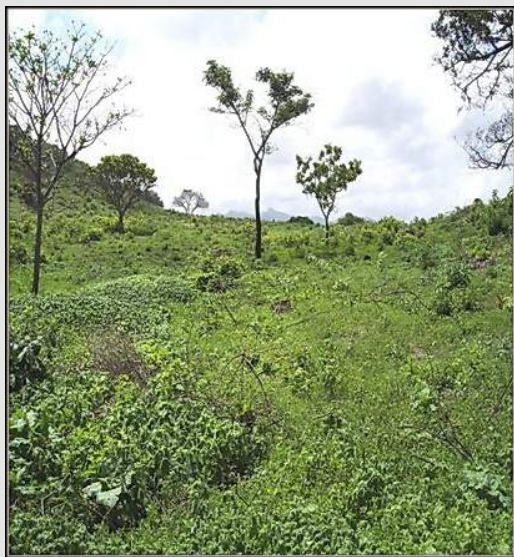




Volume III  
Issue II December 2014



**Before and After  
burning for  
farmland**



**These photos won  
a prize in an  
environmental forum  
in the category:  
Reflection to Protect  
Natural Resources**

**CREDIT: Ing. Pablo Díaz  
Hernández,  
ESQUIPULAS,  
NICARAGUA**

For more on this important topic, go to:  
<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2014/dec/10/climate-change-nicaragua-farming-drought-flood>

**Change or perish?  
Climate change is real.  
Adaptation is the only recourse!!**

*A report from Esquipulas, Nicaragua*

*By Pablo Díaz Hernández*

*Project Advisor / St William-Esquipulas*

Until recently, we thought it was something from scientists that would never happen.

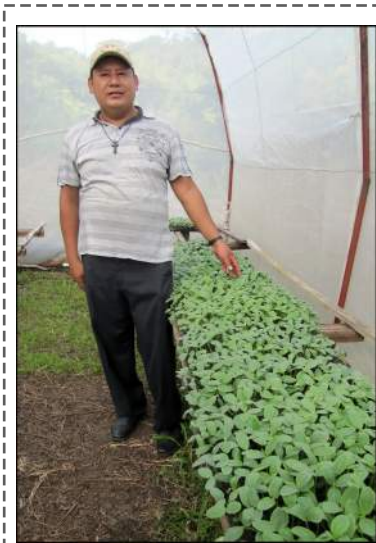
Today, climate change is real, present with us, and bringing us a multitude of problems.

Under these conditions, there are no borders. We all suffer the consequences even though it is caused by a few. Our country, Nicaragua, and in particular our city of Esquipulas does not escape this situation, for we are living witnesses in the following ways.

We have been experiencing intensive summer weather, with a significant increase in the average high temperature. There have also been periods of very heavy rains and other natural disasters. We have lost crops due to both drought and heavy rains.

The effects of these conditions have been the appearance of previously unknown pests and diseases in our crops. Pests and crop diseases have stronger resistance and we can no longer depend on the regularity of rainy seasons.

To try to counter these conditions, we are doing the following:



1. Promoting reforestation programs near water sources
2. Encouraging the production of native seeds
3. Crop systems that use little water, Bio-intensive crops, use of mulch, soil and water

conservation to give life to the ground.

4. Diversity of crops that are resistant to drought and pests.
5. Seeds that use little water
6. Use of organic manures and bio-fertilizers
7. End the practice of burning farmland and leave plants for soil protection.

As with all people who depend on the earth and God's creation for their sustenance and livelihood, we are doing all that we can to adapt to climate changes and most important, to protect the environment we have been given as stewards.





## Friends of Esquipulas

1226 W. Oak Street  
Louisville, KY 40210

## An Outreach Ministry of St. William Community

### How to donate!!

Simply make your check payable to  
*Friends of Esquipulas* and place it in the  
collection basket or mail to:

FE c/o St. William, 1226 W. Oak Street,  
Louisville, KY, 40210

Donate with Paypal on our website:  
[friendsofesquipulas.org](http://friendsofesquipulas.org)

Register your Kroger Plus card to help  
us earn Kroger rewards!

Instructions to register on our website or  
[krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com)



FE Newsletter will be  
published twice a year.  
If you would rather  
receive it electronically,  
please email us at:  
[Friendsofesquipulas@gmail.com](mailto:Friendsofesquipulas@gmail.com)

## Thanks for your support!

Join us  
**Sunday, January 11,  
2015, at St. William 9 am**

**Mass celebrating  
El Cristo Negro:  
A Fiesta for Nicaragua**

stay for homemade tamales,  
light refreshments and a  
celebration!



**Mothers at the Mary Ann  
Jackman Casa Materna in  
Matagalpa, Nicaragua  
wearing gowns made by the  
Circle of Support  
Louisville, KY**

### 2014 Reflections from Board President David Hulefeld

As we end our second full year of existence, Friends of Esquipulas are grateful. Our gratitude springs from many sources:

- Hundreds of generous friends have provided the means to continue supporting the good work of the people in Esquipulas and the staff of Casa Materna
- The Sisters of Charity of Nazareth and the Sisters of Providence affirmed the work of Friends of Esquipulas, providing grants to support our mission
- Hundreds of members of St. William and Our Lord of Esquipulas parishes have been linked as prayer partners, receiving prayer cards with photos of individuals in the other parish
- The drought of 2014 has ended, farms and gardens in Esquipulas are able to produce food
- 34 farmers in the Organic Project no longer have to leave their families to find work. They are growing fruits and vegetables in an environmentally sustainable manner, and improving their economic status
- 74 very low income women with young children are learning to grow vegetables and improving their families' nutrition
- The San Guillermo Clinic provides health care to over 300 persons each month, as well as monitoring the progress of the 85 children in the Nutrition Project
- The August delegation from St. William was able to witness the excellent rapport among Organic and Nutrition project staff persons and the campesino participants
- The committee in Esquipulas overseeing the projects there remains committed to improving the lives of the poorest members of their community, and cooperating with us in this mission
- Our invitation to visit us here in Louisville has been accepted, and we will welcome a delegation from Esquipulas in 2015

We hope that you share our profound gratitude for all the good things happening in Esquipulas. The good work accomplished in 2014 could not happen without your spiritual and financial support. Your continued generosity is essential. Please keep your prayer and donations heading our way!

Check out the full color version of the newsletter on our webpage at  
<http://www.friendsofesquipulas.org/current-newsletter.html>