



# NEWSLETTER

JULY 2018

**Louisiana Baptist Agricultural Missions Fellowship**

**P.O. Box 120, Homer, LA 71040**

**Partnership Missions Ministry, Louisiana Baptist Convention**

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**Focal Scripture.** *A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.* (Proverbs 11:25 NIV)

**Focal Thought.** Life eternal is the supreme good; death eternal is the supreme evil. —Augustine (354-430)

**Report from Your Executive Committee.** Members met recently in the Baptist Building in Alexandria to make plans for the future. We were joined by John Hebert who is Missions and Ministry Team Leader for the state, as well as Carlos Schmidt who is a Church Planting Strategist. Both men were anxious to assist our Fellowship in any way possible. One matter discussed was the possibility of joining with other Louisiana Baptist missions groups in an effort to make more people aware of the work your Fellowship does.

**Examples of Human Needs in Our World Today.**

- More than 19,000 children die of malnutrition and preventable diseases *every single day*.
- One-half of the children in many villages across our planet die before they are 8 years of age.
- Girls as young as 9 years are often unwittingly sold into sex slavery by parents who are desperately poor and are promised a better life for their daughters. Sadly, most never see their families again, and live with broken spirits. Many villages are virtually devoid of young girls between the ages of 5 and 15.

- More than 150 million children are orphans.

**How Privileged We are.** Most of us have clean water to drink, sufficient food and clothes, an acceptable place to live, access to medicine and health care, and can read and write. Billions of people around the globe consider us to be *incredibly wealthy* because we have access to these basic needs — which they have little or no hope of ever attaining.

**A New Perspective of Poverty.** Dr. David Platt, President of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board stated recently, *How can we Christians shut our ears and close our eyes to the plight of the poor? The faith in our hearts is to be evident in the fruit of our lives. God has created us for good works. As people whom Christ cared for sacrificially in our sinful poverty, are we not now compelled to care for others in their poverty?*

God does not command us to stop making money; instead, He commands us to use our money on earth to

store up treasure in heaven. God is our greatest treasure, and our lives will count on earth only when we invest them in His Kingdom for eternity. Christ, Himself, made it clear that Christianity is not to be viewed as a path to more comforts and greater ease for ourselves.

**Sustainable Care.** To help the poor wisely, we must be careful to supplement *the responsible* and not subsidize *the irresponsible*. In short, we are to help those in need in ways that *empower them* to fulfill the purpose for which God created them. *Sustainable help involves a hand up — not a hand out.*

**The Most Urgent Need.** As urgent as the need for water, food, and medicines are, they are surpassed by a far greater need — *the need for the gospel*. The central need for all of us is to proclaim the gospel to the world — without fear! We must never forget that the gospel is the lifeblood of the Christian faith. It is impossible for us to know Christ and not proclaim Him.

**Report on Current Projects.** We will provide an update on projects your Fellowship is supporting around the world in our October Newsletter.

**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.*