh realities of poverty limit the right to pursue happiness for the majority of the world. These freedoms are within our grasp if we can enlarge our vision to include them.

These are freedoms from tyranny...the tyranny of poverty. And poverty is a harsh dictator. Poverty limits growth, it kills families, it breaks hearts, it shuts mouths, it tears people asunder...poverty is a cruel ruler.

And so on this President's Day...let freedom ring...

-Kathleen



Photo: Lauren Weinstein

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Yes! I want to help support the work of the Center for Development in Central America by giving online*

[For a minimum gift of \$35.00 you may request Grits, Greens, and Gallo Pinto, our unique and versatile cookbook. Email: Sarah@jhc-cdca.org-cookbook

For a minimum gift of \$100.00, two items from [Slightly Twisted Spoons](#), via SlightlyTwistedSpoons@jhc-cdca.org. Allow 6 weeks for delivery.]

To Send Email for: [Vida Fund](#) information.

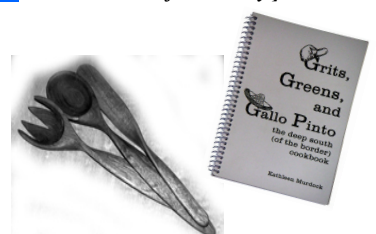
[DVD](#) information.

To change an email address or sign-up for a newsletter: enewsletter@jhc-cdca.org or Sarah@jhc-cdca.org. Please keep us notified of your paper address changes as well.

Please note: A shortcut to the online giving site is: <http://tinyurl.com/5rwxax>.

Paper Mail... send to: CDCA, c/o Peggy Murdock, 352 Carly Ln, Rock Hill, SC 29732-7750.

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STS Items shown here: fork, spoon, paddle