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 **WorldRenew Nicaragua**
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Spirit be with us as we seek justice with our partner CCDH #PrayMonday #Justice #Advocacy bit.ly/28UxBsf



27 Jun

 **WorldRenew Nicaragua**
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Praise God that the rains have finally come! #Pray that it is the end of the two year long drought along the pacific coast. #PrayMonday

Three Visits, Three Scenarios

I have been to Nelly Zamora's home three times in the past year, and the changes that have occurred are striking. In my first visit a year ago, Nelly had just recently joined a group of 27 women in the community of La Yula, who, despite living in a remote rural area, have very little land of their own. Most of them just have a yard slightly bigger than the dimensions of their house. Typically the men work as ranch hands while the women, in addition to managing the home, often make some extra income by picking coffee for three months of the year. A year ago Nelly never imagined having her own garden—or eating vegetables on a regular basis, for that matter. She, like many others in her group, perceived that one would need a lot of land to plant a garden. When our food security program arrived at La Yula through our partner Asociación Cristiana de Jóvenes, she cautiously took the challenge and joined the group.

During my second visit several months later, I could tell that Nelly was encouraged by her first harvest, but I could also tell that she wasn't totally convinced. Her posture was still timid. Growing vegetables in Nicaragua is hard work. Not only is the gardener at constant war with insects and plant diseases; there are the additional challenges of patio chickens and the onerous task of keeping everything watered. In Nelly's case,

the family members would carry eight five-gallon pails of water from a river a half-kilometer away on days when it would not rain.

In July I stopped by Nelly's house for the third time. Her home is now like a showcase alongside the road. There are vegetables growing in every container capable of holding soil: wooden boxes, old plastic pails, and discarded tires. And the harvest of onions, tomatoes, carrots, and squash testified to the "fruit" of her hard work. Nelly enthusiastically shared her latest recipes with us and how she is incorporating vegetables into the family diet. The family was also rigging up a system to harvest and store rainwater. Nelly laughed as she told us that when neighbors ask if they may have a vegetable, she smiles and says she would rather give them some seeds!



Vanderweeses in Canada

This year marks 25 years since we left Canada to join World Renew in Haiti for 11 years and then in Nicaragua for the following 14 years. We are amazed at all the events and changes our family has gone through during this time. We have also recognized that there are some valid reasons to take a break and reconnect with extended family and Canadian culture. We now have three of our five children studying/living in Canada. Our proposal to spend ten months in Canada during the current school year has been approved. This year, beginning in August, I will be working from Brampton, Ont., and making quarterly visits to Nicaragua. Chances are good that you will see us soon!