



NEWSLETTER

November 2023

Louisiana Baptist Agricultural Missions Fellowship

1312 Ridgeland Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70810

Partnership Missions Ministry, Louisiana Baptist Convention

Website: <https://www.louisianabaptists.org/AGMissions>

Contact Person: David Morrison 225-761-1635 or david@themorrison.us

Focal Scripture. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. (*Galatians 6:10. ESV*)

Focal Thought. Of all the occupations from which gain is secured, nothing is sweeter, nothing more beautiful, and nothing more deserving of a free man than is agriculture. — *Marcus Tullius Cicero (106-43 BC)*

2023 Report from Eastern Europe. God continues to work through the agricultural missionary couple we support. In his recent report, the missionary included the following words: “*We are so thankful for your vital partnership, prayer, and financial support of our agricultural projects as we wait for the LORD to send the ‘early and the late rains’, and to pour out His Spirit upon this place. We are seeing a harvest, and your efforts are making a huge difference in people’s lives. You are truly making a Kingdom impact in Eastern Europe.*” These are wonderful words to hear, and the content of the missionary’s report this year speaks to how dedicated he and his wife are to God’s work there.

The missionary’s report began with a quote from James 5:7, which speaks of the patience the farmer needs as he waits for the precious fruit of the earth. The spring and summer this year were difficult, going from too much rain to drought and extremely high temperatures. Sounds similar to what we experienced here in Louisiana.



Local volunteers in early potato harvest

Their main spring crop is potatoes, which our funds support. High rainfall in the early spring brought potato blight and insects. The missionary said, “it was an uphill battle all spring.” By the time potatoes were harvested, the heat and drought conditions were beginning.



Unfortunately, some of the new believers experienced a spiritual drought as well as a physical one. Many are facing spiritual battles and times of testing for their faith. Some have been shunned by their family and even lost jobs. Two men referred to as ‘Z’ and

‘M’ that were baptized within the past 2 years were mentioned. ‘Z’ is retirement age and has had to fight for his rightful retirement due to corruption. ‘M’ has faced persecution from his family because of his conversion. Working together in the Community Garden provides opportunities to disciple these believers and encourage them to persevere in the faith.

Let’s all commit to pray for this missionary couple and the people to whom they are ministering that they will remember what God’s Word tells us: *Count it all joy, my brothers when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness...that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing* (James 1:2-4).

In the March Newsletter, earlier this year, progress with the newly begun honeybee projects was reported. The goal with the honeybee projects is the same as with the community garden – to involve the local community in learning together about improved, practical honey production. This year, support provided by our partner organization, Missionary Agricultural Resource Services, provided a much-needed trailer to transport beehives to nearby locations to take advantage of different seasons of flowers.

They can move the beehives within a 30-mile radius from Acacia trees along the river to Linden and thorn trees in the nearby area to mountain flowers and heather plants at the higher elevations. The versatility of this system allows not only expansion, but also the opportunity to help other beekeepers with whom relationships have developed.

Two sets of frames for the trailer were also purchased,

which allowed it to hold 21 beehives. In the future, they plan to help other beekeepers purchase similar frames and use the single trailer to move beehives. This outreach builds trust and relationships for sharing the gospel through word and deed.



Trailer for transporting bee hives

In contrast to the difficulties with the spring and summer gardens, the fall garden produced a bounty. String beans, cabbage, broccoli, kale, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, Swiss chard, mustard greens, and red bell peppers provided a huge harvest.



The bountiful cabbage crop

Half of the produce is sold to offset production costs. The other half is given away to the local volunteers and needy families.



'Z' helping with the cabbage harvest

'Z' is developing into a leader in the local church. He is bold in sharing his faith with those around him and encourages other believers to do likewise. He understands that in addition to sharing food, hope in Christ also needs to be shared. 'Z' and his wife 'B' are genuine Christians. They have counted the costs of following Christ. It is so encouraging to the missionary couple to see locals take ownership in making disciples.



Cabbage opens the door to many needy families. The missionary couple has grown to love the ones they serve who eagerly receive the food that is shared. Still greater are the opportunities to share the gospel.

Project Support. We want to continue to support this missionary couple in Eastern Europe in 2024. As always, the need for project support is great. They need continued funding for projects like:

Potato production – seed and fertilizer

Small greenhouse for a family

Drip irrigation supplies for a family

Laying hens broiler chickens for a family

Honeybee project supplies

Community garden supplies

Sheep project for a family

Milk cow for a family

These 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:

Please help us help others by making your check payable to Louisiana Baptist Foundation and sending it to:

**Louisiana Baptist Ag Missions Fellowship
1312 Ridgeland Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70810**

Indicate on the check the funds are for Ag Missions. All donations are tax deductible and 100% go directly to the mission field.