



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2017

Louisiana Baptist Agricultural Missions Fellowship

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Partnership Missions Ministry, Louisiana Baptist Convention

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Focal Scripture. *I know that the Lord secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy.* (Psalm 140:12 NIV)

Focal Thought. Every experience God gives us, every person He puts in our lives, is a perfect preparation for the future that only He can see. —*Corrie ten Boom (1892-1983) Dutch Christian Holocaust Survivor*

Annual Meeting Plans. An exciting program for our 2017 annual meeting has been finalized. The meeting will be at the First Baptist Church, 4200 Main Street, Zachary, Louisiana. It will begin with registration and refreshments in the Family Life Center at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 18, 2017. Every person who has a heart for missions, and especially for those who are hungry and malnourished, are invited to attend what promises to be a very inspirational occasion.

President Gene Baker will call the meeting to order at 9:30. Senior Pastor Stephen Byrd will extend a welcome from Zachary First Baptist. Dr. Stan Statham will then extend a welcome from the William Wallace Baptist Association.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Jeff Palmer, Executive Director of Baptist Global Response. Dr. Palmer served many years as an agricultural missionary throughout much of Asia. He is an inspirational speaker who has a unique understanding of the needs of the poor, as well as how to help them lift themselves out of poverty to a rewarding, faith-filled life. His three books titled *Poverty and the Kingdom of God*, *Kingdom Development*, and *Kingdom Communities* are the Gold Standard for other missionaries doing agricultural work and kingdom development.

Our agricultural missionary who does agricultural development in Eastern Europe will provide an update on work he and his wife are doing among a largely unreached people group. Names are withheld here because of sensitivity to the work they are doing. They have collaborated with a large number of needy families and report that God continues to open doors to share the Gospel, while at the same time addressing physical needs. They stated in a recent Newsletter “We have seen much progress and stand amazed at how God is changing hearts and opening eyes to the need for all believers to be disciple makers.”

They go on to state that some of those with whom they are working have trusted Jesus and are coming faithfully to discipleship classes. Unfortunately, their families and community will disown the new believers if they are baptized.

Laying hen projects have been very successful in providing eggs to eat and sell, providing enough income to sustain the chickens, and put a little money into the household budget. The chicken projects also provide opportunities for the Gospel.

The missionaries further report that goat projects have been very successful. They provide meat, milk, and cheese. After one year, recipients of goats give a young goat to another family, which means that such projects help to break down barriers to the Gospel and become “gifts that keep on giving.”

We Should Follow the Example of Christ. The Bible is replete with examples where Christ Himself often met physical needs such as feeding the hungry, restoring sight, and healing the crippled before He met their spiritual needs. The reality is that when physical needs are met the poor are often more open to the Gospel.

Project Support. Following are examples of projects individuals, classes, or churches can support to provide a helping hand to those who are poor and hungry:

Egg incubation facilities for a family or village.

Rabbit project for a family.

Chicken project for a family.

Goat project for a family.

Sheep project for a family.

Dairy heifer project for a family.

Vegetable garden project for a family.

Drip irrigation for a family.

Solar cell project for several families.

Small greenhouse for a family.

Water filters to provide pure water to families.

Please help us help those who are poor, hungry, and in need of a Savior help themselves by making your check payable to Louisiana Baptist Foundation and sending it to P.O. Box 120, Homer, LA 71040. Indicate the funds are for Ag Missions. All donations are tax deductible and 100% of your contributions go directly to the mission field because the Executive Committee pays all expenses for operating the Fellowship.