



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2016

Louisiana Baptist Agricultural Missions Fellowship

P.O. Box 120, Homer, LA 71040

Men's Ministry/Special Ministry, Louisiana Baptist Convention

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Focal Scripture. *There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore, I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land.* (Deuteronomy 15:11 NIV)

Our Annual Meeting is Approaching. The meeting will be held on January 30 in the First Baptist Church of Homer. Registration will begin at 9:00 in the Family Life Center with refreshments being served. The Call to Order will be at 9:30 in the church auditorium.

Nelson Philpot and Harold Watson will present a historical overview of agricultural missions. Mr. Watson spent 35 years as an agricultural missionary in the Philippines, as well as in several other countries in Southeast Asia. His contributions to the physical and spiritual well-being of the rural poor would be difficult to exaggerate.

Next on the program will be retired agricultural missionary Kerry Johnson and his wife Mauri who will discuss numerous self-help projects established among the Zapotec Indians of Southern Mexico. Our Louisiana Fellowship has sponsored projects in that region for the past 15 years. The Zapotec people had an incredible history until Europeans conquered the region and forced them to live primarily high in the mountains on the very fringe of society. The Zapotecs are known as "The people of the corn" because they first domesticated corn and gave it to the entire world.

A short business meeting will be held at 11:30, followed by a catfish lunch.

Annual Meeting of Agricultural Development Foundation. The ADF is our parent organization that was established more than 40 years ago. Everyone is invited to attend their annual meeting that will begin at 1:00. Projects sponsored by ADF have provided a hand-up to poor people all around the globe.

Agricultural Missions is a Platform for Evangelism. Countless doors have been opened to the gospel and to a taste of the abundant life found only in Jesus Christ. It was noted long ago that people often do not want to know about our Lord until they first see we care about their physical needs.

An endless supply of emergency food from people of goodwill will never be the answer to hunger and poverty. We would all do well to remember that Christ Himself often met physical needs, such as feeding the hungry, restoring sight to the blind, and healing the crippled before He met their spiritual needs. There is a special place in the heart of God for those who are poor, hungry, and hurting.

Priorities of Agricultural Missionaries. Just as evangelism is seen as winning the kingdom one soul at a time, so poverty alleviation in the name of Christ is about restoring families and communities one at a time. Community development is a process in which missionaries and communities attempt to meet physical needs, while kingdom development is the same process with an eternal focus.

Our agricultural missionaries never miss an opportunity to witness and preach about the saving grace of Jesus Christ. For us to do only evangelism and ignore ministry to the poor is what the apostle James described as 'empty faith.' Indeed, how well we respond to our brothers' needs may be the best measuring stick of how well we walk with God. We must never forget Jesus came to earth to pay a sin debt *He did not owe* because *each of us owed a sin debt we could not pay.*

Christians need to feel the heartbeat of God for the less fortunate and we should see ourselves as warriors in a war against poverty, hunger, disease, hopelessness, and death.

Project Support. Examples of projects individuals, classes, or churches can support to provide a helping hand to those who are poor and hungry are as follows:

Egg incubation facilities for a family = \$125.00

Rabbit project for a family = \$200.00

Chicken project for a family = \$200.00

Quail project for a family = \$200.00

Goat project for a family = \$300.00

Drip irrigation for a family = \$300.00

Solar cell project for several families = \$700.00

Small greenhouse for a family = \$600.00

Water pump and pipe for a village = \$2,000.00

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 contributions go directly to the mission field because the Executive Committee pays all expenses for operating the Fellowship.