



# NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2016

**Louisiana Baptist Agricultural Missions Fellowship**

**P.O. Box 120, Homer, LA 71040**

**Partnership Missions Ministry, Louisiana Baptist Convention**

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**Focal Scripture.** *I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.* (Philippians 4:13 NIV)

**Focal Thought.** The shoes that are mildewing under your bed belong to those who have none. The clothes stored away in your trunk belong to those who are naked. —*Basal the Great (330-379) Theologian*

**Annual Meeting Plans.** Plans are being made to hold our 2017 annual meeting on Saturday, March 18 in the First Baptist Church of Zachary. One of the featured speakers will be our agricultural missionary in Eastern Europe with whom your Fellowship has sponsored several projects in recent years. We cannot be more specific about the location of the work because of sensitivity to Christian work in the region.

Another featured speaker will be Dr. Jeffrey Palmer who is a former agricultural missionary in several Asian countries. He currently serves as Executive Director of Baptist Global Response whose motto is “*Connecting people in need with people who care.*”

Both speakers will make compelling presentations concerning the tremendous human deprivation that exist in many parts of our world, as well as the role of agricultural missions in helping to reduce poverty, hunger, and human suffering—with the goal of reaching them for Christ. We are hopeful that churches and mission groups throughout Louisiana will begin now to make plans to attend and participate in this meeting.

**Update on Projects Sponsored in 2016.** Some of the ongoing projects in Eastern Europe include carrots, beets, and onions. The missionary is also encouraging the production of a plant that produces oils for use in the pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries. Greenhouse projects provide families with bell peppers and tomatoes, and a dairy cow project provides milk and cheese.

In addition, we provided Dr. Wayne Sheppard, Director of Partnership Missions with the LBC, with funds used to install water filters for 70 families in Haiti. The filters provide pure water and have a life expectancy of 10 years. While technicians installed the filters, they were able to share the good news of “The Living Water” — Jesus. The mission trip in which we played a part resulted in 110 professions of faith. Praise the Lord!

**The Special Role of Agricultural Missions.** Many missionaries have reported that agriculture and health care are the two best ways to gain entrance into rural

areas because rural people are often very suspicious of outsiders. Success on the mission field is all about relationships because people must first trust *the messenger* before they will trust *the message*. As we have said before in this Newsletter, people who are poor and hungry do not want to know what we know about Jesus until they know we care about their physical needs.

Our ultimate aim is to help them solve their own problems and live a better and more rewarding life, preferably in close relationship to Jesus Christ. Our approach introduces them to the concept of wealth-producing capitalism that leads to independence and hope, rather than dependence and hopelessness.

**What is our Christian Responsibility to Persons Living in Extreme Poverty and Hunger?** The answer to this question is found in I John 3:17-18 *If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words of tongue, but with actions and in truth.* (NIV)

We must never forget that a child dies of hunger or hunger-related diseases every 4 to 5 seconds, which amounts to upwards of 25 million children each year.

**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 filters to provide pure water to families.**

*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.*