



Green tomatoes on the vine

SUMMER UPDATE 2008 HOME GARDENS - HARVESTING BETTER HEALTH



Home garden in Abelines

For many home gardeners and farmers in the United States, midsummer marks the time when crops such as corn and beans are up, tomatoes are maturing and broccoli, asparagus and peas have been harvested. Summer marks the time of a burgeoning vegetable season with hints of late summer and early autumn fruits such as strawberries and peaches. Many of us have strong, sensory-laden memories of husking corn and shelling peas on the porch or in the back yard.

Due to the six month rainy season from May to October, the U.S. summertime is actually the middle of winter in El Salvador and is a critical moment for many people's survival. The traditional Salvadoran farmer rents between one and two acres of land to cultivate corn, sorghum and beans, consuming a portion and selling the rest to buy vegetables and other foods for their families. However, with the increasing prices of seeds and inputs, farming is becoming more and more difficult. This year, with the price of seeds and other inputs soaring, many families in the rural areas that rely on "winter farming" are especially

worried that they will not be able to make ends meet.

Church leaders from three of ENLACE's local church partners have turned to home gardens as a real solution to problems of high prices, food shortage and malnutrition. Pastors and church leaders from Abelines, Comecayo and El Espino have begun to work with their communities to design and cultivate home gardens. Most farmers own the small piece of land that they live on and can irrigate it by hand, making home gardens an excellent solution. Even though farming has a well-rooted history—Salvadorans national food culture is strong and local agricultural knowledge rich—home gardens are rare. Church leaders have asked ENLACE to help them to select and plant the most nutritious vegetables and fruits appropriate for the size and location of their plots.

ENLACE's on-staff agronomer, Juan Francisco Gonzalez or "Paco" as many of you know him, has helped these communities to plan and plant for a bountiful and nutritious winter harvest. He is also organizing the farmers into groups so that they can help and learn from each other to assure greater results.

In the late summer and fall, Salvadorans, along with many in Central America, will celebrate their corn harvest with an *atolada*, a traditional corn celebration going back hundreds of years. This year, the *atoladas* in Abelines, Comecayo and El Espino will celebrate more than corn and more than farming as a way of life—it will signify better nutrition for their children, more neighborly unity and an increased yield of kindness and abundance spiritually, as well as physically.

By Michelle Bueno

dígame...*

"Our vision is to learn more together everyday about the word of the Lord, improve the work of the church and, **with our community**, be involved in all the initiatives that we can— knowing that we are contributing to **resolving the needs of the community** ."

-Pastor Giovanni Rivas



*Spanish for "tell me" -a new feature highlighting thoughts from the amazing local leaders we work with, like Pastor Giovanni above.



To receive clean water...

10,000 people—including 5 schools and 10 churches

Progress so far...

\$360,000 donated from US partner churches, local Salvadoran churches, community members and local government

3 wells, 3 tanks, 1 cistern, well station

Left to finish...

40 miles of piping, 3 pumping stations, 2 well pumps, electrical system, water purification system, community training

Estimated cost to finish...

\$1.2+ million

www.projectmilagro.com

Many of you have visited the Good Samaritan Church in Las Delicias and have heard Pastor Miguel Duran's story and possibly seen a pump house or two. You have heard how vital clean water is to this entire community of 10,000 people and how the church and the community have joined arms to find a way to obtain this most basic need. At ENLACE, we have already seen God work miracles in this project and we believe that clean water is obtainable. And yet there is still far to go!

In an effort to bring you into the story, keep you informed on the progress that is being made, hear about the miracles as they happen and to discover important ways that you can help, we have launched www.projectmilagro.com—"milagro" means miracle in Spanish! Our goal is to help support the efforts of the heroes in Las Delicias, Las Animas and El Rosario as they continue to strive towards achieving clean water in their communities.

Having worked alongside many of these leaders for the last few years, we are continually blown away by their commitment and their will to see this miracle happen. In the coming months you have an amazing opportunity to walk alongside them and experience this miracle together with them.

Visit the site today: www.projectmilagro.com.

PARTNER WITH ENLACE TODAY



ENLACE is excited to see how God is moving in the hearts of church leaders in El Salvador. In so many ways they are transforming their impoverished communities.

We invite you to join our efforts by becoming a Friend of ENLACE with monthly donations. As a Friend, we ask that you provide us with the ongoing finances required to walk alongside churches in El Salvador as they reach out to their communities. We also ask that you become an important partner with this ministry through your prayer and encouragement.

Your investment will directly impact the lives of thousands of people and create long-term changes that are initiated and sustained by a local church body.

Become a friend of ENLACE today by joining at the following levels:

\$25/
mo

\$50/
mo

\$100/
mo

Send and make donations payable to:

ENLACE
5405 Alton Pkwy
Suite 5A #458
Irvine, CA 92604

Or visit our website to set-up easy monthly payments at:

www.enlaceonline.org/support

If you would like more information, please contact us at partner@enlaceonline.org or call Larry Kasper, Director of our US Office, at 949-981-3314.

ENLACE is a registered nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are tax deductible in the year they are made. You will receive electronic confirmations of each donation, as well as year-end statement for your records.