



Shining The Light Ministries newsletter December 2020

The GIA—LGM Garden Project

2020 Recap of Flagship Garden

A collaboration of ministries to achieve the vision of Gospel In Action (Erick Arrieta, Director).

“Work with the feeding centers of Christian Community Church, León Nicaragua, providing the necessary food, and thereby showing the love of God for the recipients. Later to plant a church in the community.”



Erick Arrieta—Gospel in Action



Vickie Cline, Cris Ruiz, Antonio Saez—Living Grace Ministry

Martín Machado, José Vallegos STL/ABLLDCEN Ministries

An initial announcement was sent out in February & as funds were donated, tools, supplies, seeds, etc. were purchased. Plans were initiated to start the project.



Leadership Team:

Erick Arrieta & Cris Ruiz



One of the first steps was to prepare and plant seeds in a germinating table. Pípián and zucchini squash, tomatoes and green peppers were planted in the table. Unfortunately, the zucchini didn't survive hard rains and will be replanted in the next cycle. The others thrived and were later transplanted into the beds.



The first group of workers dug and prepared 4 growing beds with compost and fertilizer. Each bed measures 7 meters by 1.25 meters. When ready, the seedlings were transplanted into the beds, following careful instruction from STL.



Tuesdays are official workdays for the major transplanting, cleaning, weeding, fertilizing, etc. Representatives from each ministry have workers participate. GIA brings volunteers from some of the recipient communities to work the garden. These volunteers are also being trained to replicate and facilitate gardens in the ministry communities. LGM provides a caretaker for the daily watering and tending of the plants. The work starts at 6:30am to take advantage of the cooler morning temperatures. It's a fun, happy, and holy time together!

The workers often share testimonies and minister to each other during these work times.



As of October, the garden contained a combination of 29 plantain and banana trees, 2 beds of tomatoes, 2 beds of green peppers, a large area of corn, and beans (along the fence). More seeds will be planted in staggered rotations to take advantage of the year-round growing season. Future crops will be zucchini, ayote squash, cucumber, watermelon, and other appropriate items. There are also guyaba, papaya, and coconut trees on the property. We look forward to a variety of produce to share.



We praise God for the provision of land, money, workers, rain and sunshine for this project. We ask that you keep The Garden Project and its recipients (kids at feeding centers) in your prayers.

Taste and see that He is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him. Psalm 34:8

Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Matt 4:4

First Harvest!!!!

The very first 'fruits' of our labor went directly to feeding children that same day. We are looking forward to the future as each week brings us closer to harvesting more and more food for hungry kids. Which gives the opportunity to share Jesus with many families.



November & December 2020

Rains & Harvesting News

May through November is considered the rainy season (winter) here. We usually have weeks of rain and then days or weeks of dry, but the potential for rain is during these months. We love the rain, because we save money on the water bill for the garden! And we pray for not too much rain at a time...

November brought 2 hurricanes to Nicaragua!!!! Both hit the Caribbean (east) coast very hard. We are on the Pacific (west) coast. Our area just received extra rain from Hurricane Eta because it turned north into Honduras. Hurricane Iota came straight west and we received lots of rain and a day of winds. The corn stalks were left leaning over and had to be tied up for support (with branches that fell from trees) until harvest. Some tomatoes and peppers fell from the vines. The garden had a very deep soaking of water, but all was good. So thankful for the protection of God!



Harvesting of pipián squash, peppers, plantains, and guayaba continued until depleted. The corn was harvested, and the tomatoes and peppers are still producing a little more. There is one banana tree ready to harvest and the other 29 banana and plantain trees are growing strong. Green bean vines along the fence are being harvested now.



We are soooooo Thankful for the harvest of food, the opportunity to use the property for the garden, the training made possible by Shining the Light Ministry, and the hope and plans for the next phase of the Garden Project.

Thank you for your prayers and your support!!!

(as you can see in the pics below, the veggies are eaten first!!)



Plans for 2021

Our flagship garden was a huge success, providing food for feeding many kids, as well as training for the caretakers of the community gardens which will be started in early months of 2021.

The soil in the outreach communities is being prayed over, planned for, and prepared for multiple gardens to feed many!

Pray for Provisions

Funds received in 2020 allowed for the purchase of tools and materials needed to prep the flagship garden property and these will be used as we expand the project to the community gardens. We are thankful.

Fencing provided by LGM will be repurposed in the community gardens, and organized volunteers will act as caretakers for each property.

On-going expenses include the next purchase of seeds, chemicals, compost, etc. **We are hopeful to receive funds of approximately \$50 per month to cover all garden projects costs. Thank you for prayerfully considering supporting this awesome project.**

Looking forward to what God provides in the new year! He is Faithful!!!



Contact Information:

Please feel free to reach out to us!!

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(Provide assistance in coordinating communication and administration)

Martín Machado and **José Vallejos** ABLDLC, shiningthelightministries@gmail.com
Agronomists with Shining the Light/ABLDLCEN Ministry (Provide expertise and training)

As you can see above our partnership with LGM has grown beautifully. Despite 2 major hurricane, a global pandemic and the loss of Pastor Fausto the work on the ground continues.

Board Member Greg Lentz's project, Empowerment Satisfies the Hunger is going very well. In the coming months ABLDLC will be working with over 40 churches addressing Covid fear through education and the Gospel.

Blessings

Jeff Schweizer

Only because we have mission-minded, generous donors, churches and organizations are we able to provide the help and assistance to our friends and neighbors in Nicaragua. Please consider supporting Shining The Light Ministries and our Partners at LGM and GIA with prayer and financial support. All Shining The Light donations go directly to helping the impoverished people in Nicaragua. We are stronger together!

Let Your Light Shine!

Jeffrey Schweizer, Steve Rieger, Josh Kafer, Gregory Lentz, Roger Gonzalez, and Becky Seay
Shining The Light Ministries

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