



April 2024

Dear Friends,

May we continue to revel in the glory of our risen Savior during the Easter season. I want to share a brief update on recent activities and share how God is at work.

Hosting

This spring has brought many groups to CEPAD, including some Global Mission supporters. Members from Pillar Church and Fellowship Reformed Church in Holland, Michigan, as well as Delmar Reformed Church in Delmar, New York, came to Nicaragua. It was a busy time of hosting, but I am so thankful for it!

While CEPAD's work looks great on paper, it is something different to see it in person, meet real people to learn about their experiences, and understand just exactly how all of CEPAD's programs work together to build a sustainable community.



It is my hope and prayer that more churches connected to RCA Global Mission will come to visit CEPAD in Nicaragua. There is [a unique opportunity](#) happening this summer for youth and young adults from any church to come visit a rural community in Nicaragua, learn about sustainable ministry, and how to apply what you learn when you return home. If you or someone you know is interested, please reach out to me or Grace Newhouse (gnewhouse@rca.org) for more details. I am so excited to help host this group!

Would you like to receive these updates digitally? Please email Kelli at kgilmore@rca.org to be added to the email list. You will receive more timely updates from the missionary you support and help us be good stewards of our resources.

On one of my recent trips to northern Nicaragua with a group, we spent a lot of time with local staff and also some of the rural community members. Juan is just one of the very active members who is involved in CEPAD's Sustainable Agriculture Program.



He is always eager to share his experience, but also provide hands-on learning. One of the visitors wanted to understand how to graft trees together after learning that many farmers in CEPAD's programs can grow 2-3 different fruits from the same tree. Juan took the time to explain different ways to accomplish the grafting while showing how to do it.

Juan is also curious and innovative. In the program, Juan learned how to make a micro-reservoir to conserve water from the rainy season to have and use it during the dry season. Normally, rural farmers dig these micro-reservoirs on a flat piece of land to capture the most water. However, in this northern region, there are many mountains and rolling hills, so having a flat piece of land is almost nonexistent. Juan began to construct his water reservoirs above ground, making a sort of bamboo basket to hold the black tarp and then water his crops with gravity.

Once our local staff saw what Juan did, they implemented it into their workshops so that farmers across the seven communities we partner with in that region are making these above-ground reservoirs.



We are so excited to see young and innovative leaders like Juan grow in their skills and teach others! We can't wait to see how Juan continues to grow over the next few years.

Friends, what a joy it is to share about Juan with all of you. If you'd like to hear from him in his own words, you can check out an interview with him [here](#).

Thank you so much for your continued partnership as I serve with CEPAD in Nicaragua. You are all a big blessing to me!

Over the next few months, you can pray with me for the following:

- Our Pantasma office currently has a job opening. Please pray that we will find the perfect person for this position.

- I will be going on Home Assignment this fall and returning to the U.S. to visit supporting churches and individuals. Please pray that this will be a smooth planning process to allow me to take advantage of my time in the States. I will be reaching out to my supporting churches and individuals soon to figure out meeting times, so do not worry if you have not heard from me yet. If you are unsure about whether you are on my "list" or would like to know if I will be visiting your area, please respond to this email so I can connect with you.

RCA Global Mission does not receive denominational assessments or covenant shares. We depend on the faithful generosity of churches and individuals.