



NEWSLETTER

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Louisiana Baptist Agricultural Missions Fellowship

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Partnership Missions Ministry, Louisiana Baptist Convention

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Focal Scripture. *Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act.* (Proverbs 3:27 NIV)

Annual Meeting was the Best Ever. The 2016 annual meeting was held January 30 in the First Baptist Church of Homer in cooperation with the annual meeting of Agricultural Development Foundation. The large crowd of attendees came from many states, ranging from Wyoming to Alabama.

The program included inspirational presentations concerning numerous self-help projects your Fellowship has sponsored recently in Southern Mexico and Eastern Europe. Additional projects were approved for both regions for 2016. Officers and committees were elected to guide the Fellowship in the coming year.

Hunger and Poverty Continue to Stalk the Earth. Vast numbers of our fellow human beings continue to suffer and die—*most without ever having heard the gospel*. The muted response of the world's media to the realities of poverty, hunger, and death should not deter Christians from focusing attention on the plight of the helpless, which is precisely what your Louisiana Baptist Agricultural Missions Fellowship does.

Malnourishment causes one in three persons in our world to die prematurely, or to have disabilities that prevent them from leading a productive life. The best way to help resolve the problems of poverty and hunger is one person, one family, one village at a time by *providing a hand-up* so they can ultimately become self-sufficient. Our approach to solving poverty and hunger is to promote economic freedom for poor people, which encourages personal incentive and promotes economic success. Small landowners often achieve higher yields, in part, because the land is worked more intensively than on large farms where the workers have less incentive.

Children Suffer the Most. Sadly, children account for most deaths caused by poverty and hunger—and those who were weak and meek in life become even more invisible in death. All too often, the problems with hunger and malnutrition begin in the womb. The lack of food results in weakened immune systems that make children vulnerable to common killers such as diarrhea, respiratory problems, and other preventable and treatable diseases. A deficiency of vitamin A causes mental retardation and many children become blind each year,

with half of those dying within 1 year of losing their sight. Moreover, iron deficiency often results from worm infestations and leads to premature births and deaths. Even something as simple as a lack of iodine, which we obtain mainly from iodized salt, causes mental retardation and early death.

Faith-Based Organizations versus Governments. If action is not taken, poverty, hunger, misery, and death will increase rather than decrease. Governments are usually not as effective at solving poverty and hunger problems as faith-based organizations such as your Agricultural Missions Fellowship.

Agricultural missionaries are extremely effective in breaking the cycle of poverty and hunger. We can and should take the lead in helping those who are too poor and too weak to help themselves. Self-help projects have already changed the lives of countless people around the world, but more needs to be done.

Our ultimate goal is to take the gospel of the saving grace of Jesus Christ to all who do not know Him. It is within our power to do so, and when we stand before our Maker at the judgment, we need to be able to say, "we put forth our best effort."

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 pump and pipe for a village.

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.