



NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2025

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 oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him.*
Proverbs 14:31

Focal Thought. *"If you cannot feed a hundred people, then feed just one."*
Mother Teresa

Update from Eastern Europe. The IMB missionary couple our Fellowship has supported for nearly 10 years has left the field and returned to their home here in Louisiana. They served in Bosnia/Herzegovina (BiH) for 17 years, and it is now possible to disclose their names – Richard & Linda Swain. We are so glad God allowed us to connect with them and provide monetary support for the ag missions' projects they have used to help people & spread the gospel in that part of the world.

Even though Richard and Linda are off the mission field, their connections to the work in Eastern Europe remain strong. Two main ag projects that are directly tied to the work our Fellowship helped establish years ago are ongoing with IMB missionaries currently on the field there. In BiH, Aaron and Bethany lead a little Baptist Church plant and in neighboring Croatia, George and Mattie head the work. They are the overall IMB team leaders in that area.

The ag projects in BiH are led by Dalibor who Richard has known since 2008. The Community Garden, which has been discussed in past newsletters, and which is still going strong, was Dalibor's vision even before Richard & Linda moved to BiH.



Dalibor and his wife Vesna

Dalibor is pastor of the local Evangelical Church and will be retiring from working with another humanitarian aid organization at the end of this year. So in January 2026, he will be able to focus full-time on ministry, pastoring, the Community Garden, and ag projects.

Earlier this year, our Fellowship sent \$12,000, thanks to the generous support of our donors, to support ag projects in Eastern Europe. Most of these dollars went to support projects in BiH, which included seed potatoes and fertilizer for potato production, seed and fertilizer packets for the Community Garden, and money to purchase 50 laying hens each for three families.

The following are some comments Dalibor included in this year's progress report. "Thank you for your huge contribution for advancing the Kingdom of God in BiH. Ag projects have helped us establish new contacts with whom we can share the gospel. Our church helps an average of 100 families with various products, mainly potatoes, cabbages, and pumpkins, but also other crops. We especially use them to support the elderly, but we also train the younger generation to use tools, to build, to serve, and to get to know Jesus."



Volunteers in early potato harvest

Dalibor wanted us to meet Gligor, who helps at the Community Garden, and Baka, an elderly widow who lives near the Garden. Gligor has had a rough life, losing his father as an infant, then losing his only sibling, an older brother, in a car accident as a teenager. Gligor made many bad choices, but praise God, he turned to Christ and Dalibor had the privilege of baptizing him.



Baka (left); Gligor (right)

Participants in the ag projects in BiH who want to know more are invited to the local evangelical church for a series of weekly discussions on topics like creation, the fall of man, faith, prayer, and who is Jesus. This is called Alpha Course and usually lasts 6 to 8 weeks. At each gathering, one or two songs are sung and then Dalibor speaks on the topics listed above. Then, a meal is served at separate tables and there is at least one believer at each table to help answer questions and lead discussion. Dalibor says it is a miracle to look at this group and realize that people from Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Muslim backgrounds are present.

Below – a photo of an Alpha Course session



The ag projects in Croatia are led by Kostya and his wife. They are Ukrainian Baptist missionaries who fled that country during the 2014 conflict. Kostya has been featured in previous newsletters because of his work with the honeybee projects. Of the \$12,000 our Fellowship sent to Eastern Europe this year, \$2,500 went to support honeybee projects in Croatia, which included bees, hives, and supplies.

Kostya does much more than work with honeybees. God is using him to reach people with the gospel, and he is having the most impact among the lost through the ag projects. Kostya works in several villages through projects with pigs, chickens, and with barn and equipment repair.

The following are some comments Kostya included in this year's progress report: "I prayed God would give me the opportunity to meet new people and make new friends and open the door to share the gospel with them. The first person I met was a man named Marian. I met him in the local market and found out he was a beekeeper. I told him I loved beekeeping and would love to work with him and learn how to better raise honeybees in Croatia. After several months of regular conversations, Marian came to my house for dinner and then later agreed to go to Bible study. He had so many questions about the Bible, but after a year of studying the Bible together, Marian prayed to receive Christ as his personal Savior."

Marian also introduced Kostya to his friends and helped Kostya join the beekeeping club in the local town. That has provided a good way for Kostya to get to know other men and to be able to talk to them about Christ and have meaningful gospel conversations.



Marian (left) Kostya (right) working with the bees

May all who have supported this Fellowship over the years give thanks to God for how He has used Richard and Linda Swain to establish these gospel outreach opportunities in BiH and Croatia through agricultural mission projects. May we also pray that God will use the new IMB missionaries He has placed there, along with their local co-laborers, to continue to help people help themselves and come to know Jesus as Savior.

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.