



NEWSLETTER

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Louisiana Baptist Agricultural Missions Fellowship

P.O. Box 120, Homer, LA 71040

Partnership Missions Ministry, Louisiana Baptist Convention

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Focal Scripture. *But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin. (1 John 1:7)*

Focal Thought. You need not cry very loud: He is nearer than we think. —*Brother Lawrence (1614-1691)*
Author

Report on Annual Meeting. Our annual meeting held at Bethel Baptist Church in West Monroe was a success. Invited speakers from Baptist Global Response and Heifer International did an excellent job of reviewing needs and successes on mission fields around the world. We met jointly with the Agricultural Development Foundation (ADF), our parent organization. Several members of our Fellowship are members of ADF and some serve on their Board of Directors.

Currently, ADF sponsors two projects of which we would like to make you aware. One is a collaborative effort to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the Chorti Indians in Honduras and Guatemala. This is accomplished primarily through teaching a variety of farming technologies designed to help small, subsistence farmers living in mountainous regions. A key element is the Sloping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT). The second project is agricultural training related to mango production in Eastern Bangladesh. Onsite Trainers use provided funds to purchase hand tools, seed packets, and small seedlings for project participants. A new 30-acre demonstration farm has been planted with a new mango variety from Burma that produces more fruit and at an earlier date. All projects are integrated with an evangelistic effort to bring participants to Christ through a strategy of chronological Bible study.

An additional \$7,700 were allocated to the Eastern European missionary our Fellowship has been supporting in recent years. These funds will provide seed potatoes and fertilizer for potato projects, a drip irrigation system and small hand tools for a small garden, materials to construct a greenhouse, plus 50 laying hens, 5 goats, 5 sheep, and one milk cow. For security reasons, we cannot identify the missionary family or their specific location. However, in recent email correspondence, he said, “Your support in our ministry here is huge and beginning to show signs of producing fruit. We currently have 3 new groups of 20

to 25 people meeting weekly for Bible study, nearly half of them are from the agricultural projects you support. Pray that the Word of God will take root, grow, and flourish through the efforts of this husband/wife team.

We Must Help the Poor Rather Than Hurt Them. As followers of Christ we must show compassion to the poor. In the past, governments and some Christian ministries have done considerable harm to poor people in the process of trying to help them. One of the problems is that we often focus on the symptoms rather than the underlying problems. Christ expects us to do better. Our world is filled with billions of people who have both physical and spiritual needs.

The average North American enjoys a standard of living that has been unimaginable for most of human history. Fortunately, God is changing paradigms of how churches and ministries can walk in more empowering ways with people who are poor. Jesus took particular delight in spreading the Good News among the hurting, the weak, and the poor. Thus, He calls us today to follow in His footsteps into places of brokenness.

Project Support. *The greatest need of your Fellowship is always for additional funds with which to help the poor help themselves.* Following are examples of projects individuals, classes, or churches can support to provide a helping hand to those who are poor, hungry, and in need of Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord:

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.

Small greenhouse for a family.

Water filters to provide pure water to families.

Please help us help those in desperate need to 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.