



# NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2015

**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.** *If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered.* (Proverbs 21:13 NIV)

**Annual Meeting.** The 2016 annual meeting of our Fellowship will be held in the **First Baptist Church of Homer on Saturday, January 30**. This will be a time of worship and inspiration as speakers, including agricultural missionaries, discuss how God continues to use agricultural missions to help people help themselves. **Details concerning the meeting will be provided in the January Newsletter. Please make plans now to attend.**

**Priorities of Agricultural Missions.** The salvation of the lost is at the heart of everything we do. We have a passion for souls and a compassion for people in need. Though we cannot reach everyone who is poor, hungry, and lost, we can reach some — and we take that responsibility very seriously.

As Christians, we must not permit **what we cannot do** to prevent us from doing **what we can do**. God has blessed us immeasurably and we have a responsibility to “do unto others as we would have them do unto us.”

**Why Do We Have Hunger and Poverty?** It is well established that hunger causes poverty — and poverty causes hunger. That vicious cycle must be broken, and that is precisely what agricultural missions is dedicated to accomplishing.

**Effects of Hunger and Poverty.** Hunger affects health and the immune system, productive ability, a person's hope, and quality of life. It also stunts growth, slows thinking, saps energy, hinders fetal development, causes retardation, and all too often, it results in early death. Moreover, most people who are hungry and impoverished have never heard the gospel.

**How are We Helping?** Handouts of various types of aid are effective only for short periods in instances of dire emergencies. The long-term solution to poverty and hunger involves empowering individuals, families, and communities to help themselves. Thus, we promote self-help programs.

We are committed to providing the poor with a solution that honors and builds them up, without making them dependent on the agricultural missionaries with whom we work. Our objective is to transfer skills, knowledge, and productive capacity to individuals and local organizations with the ultimate goal of helping the rural poor become self-sufficient. We strive to train local leaders to carry on the work after the missionary moves on to other fields.

Agricultural missionaries do not try to solve problems for the people; rather they come alongside them and serve as facilitators. The best and most lasting development is done **with people** rather than **for people**, which gives them confidence in their own abilities to solve their own problems.

**Benefits of Agricultural Missions.** Aside from the obvious benefits of reducing hunger and improving the quality of life, it is exciting that many of those who were previously poor have become a major force for spreading the gospel of our Lord. They also promote holistic ministries and thus help promote community development needs.

Successful community development involves very few ‘giveaways.’ Indeed, the most important thing we give away is **the gift of hope**.

**The Challenge Confronting Humanity.** Because of the tremendous increase in the rate of population growth, humankind must produce as much food in the next 40 to 50 years as has been produced in all of human history. To achieve this goal, we must use every opportunity at our disposal to help people help themselves.

**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.*