

## Homer First Baptist to Host Agricultural Missions Meetings Saturday, January 30

Agricultural missions is the best-kept secret of Southern Baptists. **The Louisiana Baptist Agricultural Missions Fellowship** was organized in 2001. The mission of the organization is *“To promote self-help projects aimed at alleviating poverty, reducing hunger, and advancing the cause of Christ.”* The Fellowship has a passion for souls and a compassion for people in need.

All persons who have a heart for missions are invited to attend on January 30. Registration will begin at 9:00 in the Family Life Center. Refreshments will be served; a registration fee is not required. The annual meeting will convene in the church auditorium at 9:30. Following introductory comments, welcome, and prayer, Nelson Philpot and Harold Watson will present a historical overview of agricultural missions. Mr. Watson was an agricultural missionary in the Philippines, and served in several other countries in Southeast Asia. He probably has done more to promote self-help projects among poor people of the world than any other Southern Baptist.

Recently retired agricultural missionary Kerry Johnson and his wife Mauri will then discuss a wide range of self-help agricultural projects among the Zapotec Indians of Southern Mexico, which the Louisiana Fellowship has sponsored.

Following a brief business meeting at 11:30, a catfish lunch will be served. The annual meeting of **Agricultural Development Foundation** will begin at 1:00. Mr. Owen Cooper who served as the last lay president of the Southern Baptist Convention founded ADF more than 40 years ago.

It is well established that hunger causes poverty — and poverty causes hunger. That vicious cycle must be broken, and that is precisely what agricultural missions is dedicated to accomplishing. Every Christian should be saddened by the fact that a person dies of hunger or a hunger-related disease every 4-5 seconds. The reality is that because of the tremendous increase in population, *the world must produce as much food in the next 40 years as has been produced in all of prior human history combined.*

Everyone is encouraged to attend these meetings, even if not involved in agriculture. After all, only three kinds of people have an interest in agriculture — those who **eat food**, **wear clothes**, or **live in a house**. Please join us for a time of fellowship and inspiration on Saturday, January 30.



The above pictures depict self-help projects our Fellowship has funded and our agricultural missionaries have initiated. The man in the picture on the right is Brother Gaspar, a native pastor. A group of unbelievers viciously attacked his congregation recently. Two members were killed with machetes, many were seriously injured — including the pastor — and buildings and vehicles were destroyed. In spite of the hardships, their faith and commitment have increased.