

*No more shall there be in [Jerusalem] an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime.*

—Isaiah 65:20a

Some years ago, a local Christian community of women in Nicaragua read this passage from Isaiah and heard God speaking directly to them. The women were very poor. Their children were malnourished, and their old people were dying all too soon. They were given a vision of their babies living long, healthy lives. Their plain reading of the text inspired them to act.

This group of mothers went to the Ministry of Health and learned that their diets did not contain enough protein and that soy flour mixed with corn flour would help supply what was needed. But their neighbors were not accustomed to the new flour and were reluctant to use it. The women opened a restaurant to introduce soy-enriched tortillas. Soon, families began to like the new taste and used the new flour. The health of young and old dramatically improved.

When the Bible speaks directly to us about God's hope for the people—when we are willing and ready to take that hope into ourselves—we are empowered to act. God's promise becomes our reality.

We hold God's dream as told by Isaiah not only for Jerusalem but also for our families and for the world.

—Phoebe Griswold