



NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 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. *The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.*

Prov. 22:9

Focal Thought. *“Find out how much God has given you and from it take what you need; the remainder is needed by others.”*

Saint Augustine

2020 Report from Eastern Europe. We recently received a report from the agricultural missionary we support in Eastern Europe about what God has done through him in 2020. He began by expressing “Thanks” for our support but indicated that Covid 19 shut-down a lot of their planned ministries for the year. However, the agricultural projects that were conducted in the rural areas allowed he and his wife to make contact with a lot of people.

Early in the spring, potatoes were planted in their community garden. The funds our Fellowship provided helped them purchase seed, fertilizer, and drip irrigation supplies. The people in the picture below are all nonbelievers, except for two. They are currently being discipled and the missionary is glad to spend time and share the gospel with them. He is hopeful some will make a profession of faith this year. Two of the couples attend church fairly regularly.



Planting and harvesting are key times larger groups of local volunteers, who benefit from the community garden, can be utilized. The missionary always shares during their times together, and they always try to begin with prayer. The agricultural projects we fund help them share the gospel in word as well as deed.

As can be seen in the picture below, God really blessed them with a bountiful harvest of potatoes.



The missionary planted a little test plot with onions (see picture below). The ground was prepared, drip irrigation was installed, and the beds were covered with black plastic for weed/grass control. The onions were then planted through the plastic. To everyone’s surprise, the onions produced very well. It is amazing how showing the locals how to improve their crop or lessen their workload and produce an even better crop, opens the door to share the gospel. Once they see the missionary knows what he is talking about in terms of agriculture, they are more open to trust him when he talks about the gospel and things concerning faith.



Cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, and brussels sprouts are currently planted in the main community garden. This produce will be given to those who helped in the garden this year, as well as shared with the needy and shut-ins in a community about 10 miles out of town.

Through this year's partnership with Missionary Agricultural Resource Services (MARS) in Alexandria, La, our Fellowship provided three laying hen projects that were established around the community in Eastern Europe. Young laying hens were purchased and placed with three families. They are just starting to lay eggs. The dear grandmother in the picture below, who is affectionally called 'Baka', is one of the participants in the laying hen project. She lives alone next to the community garden and is a widow. Our gifts enable the missionary to help people like her.



One of the most encouraging things happening at the community garden are Kids' Camps. As the adults come to know and trust the missionary couple we support, they are open to allow their children to attend the camps, which are hosted at the garden. The camps are similar to what we call Vacation Bible School here in the US. They are the highlight of the summer. The kids who attend are taught about the love of God in Christ. They also learn about the gospel through song, and from year to year, they remember the experience of camp, the truths shared with them, and the songs of faith they learn. With Baka in the picture above are some children from camp. They presented her with a picture with the caption "we love you" along with a stack of decorated egg cartons she can use when gathering and selling her eggs.



In the picture below, the kids even helped clear some rocks from an area in the garden that will be a grassy area where they can play next year.



In closing, the missionary expressed sincere thanks for our prayers and support. He indicated the agricultural projects and ministries we support in Eastern Europe are truly making a kingdom impact.

How are We Helping? 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.

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.

Project Support. The 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 others 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% go directly to the mission field.