

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE FOURTH PETITION

STORY

Feeding the hungry—physically and spiritually—is the goal of Tierra de Gracia (Land of Grace) Lutheran Farm in the state of Monagas, Venezuela. The 346-acre farm, begun in 2002, provides jobs and nourishing food for people locked in poverty and hopelessness. It also provides nourishment of the Word—income from the farm helps support the pastors serving two rural Lutheran churches.

The farm was begun by Lutherans with a heart for the poor. Members of Cristo Rey (Christ the King) Lutheran Church in the state capital, Lutheran supporters in America, and Lutheran World Relief all helped found the farm.

The Lutheran Church in Venezuela has a rich history. The first missionary, Heinrich Zeuch of Germany, began sharing the Gospel with farmers in the area after WWII. His sons followed him into the ministry and planted Lutheran churches, which survived despite terrible poverty. Most of the members of Cristo Rey have their roots in churches the Zeuches planted.

Tierra de Gracia's rich soil grows many different kinds of crops, such as papayas, pinto beans, sweet peppers, and passion fruit. In terms of its spiritual harvest, the farm workers themselves have been drawn to Christ. Pastor Armando Ramos performed the first Baptism on the farm in January 2005, and he also lead Bible studies and confirmation classes.

Discuss one-on-one or in small groups the following questions.

1. What role does the farm play in providing hope to the people? *The farm provides jobs, food, and support for pastors. What hope does the Church provide? Through the Church, God provides His people with forgiveness, new life, eternal life.*
2. What does James say about showing faith (see James 2:15–18)? *Telling a hungry person to be well doesn't meet his physical needs. Why are both faith and deeds important? We show God's love to our neighbor by our words and actions.*
3. Explain the various ways in which God provides people with daily bread. *God, the generous giver, provides daily bread through the labors of people, sometimes through the spiritually motivated actions of believers, at other times through the efforts of unbelievers. Whatever way He chooses, God is the ultimate provider.*