This month we are focusing on an inspiring project in northern Peru supported by Paz y Esperanza which is all about making delicious organic chocolate. The initiative is called ‘Choco Warmis’ and started in 2013 in the community of Copal Sacha in San Martin region.

One of the ways PyE helps indigenous communities is to help them set up their own businesses. They have helped a group of women create a unique chocolate product in drinking and chocolate bar forms which is 100% natural and organic. The women add native ingredients including peanut and Shica Shica, a type of fruit.

The initiative involves seven women and the current president is Dely Neyra. The women have become empowered by their work. Their motto is ‘Chocolate making women, triumphant women’. The business has helped them build their confidence and skills, fulfil their potential and improve their socio-economic situations by increasing their income and recognition within the community as leaders. This is especially important for indigenous women who face additional discrimination for being indigenous.

Dely and her team have a dream that their products will become more well-known and they can grow their market. Dely says that they strive to move the business forward. The business certainly faces some challenges, including product distribution. Currently sales are generally limited to the local area though the chocolate is also sold nationally in Cajamarca, Trujillo and Ica.
“We want to expand the business and we want people to value the product for its many selling points” said Dely.

The women involved in the business work very hard not only at ‘Choco Warmis’ but also on their own cocoa plantations and in other jobs, as well as being wives and mothers. They often only sleep for three or four hours a night after late nights at the chocolate factory. In a macho culture, women’s work is not as valued as much as men’s so they need to work harder to be successful.

The good news is that as well as the support from PyE, the women have help from a number of other organisations including two which specifically support indigenous communities. They have helped pay the costs of the factory and equipment.

We welcome your prayers that these women will be able to fulfil their dreams despite the challenges they face.

Please pray for Dely and the other women at ‘Choco Warmis’ as they try to expand their business. Please pray for strength, encouragement and support.

Please pray for the team at PyE Peru as they run a number of projects all over the country. May God grant them wisdom about how best to support those in need and spend their money wisely.

CHURCH VISITS

Would you be interested in hearing more amazing stories from PyE Latin America? Would you like one of our trustees to come and visit your church to share more about PyE and inspire your congregation?

Our trustees could prepare a short interview or presentation or a longer talk or sermon. We would be very happy to visit so please do get in touch with us. Please email gdavies@pazyesperanza.org

VIDEO OF THE MONTH

We would love you to watch the following video, ‘Living in Peace’, about women confronting violence in Peru. It shows PyE’s work in Ayacucho teaching indigenous women their rights and helping to create a peaceful society where everyone is respected and treated equally: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QlDaHIIEWAg

And for more inspiring videos, please go to the PazyEsperanzaUK You Tube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCH0WaU6FS4Gp0kKkQ9FXDg

BOOK A SPEAKER for your small group or church, to equip you to stand alongside those silenced by oppression and injustice across Latin America. Email gdavies@pazyesperanza.org

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