



MINUTE FOR MISSION

January 15, 2007

A Better Life from Bees and Earthworms



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Warm smiles greet you at the village of Pashapa in western Honduras, in the triangle area formed with Guatemala and El Salvador. It is indeed a special place,” write mission workers Gloria and Tim Wheeler. “This year we have gotten to know some of the dreams for a better life of the family of Serafin Garcia Regalado, Maria Evangelina Gomez, and their eight children.”

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From the time he was a boy, Serafin has enjoyed working with bees and has learned how to manage both the Africanized bee and the stingless bee native to

the region. He has developed a honey production project with the support of many churches and denominations channeled through Heifer Project and the local partner, called Asociación Ecologica de San Marcos Ocotepeque. All of Serafin's children are involved in taking care of the hives, harvesting honey, and even making the boxes for the hives.

On one side of Serafin's house there is an organic fertilizer process being carried out with earthworms. Serafin chuckled as he explained that he was making fertilizer out of garbage as he uncovered part of the compost in decay. The earthworms turn garbage from the leftovers into organic fertilizer that is either sold or used on his vegetable garden.

"It is hard to believe in a better life for a family of ten based on honey bees and earthworms but to understand this you need to get to know the family of Serafin Regalado," write Tim and Gloria. With land scarce and small subsistence farming a way of life for many in Honduras, the opportunity to increase Serafin's hives and honey bee production have paid off with food, clothing, and the chance for his children to go to school.

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For more information on the Witness Season mission education emphasis contact Billie Healy, Associate for Mission Education Resources (888) 728-7228, ext. 5689, or Bhealy@ctr.pcusa.org.

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