



NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2024

Louisiana Baptist Agricultural Missions Fellowship

1312 Ridgeland Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70810

Partnership Missions Ministry, Louisiana Baptist Convention

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

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Focal Scripture. *Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread 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

Update from Eastern Europe. Our Fellowship has supported an IMB missionary couple in Eastern Europe for 9 years now and we thank God for the opportunity to assist them as they spread the gospel and help needy people become self-sustaining. That is our mission.

The missionary’s **2024** report was recently received, and it began with his thanks for our partnership. He quoted Phil. 1:5, which says *“because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.”* He said, “so many doors have been opened to us because of agriculture and your support.” To that we can all say – Praise the Lord!

This year, the honeybee project was expanded into Croatia where part of the missionary team serves. Church planting has been underway for 7 or 8 years with a Ukrainian Baptist missionary named Kostya. He learned beekeeping from his father and a couple of years ago, Kostya expressed a desire to use honey production to spread the gospel. He and the team in Croatia are working in 3rd and 4th generation churches in rural areas.



Kostya - a dedicated hard worker.

A couple of years ago, money provided by our Fellowship went towards the purchase of a trailer with frames, which helped expand the honeybee project.



The trailer allows Kostya to move the bee hives to the most favorable locations for high honey production. It also allows him to build relationships with people, meet needs, and share the gospel.

This year, our support also helped fund a greenhouse at the Community Garden. Below, ladies are planting pumpkin and cabbage seeds in the greenhouse. Once plants develop, they are transplanted to the field. Nothing can replace the wonderful one-on-one time workers can have in the greenhouse. Relationships grow and it helps people really participate in the Community Garden.



The photo below shows friends and neighbors coming together to transplant the plants previously started in the greenhouse. Drip irrigation is used to moisten the soil for planting. Immediately after planting, the drip irrigation is turned on again to ensure 100% survival.



Neighbors learn these practices and relationships are built. The fellowship that takes place while 1500 to 2500 transplants are made is invaluable, and God uses it. People are hungry for 'community' and the Community Garden provides a safe place for a sense of belonging to develop and where the gospel can be experienced in a real and tangible way. Once the produce starts coming in, it is shared with everyone who comes to help and with many elderly neighbors and shut-ins in the area. The people are most grateful for the 'homegrown' vegetables and eager to share coffee and conversation.

Twice per year, in late winter and early fall, the people who have shown interest in the gospel and desire to hear more gather at the local evangelical church every week for 6 weeks. Explanations of subjects such as faith, sin,



forgiveness, salvation, prayer, and who Jesus is are provided by a speaker. Then, a hot meal is served and

and discussions take place around tables with a strong believer located at each table. In the photo above, 80% of the people are non-believers, and all attendees have been part of the agriculture projects. Discussions about agriculture seem to naturally lead to gospel conversations.



Pictured above in the background is Dalibor and his wife. Dalibor is the local pastor with whom the missionary we support partners. Their daughter is the one taking the photo. Also pictured are three families of the local church. One of the other men is named Doma. He is from a Muslim background, but his family are now all baptized believers in the local evangelical church. God has transformed Doma's life and is now using him to actively share his faith with others. What a mighty God we serve.



Project Support. The greatest need of our Fellowship is always for additional funds to support IMB agricultural missionaries in sharing the gospel of Jesus.

Please help us help people help themselves by making your check payable to: **Louisiana Baptist Foundation.** Send it to – **1312 Ridgeland Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70810.**

Indicate the funds are for **Ag Missions.** All donations are tax deductible and 100% of your contributions go directly to the mission field.