



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

—1 John 3:17-18

Nicaragua, like other countries, relies heavily on artisanal, small-scale agriculture for its subsistence. This means that farmers depend on the rain or lack of it to produce.

CEPAD, the Council of Protestant Churches in Nicaragua, has been working since 1972 in several rural communities of the country, teaching techniques in soil and water conservation, association and diversification of crops, organic practices and, recently, water harvest. The techniques are applied by farmers to prevent losses by drought or flooding and for better nutrition for their families.

Episcopal Relief & Development is a partner of these efforts. Together we are finding ways to improve the lives of 168 families in two regions of the country. It may not seem like much, but to those families, this effort means healthier futures for their children, because they will be able to eat healthier food from their land and will be able to sell the extra produce at local markets.

During this time of Lent, let us reflect on how mutual support and encouragement can go a long way.

—**Dámaris Albuquerque**