



# MAKE FOOD FAIR

FEBRUARY 2013

## Share Your Blessings

### Host a Harvest Market

Markets have long been a place where communities come together as well as a place to trade and sell the goods that we need and enjoy. The growing popularity of farmer's markets in towns and cities is testament to the opportunities they provide. You might like to organise a special harvest market for your church or a grander event for the whole community. You can fundraise for CWS at the same time and share what has been given to you.

People are drawn to markets if there is lots happening or you can go to a place where people already are. Good advertising and colourful displays help. Activities for children can also draw attention to the action – maybe someone can paint faces or organise races and games.

### Why a Harvest Market?

Holding a Harvest Market is a great way to encourage giving something up for Lent. Instead of going without, CWS is asking you to give from your abundance. Sharing your blessings with people who have few resources in Nicaragua is an investment that will bring a good return – a rich, reliable food supply for a family and hope for a better future.

### Who will it benefit?

You can raise funds for a CWS partner and cover your costs. CWS is asking you to support CEPAD in its work to give rural people reliable sources of food, a better diet and prospects for a better future. CEPAD (Consejo de Iglesias Evangelicas Pro-Alianza Denominacional/ Council of Protestant Churches of Nicaragua) was established in 1972 to provide relief to survivors of the devastating Managua earthquake. It has forty years of experience working to help people out of poverty, resolve conflict and promote more just and peaceful relationships.

One of its very successful programmes is the Women's Patio Project. The programme runs for approximately three years in the identified rural communities to help women provide desperately needed food for their families and vital income for other expenses like school and healthcare. Women with few skills are given seeds, animals and the training they need to make the land around their small homes productive. It costs \$240 to set one woman up with animals, seeds, fertiliser and training.

CEPAD identifies local people in the community for training. These ►►



CEPAD, Nicaragua

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We thank you for your faithful contribution through Christian World Service, a partner of CEPAD. We greatly appreciate it and wish you God's blessings upon your own ministries.

**Dámaris Albuquerque E.**

Executive Director, CEPAD

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All photos CEPAD, Nicaragua

'animators' pass on their skills and provide the on-going support the new farmers need. In a short time families are eating better and selling surplus produce. Some have gone on to set up small local shops and other businesses. From this base the communities organise to get services like improved roads or water supply that benefit them all. The proud new farmers with a new sparkle in their eyes are testament to the power of sharing your blessings.

### How to organise a Market?

You need to choose the scale that works. It can last for 15 minutes after church or a few hours using all your facilities. For a small market organise a display table. You might like to print some colour pictures from the PowerPoint production to help people see who benefits from the funds raised and a map of Nicaragua – it is not a place we hear much about. For a larger market you can

invite people to organise individual stalls selling produce, preserves, baking and crafts, white elephants or even vouchers offering services like computer or home help. You might be able to find someone to plan activities like face painting or simple competitions. Maybe your young people would like to organise refreshments for a gold coin donation. You might like to organise a special visual display giving thanks to God and the earth. An art corner where people can give thanks by contributing a painting for a shared display could also encourage participation. Entertainment or music can add to the atmosphere, perhaps coming from Latin America. CWS has *Gifted* cards available for those who might want to donate a whole garden.

### Where do I begin?

Find others who are interested and then talk to your parish council,

session, vestry, leader's meeting or group for their support. Organise a planning group. Decide on the scale and date for the market. CWS is suggesting some time before Easter so as to tie in with a Lenten focus of sharing your blessings. Book the space and recruit some volunteers and people who might want to run their own stall. Figure out what equipment you need and how to make it fun! Talk about it to everyone and go to the local paper if you plan a community event. Don't forget to organise the clean up afterwards and thank anyone who helped. Send in the money raised to CWS marked Harvest and tell us your story.

### Need more help?

Contact CWS at [cws@cws.org.nz](mailto:cws@cws.org.nz) or 0800 74 73 72 and we will answer any questions you might have. ●

### Christian World Service

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CWS

ACTION AGAINST POVERTY