



## Spring Story

Almost three years ago, Yahoska, René, René Camilo and Iris (l to r) were prospering but last year they were hit by two hurricanes. Credit: Sean Hawkey

# A BLESSING CAME TO US

BY GILLIAN SOUTHEY | CWS COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR.

In Nicaragua René is waiting for seeds to plant on his three acres. Every day before it gets too hot, he takes the pathway to the fields he tends by hand. He works hard knowing the more ground he can prepare, the more plants he can grow.

CEPAD (Consejo de Iglesias Evangelicas Pro-Alianza Denominacional or Council of Protestant Churches of Nicaragua) has promised him corn, sorghum and bean seeds as well as vegetables – some varieties may be new to him. If the rains come and he is not beaten by drought or hurricane, his family will be able to eat their own food and maybe have some to sell to cover their living expenses.

At the end of the day, René heads home. The well-worn path is rough, but it is not long. He is tired but soon he will see his 13 year old daughter Yahoshka, his young son René Camilo, aged five and his grandmother who lives with them. As he gets closer, he can smell the bean stew that Iris is cooking.

René and his wife Iris live close to the land and have made the most of the opportunities that have come their way. They used to be more prosperous with a few beehives and chickens but the weather changed.

Last year was worse. Two hurricanes crashed through their fields. “You could say it was a complete loss,” says René.

“We grew rice, beans, wheat, corn – everything was damaged. Even the sugar cane crops in the area were damaged. Very little was harvested last year,” he adds.

“A blessing came to us through CEPAD,” he says. CEPAD brought food parcels of rice, beans and other staples and health kits for each of the 25 families in



Iris cooks food for the family in her kitchen. Photo: Sean Hawkey

their small village. “I didn’t have to buy masks for my daughter [for school] because CEPAD has given us some,” says René.

## A Community Plan

This year CEPAD is back to help them recover. The people of El Abra where René lives have signed up for a five year development programme. Giving families the plants and seeds is easy – building strong communities that work together takes more time – it is something CEPAD staff do well.

In 2021 CEPAD began working with 42 new communities in different areas of Nicaragua. After negotiations, the communities signed an agreement with CEPAD. The staff ran workshops to identify their shared priorities. Each community elects their own Community Development Committee, effectively a village council. CEPAD trains leaders like René to manage the development process.





The province of Carazo has a tropical climate with a dry season from November to April.



*"Please keep helping us however you can," says René.*

René's community in Carazo has identified the following priorities:

1. Ensure the causeways are clean and the access roads in good repair
2. Organise the community so they work well together
3. Establish rainwater systems so they can store water for their crops and animals
4. Materials for the rainwater systems
5. Seeds for their gardens.

If René and his team can put these priorities in place, they will add to the list. More importantly they will gain confidence to invest in bigger projects with lasting impact. The people of El Abra will be able to protect themselves against Covid-19 and be better prepared if another disaster comes their way.

René says they have two active cases. "We are all worried about the pandemic because we need to

René (left) had little to show from his bean crop. Migdalia and her son were delighted to receive a Covid hygiene kit. "We're so thankful to everyone," she said. Credit: CEPAD

take care of the elderly people in the community. My daughter who rides the bus to the city for school had to miss school for some of last year. Now she is back to class but we have new expenses because we need to buy face masks and hand sanitiser. These are extra costs we did not have before, which now we have to earn income to pay for. She has to have these things for school, but with grandma living with us, we need to use them to protect us all," he says.

**Please support the Spring Appeal, so families like René's have more food security and are part of strong communities that look after each other.**

**\$41**

\$41 will pay for one farmer to learn new skills that will improve their gardens

**\$132**

\$132 will provide 16.1 kilograms of seeds, including corns, sorghum, beans and vegetables

**\$296**

\$296 will pay for pipes, barrel and a drum so farmers can capture the rain.

### CWS welcomes Murray Overton as its new National Director.

Most recently he was the Principal of Te Kura Tuatahi o Kaiapoi - Kaiapoi Borough School – and has taught at schools in Aotearoa New Zealand, Addis Abba, Ethiopia and Dhaka, Bangladesh. Murray has spent a lot of time on the phone and zoom since starting work under lockdown. He looks forward to meeting you when he can travel more freely.

"It's a privilege to join Christian World Service, continuing the excellent work of Pauline McKay and the CWS Team alongside you our supporters. Leading an organisation that aims to eliminate poverty, ensure justice, and assists those in need with access to water and food is quite a task! If you would like to talk about the work of CWS or would appreciate a visit or outline of what we do please don't hesitate to get in touch," says Murray.



# SUMMARY ANNUAL REVIEW

1 JULY 2020 – 30 JUNE 2021

CWS used the words of Archbishop West Watson who launched the first Christmas Appeal for “the millions in the east and the west, who are hungry, cold, and homeless” as a focus through the year. Three generations of supporters have responded generously to people who need food, water, dignity and justice. For over 75 years CWS has worked with others to tackle poverty and injustice at their roots. CWS is grateful to those who have helped people to improve the lives and livelihoods of so many people since the first Christmas Appeal was launched in 1945.

