



NEWS

23 FEBRUARY
2022

CHRISTIAN AID

Courage to build a new future

Marlen has now installed 38 solar energy systems. And the work continues...

'I thank those who did this with me, because it means a new beginning.' –

Marlen

After violent storms devastated her husband's coffee farm, Marlen was on the verge of migrating to the US – as many Hondurans affected by climate change and unemployment have been forced to do.

But then Marlen found a much better way of adapting to climate challenges and earning a living. Through our local partner, she learned how to install solar technology, and received a loan to start a woman-led, sustainable energy enterprise.

Today, Marlen is a pioneer of solar panel installation in remote, off-grid communities. 'Many families have benefitted,' she says.

'They previously burned pine, which is a problem because it causes breathing problems and deforestation. But now they have their solar energy system. And it is something that protects the environment.'

'On my first installation, we turned the solar panel on, and it was so wonderful to me I cried,' says Marlen. 'I thanked God, Christian Aid and its local partner. Then my husband asked me: what do you think? I said, it is precious, but all of us did it.'

CHURCH ACTION ON POVERTY

- This NGO celebrates 40 years of building dignity, agency and power, and has achieved real change, speaking out against low pay, extortionate lending, unfair prices and other injustices.
- "Your Local Pantry is a sustainable way of tackling food poverty with 60 member run food clubs, Members can choose a basket of food, saving over £780 on their annual shopping bill in return for a small weekly fee. Over 11,000 families now get access to good food in this way.
- "Self-Reliant Groups", mainly women on low incomes, allow people to make their own decisions, to save, learn and grow in their own way and speak out against injustices.

AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO MAKE VACCINES

- Africa makes 1% of corona virus vaccines at present and according to WHO figures, only 11% of the population in Africa are fully vaccinated.
- Now 6 countries have been selected to receive the technology to produce mRNA vaccines against Covid-19: Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, and Tunisia

FOR REFLECTION & PRAYER

COMMUNITY ATTITUDES

- A refugee family in Truro, who came to Truro a few years ago will be leaving shortly to escape the persistent bullying and racial abuse suffered by the children at their local schools.

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- This highlights the need for strong community support such families need in order to integrate into the local community.
- **FAIR TRADE**
- Millions of poor farmers who produce our imported foods are still exploited by big international and corrupt companies and suffer low wages and poor working conditions which prevent decent living conditions and family life.
- When the price of coffee dropped disastrously the companies and middle men still had their profits but the farmers almost nothing.
- FAIR TRADE FORTNIGHT started on February 21st. This is a chance to support the principles of Fair Trade, promote Fair trade and attend local events in your area.

WORLD PEACE AND DIPLOMACY

- Still at the top of our agenda. Much prayer needed.

ACTIONS OF THE WEEK

SUPPORT FAIR TRADE FORTNIGHT... look out for what's on in your area.

- Falmouth has a Fair Trade Coffee morning in the Atherton Suite, Council building, just behind the red post boxes on the Moor at 11 am till 2 pm.

TO PONDER ON

- Nothing can separate us from the grace of God.
Even in this life we are safely in the hand of God.
We ourselves are now God's shining presence in the streets where we live.

Mary Bradley