



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2023

Louisiana Baptist Agricultural Missions Fellowship

1312 Ridgeland Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70810

Partnership Missions Ministry, Louisiana Baptist Convention

Website: <https://www.louisianabaptists.org/AGMissions>

Contact Person: David Morrison 225-761-1635 or david@themorrison.us

Focal Scripture. *For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.* Matthew 25:35

Focal Thought. *The war against hunger is truly mankind's war of liberation.* John F. Kennedy

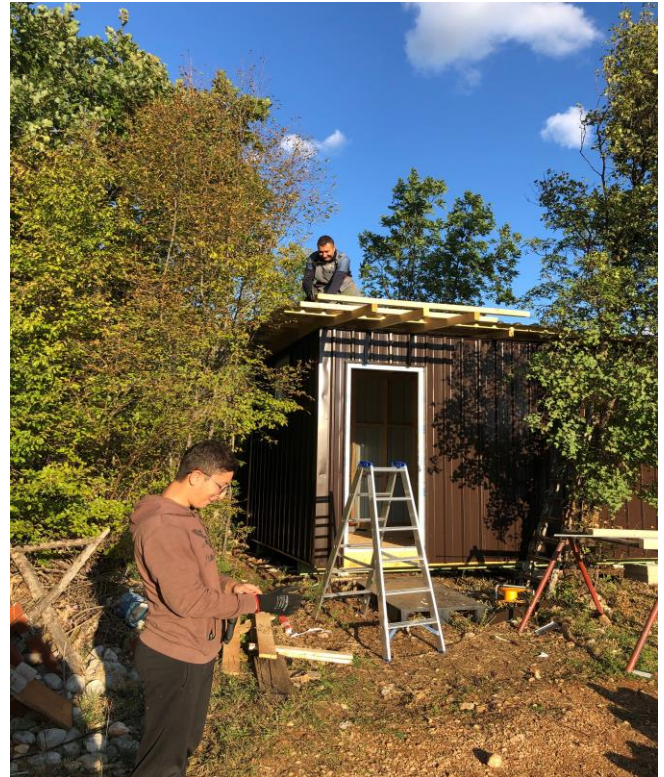
More News from Eastern Europe. The November 2022 Newsletter provided information on last year's potato, cabbage, carrot, and onion production to help the people with which the missionary we support works. We have recently received his 2023 project proposal and thanks to your generous donations to our Fellowship's agricultural mission efforts, we plan to continue our support in Eastern Europe. The missionary and his wife are doing a great job helping people help themselves. In his most recent communication, he again expressed how thankful he is for our support, both in finances and through prayer. So please keep him and his wife and their agricultural gospel work in your prayers.

In this newsletter, we want to update you on two other projects our Fellowship supported last year – the honeybee and laying hen projects. Funds for these projects came through a partnership with a Louisiana organization called Mission Agricultural Resource Services. We appreciate their continued partnership as together we try and make a difference in the lives of people who need both physical and spiritual provision.



Beehives moved to the mountain valley for summer

The missionary's dear friend, and the pastor of the local evangelical church, has taken the lead with the honeybee projects. He has studied and learned from local honey producers and from productive beekeepers across Europe and the US thanks to the internet. Their goal with the honeybee projects is the same as with the community garden – to involve the local community in learning together about improved, practical honey production. As families learn and exhibit a level of competence and desire, they receive starter beehives and basic supplies.



Our Fellowship's support for the honeybee project has provided beehives ready for service, a honey extractor, beekeeper suits, miscellaneous supplies, and materials to build the above-pictured storage building. In the picture above, a man named 'D' helped finish the work on the storage building. 'D' (the one on the roof) along with his oldest son (pictured in front) volunteer a lot of time in the community garden. The building is located at the garden site where agricultural education is already under way.

The honeybee project experience for 2022 was described as both the best and yet the hardest. The spring and summer gave a great yield of honey, but then came the fall with unusually warm temperatures, which continued into winter. The hives were hit hard by mite infestations followed by wasp issues. The people found that endurance is certainly needed in the honeybee business as lessons are learned. So, 2023 will be one of rebuilding to restore bee numbers.



In the picture above, meet 'G' who is a young man in his early 20s who has been around church activities since childhood. He never showed much interest in spiritual matters until he started work in the community garden. He has now become heavily involved in the honeybee project. Here, he is shown helping extract honey last summer.

Both 'D' and 'G' have been baptized since the fall 2022 newsletter. The missionary remarked how humbling it is to see God use relationships built through agricultural development projects to bring the real harvest. A young men's Bible study is now starting, and these two men will be participants.

The other projects to report on involves laying hens. There are three laying hen projects currently under way with plans for several more this year. Two of the projects have been very successful in adding income to the families involved. Farm-fresh eggs are in high demand.

In the picture below, meet Baka, a widow and grandmother who lives near the community garden. She has about 35 laying hens and the money she derives from this small flock adds to her very meager pension check. The other successful laying hen project is located across the road. This project is managed by a young family with children, and they have about 50 laying hens.



Project Support. Your Fellowship is committed to providing needy people with solutions that honor and build them up without making them dependent on the agricultural missionaries with whom we work.

As always, the greatest need is for additional funds so that missionaries can help the poor help themselves while also proclaiming the gospel. The 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.

Laying Hen project for a family.

Rabbit project for a family.

Goat or sheep project for a family.

Honeybee 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 others by making your check payable to the **Louisiana Baptist Foundation** and sending it to 1312 Ridgeland Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70810. Please indicate on the memo line that the funds are for **Ag Missions**. All donations are tax deductible and 100% go directly to the mission field.