



# GLOBAL FOOD INITIATIVE

E-news of the Global Food Initiative

[www.brethren.org/gfi](http://www.brethren.org/gfi)

Fall 2019



## Democratic Republic of Congo: Transformation Tree Trainings

Earlier this year (May 19-28), deacons from Eglise des Freres du Congo (Church of the Brethren in Congo) gathered in Uvira, South Kivu Province, to participate in a workshop led by staff of World Relief. Using materials developed by World Relief titled "Transformation Tree Curriculum" (TTC),



participants engaged in Bible study and devotions each day as a basis for conversations on the holistic mission of the church.

Church leaders were encouraged to think deeply about topics such as development and poverty from a biblical perspective. The deacons were challenged to identify the human and financial resources already available to them in their own churches to address the needs in their communities. Information gleaned in the workshop will be transmitted to local congregations through "Seed Project" committees. This workshop was supported by a grant from the GFI.

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## Mexico: Community Center Kitchen

Two years ago, a fire in Tijuana destroyed a community center run by Bittersweet Ministries. The GFI provided a \$5,000 grant to help furnish the rebuilt facility. Daniel Trego of Bittersweet Ministries writes, "Along with a new refrigerator and stove, we now have 80 sets of plates, cups, and silverware, new cabinets, lots of pots and pans, and new tables. We had a prayer service to dedicate the community center in August. The center will begin serving food on the first day of school. There will be 30 women working as part of the cooperative, who have gone through the food preparation training. The target will be to serve breakfast to 80 kids Monday through Friday.



"Thank you so much for your help making this possible. The community is super excited to have the center open again. We are always looking for more sponsors to help provide the monthly costs of food and utilities."

If interested in helping with ongoing operating costs, go to [bittersweetministries.org](http://bittersweetministries.org).

## Multi-Crop Grain Thresher

The desire to reduce manual labor is the goal of farmers across the globe. However, lack of financial resources, lack of replacement parts, and/or geographical remoteness often combine to block the adoption of new technologies that have the potential to greatly increase the quality of life for farm families. The GFI is working with multiple partners to address this issue.

Researchers at the University of Missouri, in cooperation with metal workers in Ghana, have developed plans for a multi-crop thresher for the Soybean Innovation Lab – a program of the “Feed the Future” initiative of the US Agency for International Development. A prototype recently was built by Sunnyburn Welding (Airville, Pa.), in conjunction with Harvest Chapel Mission (Bel Air, Md.). Upon completion of final adjustments, the thresher is bound for the Dominican Republic for testing with Dominican Brethren farmers. The long-term plan is for more threshers to be built in country and potentially sent to Haiti. Design plans also have been sent to Nigeria.



## Spain: Community Garden

On the outskirts of the northern Spanish city of Gijon, members of Iglesia Evangelica de los Hermanos Una Luz en las Naciones (Light to the Nations Church of the Brethren) once again have a lovely community garden on a rented piece of land. This gardening project is now in its fifth year, although it had to relocate in 2018.

Each year, fresh produce from the garden is distributed to families in need, along with dry goods donated by various agencies of the community. According to Santos Terrero Feliz, pastor of the congregation, the impact of the garden goes well beyond the food it produces. He writes, “The garden has been a great blessing to my ministry.” The church helps new arrivals to Spain find their way in a new country providing various services. Many immigrants end up becoming members and getting involved in the life of the church.

## GFI Review Panel Changes

We wish to thank Tara Mathur of Wichita (Kan.) First Church of the Brethren for her service as a member of the GFI review panel for the past four years. Tara works for Worker Rights Consortium, an organization that monitors compliance with labor standards in the production of garments made around the world for consumers in the United States. Her insights and knowledge of Central America will be missed on the panel.

Taking Tara’s place on the panel will be Pat Krabacher of New Carlisle (Ohio) Church of the Brethren. Pat is retired after a 35-year career as an Air Force contracting officer, during which she negotiated complex and innovative business arrangements and worked on contract administration and acquisition strategy developments. Pat is currently a BVS volunteer through the Global Mission and Service Office, working on funding opportunities for Brethren programs in Nigeria and Haiti. Creating community spaces and gardens with native plants is one of Pat’s passions as part of her involvement with the New Carlisle Community Garden.



Tara Mathur



Pat Krabacher