



Story: The battle for justice continues – a story from Columbia

Close to 2.5 million Venezuelans are living in Colombia, having fled due to their home country's political crisis and economic collapse. Jamiey, the National Coordinator for Migration for the Methodist Church in Colombia, works among Venezuelan migrant families in the coastal town of Santa Marta to help support the women and educate children. The children gather in a Chinese restaurant, owned by a community leader, where they are taught by a Venezuelan teacher. The owner provides the furniture, storage, and also feeds the children. The women are also taught courses in technological and communication skills, as well as jewellery-making and beauty.

The number of migrant families, together with the effects of climate change, has put a strain on the water supply. The Don Diego River supplies water for the whole town, which in normal times is sufficient, however, the largest coal mine in Colombia is taking water from the river.

As a result, the water level has dropped, communities have been displaced, there is little water for irrigation and the people are only allowed to have water twice a week.

The injustice of the issue of the water supply still needs to be addressed, but because of the intervention of the Colombian Methodist Church, migrant women and their children now have a hope for their future.

For a video showing more on the battle for justice in Columbia go to: mwib.org.uk