



Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

— Morning Prayer II (Ephesians 3:20),
The Book of Common Prayer,

One of my all time favorite (and dare I say nerve-wracking?) Episcopal Relief & Development program visits was to Kenya, to visit a beekeeping cooperative run by the women in the community where we are working. Much to the amusement of my hosts, I got suited up to from head to toe in the beekeepers' protective gear and approached the bees and their honey making.

Through our Kenyan partner, we are providing the equipment and technical training to spur economic development. This way of working builds a skill base in the community, unleashing human capacity and enabling people to transform their lives themselves. The beekeeping business quickly became self-sustaining. Having been supplied with basic equipment and training, the group purchased jars for the honey. They sell the hygienically sealed jars with quality assurance labels from the Kenyan regulatory board, enabling them to charge higher prices than for honey sold without quality verification.

Teaching cottage industries like beekeeping gives power to individuals. The skills they acquire are something they can hold on to, build on and teach to others. The extra income improves the lives of their families.

And that's the "sweet spot" in sustainable development.

— Robert W. Radtke