CWS commends our partners for their dedication and resourcefulness in the communities where they work. Many reported challenging political and economic environments. The biggest challenge has been the Covid-19 pandemic and its economic effects. The loss of income and livelihoods pushed more people into poverty and contributed to increased levels of violence. CWS partners reached vulnerable communities with good health messages, emergency food and hygiene items despite lockdown, illness and curfew.

Generous donations to the Coronavirus Emergency Appeal provided additional funds for nine partners. In March 2021 CWS relaunched the appeal for India in response to the high infection rate in the state of Tamil Nadu. Other humanitarian appeals helped displaced people in South Sudan, Rohingya refugees, and those affected by the explosion at Lebanon’s port.

After a delayed start, Operation Refugee ran until November 30. The fundraising challenge was expanded to provide more opportunities for churches and groups to take part. The new banquet option proved popular. The 2020 Christmas Appeal focused on the urgent need to create sustainable food supplies for all people. Special thanks to the Pacific Conference of Churches for collecting the stories and images for the Appeal. CWS welcomed new donors and put in place new ways to donate after the withdrawal of cheques.

The presentation from Professor David Tombs from the University of Otago on liberation theology at the annual Supporters’ Council was one of the year’s highlights. Liberation theology has contributed to CWS’s understanding of its commitment to justice and the need for change in the structures and systems that keep people poor.

CWS was a lead agency in the Big Hearts, Connected World campaign to boost the government spending on aid and for climate action. The campaign focused on educating MPs about the Official Development Assistance (ODA) programme.

Many more people had food, water, justice and dignity – thanks to our donors and partners.



Credit: DSPM Jordan/POC

## SUMMARY FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

### Income

Christmas Appeal	385,116
Regular Appeals	200,214
General Donations	199,394
Designated Donations – Development (including Gifted, Operation Refugee)	205,514
Bequests	252,115
Designated Donations – Emergency	164,732
Grants (Church and Trusts)	72,621
Government Funds	–
Other income	21,633

**Total Income** 1,501,339

### Expenditure

International Programmes Funding	802,123
Advocacy and Education	3,214
Promotion	196,152
Coordination (including all staffing costs and depreciation)	537,247
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>1,538,737</b>

**Excess Expenditure over Income** (37,398)

This summary is taken from the full statement of accounts that are being prepared for audit. The full audited accounts and annual review will be available after they have been approved by the Annual General Meeting.



**Christian  
World Service**



# PARTNERS FUNDED 2020/21

## AFRICA

### South Sudan

Mission for Sustainable Advancement – youth programme, displaced people including income generation and Covid-19 response

### Uganda

Centre for Community Solidarity – rainwater tanks, training and Covid-19 response

### Zimbabwe

Dabane Trust - Water management

**Regional Total \$104,842**

## AOTEAROA

Peace Train- Christchurch interfaith action

**Regional Total \$800**

## ASIA

### Bangladesh

ACT Alliance – Rohingya community at Cox's Bazaar

### India

EKTA Gender Training Programme and Covid-19 Response

Human Rights Foundation – Empowering Women in Local Government and Covid-19 response

Legal Aid to Women Trust – Coastal protection and Covid-19 response

Social Action for New Development – improving the lives and livelihoods of the poorest communities, focusing on women and children

Women Development Resource Centre – Women Empowerment and Covid-19 response

### Philippines

Developers Foundation – Integrated Development and Disaster Recovery

### Sri Lanka

Devasarana Development Centre – livelihoods for small farmers, inter-cultural understanding and Covid-19 Response

Movement for Land and Agricultural Reform – livelihoods and nutrition for small farmers and farmworkers including estate workers, environmental protection, and advocacy

Women's Centre Programme for workers

**Regional Total \$440,714**

## EUROPE

### Greece

ACT Alliance – relief for refugees affected by fires on Lesbos

**Regional Total \$200**



Credit: LAW Trust



Credit: CCS

## LATIN AMERICA

### Haiti

Institut Culturel Karl Lévêque (ICKL) - Education programme, school rebuild and Covid-19 response

### Nicaragua

Consejo de Iglesias Evangélicas Pro-Alianza Denominacional (CEPAD) – Community Development Programme – small farmers, improved livelihoods and mental health, and Hurricane response

**Regional Total \$39,640**

## MIDDLE EAST

### Palestine/Lebanon/Jordan/Israel

Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR) - total budget, food, medical care and education programmes for Syrian and Palestinian refugees, and Covid-19 response

### Lebanon

DSPR Lebanon - Beirut port explosion response

**Regional Total \$105,303**

## PACIFIC

### Regional

Pacific Conference of Churches

### Fiji

Social Empowerment Education Programme – rural livelihoods, Cyclone Yasa relief, and Covid-19 response

### Tonga

Tonga Community Development Trust Ama Takiloa – women's livelihoods

**Regional Total \$51,627**

## INTERNATIONAL

ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together)

CHS Alliance (Core Humanitarian Standard)

**Total \$3,375**

## ADMINISTRATION, WORKSHOP, APPRAISAL, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

**Total \$5,946**

**Total Programme Funding \$752,447**

Donate now at [www.cws.org.nz](http://www.cws.org.nz).

Phone 0800 74 73 72 or post to CWS, PO Box 22652, Christchurch 8140.



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