



ADF Newsletter

Agricultural Development Foundation, Ltd.
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Letter from the President

Christmas greetings to all! As we approach the end of the year and I reflect upon 2023, I am reminded its days have carried both joy and sorrow into our lives, as each year on this earth is destined to do. Even so, may our faith be once again renewed so that regardless of what our lot has been this year, the peace of Christ may be experienced in a very real way by each of us this Christmas. Let the true spirit of Christmas remind us: the angel's proclamation so long ago bringing "good news of great joy" and the wonderful chorus of that heavenly host, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men" was a gift of true love, hope, and salvation for sinful mankind, at that time, and for all time.

I believe that neither the height of our greatest earthly joys nor the depth our greatest earthly sorrows can compare to the power of peace and hope in Jesus as we renew our faith in Who He is, all that He has done, and all that He continues to do for us. May this wonderful truth saturate and delight our soul as it strengthens our spirit and guides us into the new year, both in our personal lives and in the ministry of ADF. We are still here; the poor, the hungry, and the lost are still with us; so we can rest assured God still has work for ADF to do! May the Lord help us as we work together, giving our best effort to do that work well.

As you read through this newsletter, you will find updates from our summer meeting plus plans for our winter meeting. I look forward to seeing you then.

Blessings to you all.

Ron Baker, *ADF President*

Communications for the newsletter may be emailed to the editor at laura.ivy@fbccclinton.org. Information about mission activities for inclusion in the newsletter is welcomed.

Check out the website for the current and past newsletters and for the Louisiana newsletters.

adfmissions.org

Missions Update

Dominican Republic Trip Report - Jim Watson

June 29 thru July 4 I was in the Dominican Republic with an organization called Breath of Life to work with a Dairy Farmer Association located close to the Haitian border in the town of Carbonera. For the past 5 years I have been working along with another veterinarian from Pennsylvania to combine dairy cattle production training and evangelistic outreach.

When we go, we visit farms during the day, looking at the various problems they are having, then at night we have training sessions on various topics of animal health or dairy production. These farms are small (12-30 cows), fairly primitive by US standards, and almost all milk by hand. By working with the same farmers year after year, we have developed a relationship with them that allows us to share the gospel with them, and disciple new believers. We work with a local pastor to get them involved in church. ADF has

provided funds for supplies and equipment through the years, and most recently gave \$18,000 to establish a revolving loan to allow farmers access to money to purchase solar panels and irrigation pumps due to an ongoing 5 year drought. The funding provided by ADF allowed 6 dairy farmers to install solar pump projects, with the idea that as they repaid the loans, more farmers could access the funds to install more pumps.

I was able to visit the projects while I was there, and am happy to say that things are going well. Based on conversations with other farmers that installed solar projects, the payout is about 2 years, so we anticipate being able to keep the funds rolling and help more farmers soon. I also visited 2 other Dairy Associations in the area and we are praying about expanding our work to their areas. I would like to say a big thanks to ADF for the support you have given.

RECENT PROJECTS

This past summer ADF approved funding for three agricultural projects. One of them continues the well known partnership ADF has enjoyed for decades with the Mindanao Baptist Rural Life Center in the Philippines. The other two are more recent agricultural ministry projects located in countries where the needs of the people are quite similar to those of the rural poor in the Philippines. Yet, in these two countries, it is much more difficult for Christians to freely carry out ministries to help meet those needs. Even so, the Lord continues to work there and we are thankful

for the opportunity to be part of that work. In addition, funding to assist with training for the care of livestock was also approved for a third restricted country but it has proved necessary to put the training on hold until the political environment of the area becomes more stable. Please keep praying for these ministry endeavors. You will find updates on some of them in this newsletter.



MINDANAO BAPTIST RURAL LIFE CENTER FOUNDATION INCORPORATED
Kinuskusan, Bansalan, Davao Del Sur 8005 Philippines

By: Jethro P. Adang

MBRLC, Director

Technology and ministry update 2023



The picture above shows how the helpful the dairy Goat technology to the poor upland farmers, lowland farmers and former rebel (FR) who surrendered to Philippine government. The dairy goat managed by Israel Guanga and four other labor workers who in the dairy farm project. All 78 FR BOOST students graduated and was able to experience in working at MBRLC farmer as part of their hands on experience. Aside from our BOOST student, we have 565 trainees learned the SALT farming and Livestock raising here at Mindanao Baptist Rural Life Center. Our trainees compose of the following groups; 442 upland farmers, 61 High School students, 47 Agriculture students from different university in Mindanao and 15 International participants from Thailand, Laos, Nepal, US and Singapore.



The new technology that MBRLCFI is promoting is backyard dairy cow raising, the purpose to ensure milk supply in the home and additional income for small farmers. 5 heads of cow are now raised at the center. Right now, each cow produces 16 liters of milk per day, 40% of it is temporarily used for calf. The female cow produces 5 calves; therefore, we extended the pen to for the shelter the 5 calves. Picture above (left to right) is showing our FR BOOST learning how to raise and milk a cow all of our BOOST student went through this technology and the construction of the calf pen. So far, we are so grateful for the partnership we have with Asian Development Foundation, it made this technology possible and functional for people to come and learn and benchmark from the model we have here at the center.

Winter Meeting

Our winter ADF meeting has been set for **January 27** at **First Baptist Church Clinton, MS** in their Fellowship Hall. An agenda for the meeting along with directions to the fellowship hall will be sent out in a separate mailing next month but hopefully you will go ahead and start making plans now to attend this important meeting. Among other things, the meeting will include election of officers and some new projects to consider.

About the Guest Speaker

Josh Murphree

Josh Murphree, IMB missionary in Peru working with farming projects with villagers, and translating the Bible into local languages.

Thanksgiving at Christmas

For some, Christmas is just another holiday: a time away from work, a time for parties, and the exchange of gifts. But for the followers of Christ, it is much more. It is the season we celebrate the birth of the Messiah. For this we should be thankful for our faith. What would our lives be like without our faith in the Creator of the universe, the great I Am? Our faith is grounded in what Jesus did for us on the cross. Through our faith in the Son we can come into a right relationship with the Father. We also need to thank Him for our family. Our relationship with our family is second only to our relationship with God. We are to love and nurture them as gifts from God. We also need to be thankful for friends. Friends are like flowers we enjoy along our journey.

We must also be thankful for our finances. To whom much is given, much is expected. We are called not only to share our faith, but also give "a cup of cold water in His Name."

Lastly, we are to be thankful for our future. There are not many absolutes in the world today; but this we know, when we place our faith in Jesus, our future and final destination is sealed. In the meantime we are called to be light and salt in a dark world. We are called to be fishers of men. "We catch them and God cleans them."

May God richly bless you and your family during this Holy Season.

Don Blasingame

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