



Newsletter

July 2020

Louisiana Baptist Agricultural Missions Fellowship

P.O. Box 120, Homer, LA 71040

Partnership Missions Ministry, Louisiana Baptist Convention

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Focal Scripture. “If among you, one of your brothers should become poor,..., you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be.” *Deut. 15:7-8*

Focal Thought. “There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread.” *Mahatma Gandhi*

2020 Annual Meeting Report. The Meeting was held on January 25th in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary of the Agricultural Development Foundation (ADF), the parent organization of our Louisiana Fellowship.

An excellent slate of speakers began with James Hensley of Starkville, MS, who reminded attendees of how ADF began 50 years ago through efforts led by Owen Cooper along with Gene Triggs and Jerry Clower. Then, our own Nelson Philpot gave a thorough and interesting history of some of the agricultural missions efforts ADF, as well as our Louisiana Fellowship, have supported over the years. Dr. John Lawrence of Shreveport, LA shared stories about how he and his wife used goat projects and mobile veterinary clinics to interact with the indigenous people living in the Horn of Africa to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. Jeff Palmer of Baptist Global Response concluded the program with an overview of the work of BGR, which encompasses 350 projects in 65 countries of the world, expending \$9 million annually. Of the current BGR projects, 40 are related to agriculture.

Report on 2020 Projects. Our Fellowship has supported an IMB missionary couple in Eastern Europe for over 5 years now. Our support of their ag missions efforts is continuing in 2020 with \$7,300 provided. Their work spans a wide range of small development projects and provides flexibility in meeting needs.

This year, your donations enabled them to furnish seed and fertilizer packets, a drip irrigation system and some hand tools for a .10 acre garden, one metric ton of seed potatoes, honey bee projects for three families, and funds for two 1,600 square feet greenhouses.

In addition, we are thankful for the partnership of an organization called Missionary Agricultural Resource Services (MARS), which is based in Alexandria, LA and coordinated by Doug and Becky Neel. They contacted

us about also providing support for the Eastern Europe project. MARS funded three laying hen projects of 50 hens each at a total cost of \$1,200. We appreciate their partnership and look forward to the possibility of more joint ventures.

New Project. Through the help of Jeff Palmer at BGR, our Fellowship made contact with several potential missionary partners doing agricultural missions work. Of the ten we contacted, project proposals were received from four. The Executive Committee approved funds of \$3,800 to Dustin and Becky Smith who work with the Kayah people in Southeast Asia.

Their project is called “Living Water” and has three facets: 1) distribute water filters to 50 families to combat the significant issue of contaminated water, 2) construct two cement water cisterns for water storage for agricultural use, and 3) provide emergency relief water to a mountain village that has none.

We look forward to seeing how God will use these funds and this project to further His kingdom as needy people are helped.

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.