

MONDAY, APRIL 7



He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

—Matthew 13:31-32

I like honey almost as much as mustard. Bees and honey are one of my favorite Episcopal Relief & Development projects. I am always asking our partners if I can see their beekeeping projects. I am fascinated by bees, beekeeping, pollination, honey. As a young boy, I loved tramping out into the fields with my Nebraska farmer grandpa to check out his bees, making sure they were healthy, thriving and helping his crops grow in abundance.

For small-scale farmers who are unable to keep livestock, bees can change their lives. I remember well a women’s group in Kenya proudly showing me their bees and beehives, giving me a tutorial on basic beekeeping, insisting that I sample their honey, explaining how they get their bottles of honey to market and their plans for building their business for the benefit of their whole village. They didn’t have to tell me, but it was abundantly clear that bees were bringing hope and transformation to their lives and community.

The kingdom of heaven is like a beehive!

—Brian Sellers-Petersen