



# NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2019

Louisiana Baptist Agricultural Missions Fellowship

P.O. Box 120, Homer, LA 71040

Partnership Missions Ministry, Louisiana Baptist Convention

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**Focal Scripture.** *Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done. Proverbs 19:17 (NIV)*

**Focal Thought.** God comes in where helplessness begins. —Oswald Chambers (1894-1917)

**Report from the Eastern Europe Project.** Your Fellowship has been supporting an IMB missionary and his wife in Eastern Europe for about 5 years. They are doing a great job helping people help themselves. Their work spans a wide range of small development projects and provides flexibility in meeting needs. They provide minimal financial input with an emphasis on development and education to help small and medium sized farms be profitable. They supply small animals (sheep, goats, chickens) as well as improved methods in gardening, specifically drip irrigation systems to help families better provide food for their table and produce to sell in the market. Recipients agree in the beginning to return 10% to 20% of what they initially receive to be shared with other families in need.

A progress report on some of their activities during 2019 was recently received along with some pictures that help tell their story. The missionary stated “*We are so thankful for your support, which makes a number of our projects possible. We planted cabbage and potatoes this past spring up in the mountains and harvested them last month. The potatoes were very healthy but due to lack of rainfall, the quantity was lower than last year.*”



Seed potatoes and fertilizer on their way to a village in the mountains for May 1<sup>st</sup> planting.



Cabbage and broccoli plants ready for harvest



Spreading topsoil for a new greenhouse.

As you can see above, the missionary and two other men are working on a greenhouse for the community garden project. This is a place where many locals come to volunteer their time. The volunteers share in the harvest and many hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ as a result of this community garden.

As this newsletter is being written, the broccoli harvest in Eastern Europe is in full swing. It will be followed about two weeks later with the harvest of the cabbage.





Volunteers set out plants of cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower for harvest in 2020 in a community garden project



Children's camp at the community garden with local children from the area

In the picture above, the local kids are enjoying their time at camp and they loved it. The missionary indicated how thankful he was that the local parents send their kids to camp. The children are from all three ethnicities present in the country (Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and Muslim). And, because it is a Christian camp, the kids are taught biblical stories.

**Report from the ADF Summer Meeting:** The Agricultural Development Foundation (ADF) is the parent organization of our Fellowship. Their summer meeting was held on October 24 at the Central Hills Baptist Retreat Center near West, MS. At this meeting, the Board of Directors, which includes members of our Fellowship, approved \$19,000 in agricultural project support for three projects. The first project (approved for \$5,000) will initiate work in an Asian country to promote beef cattle. This is in a difficult area where an IMB missionary has been granted permission to live. Agricultural production there is rudimentary and the

overall program will promote diverse farming systems. The second project (approved for \$10,000) will restart the BOOST (Baptist Out Of School Training) program in the Philippines. This program had a high success rate before it was stopped in 2015 due to budget restraints. It promotes improved farming techniques and trains new leaders for churches and community development. The third project (approved for \$4,000) will continue support for indigenous pastors in a country where an outside witness is not permitted. The pastors are dependent on an agricultural project to help with living expenses and travel associated with their work. Our Louisiana Fellowship is glad to be associated with ADF.

**Christmas and the New Year Are Approaching.** As you make plans for Christmas and year-end giving, please prayerfully consider making a contribution to support self-help agricultural projects. The needs all over the world are great. Not only do your contributions enable us to support a wide range of self-help projects, those same projects open the door to opportunities to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. The new believers then become your brothers and sisters in the faith. One day you will meet them in heaven and will spend eternity with them worshiping and glorifying the God of the universe and His Son, Jesus the Christ.

The goal of your Fellowship is never to provide a handout because experience has shown that those do not result in lasting solutions to the poverty, hunger, and all too often death that are the constant companions of the needy. What we provide is a hand up.

**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.*