

# NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2007

## Louisiana Baptist Agricultural Missions Fellowship

P.O. Box 311, Alexandria, LA 71319, telephone 318-448-3402

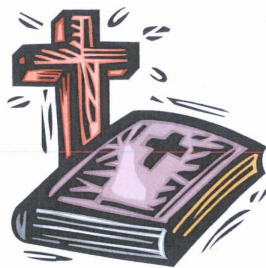
Men's Ministry/Special Ministry, Louisiana Baptist Convention

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**Focal Scripture.** *Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom He promised to those who love him? (James 2:5)*

**The Poor are Becoming Rich in Faith.** Experience has shown that in many instances those who were poor have become a major force in global missions as they have brought forth a new paradigm for holistic ministries and more realistic methods for solving problems. Thus, while *community development* is a process by which communities attempt to meet their physical needs, *kingdom development* is the same process with an eternal focus. Agricultural missionaries do spiritual battle for the hearts of the people because true change occurs best when hearts are surrendered to Christ. Therefore, our Louisiana Fellowship and the agricultural missionaries we support have a passion for souls and a compassion for people in need.

The poor are best defined not by economic measures, but by the attitude of their hearts before God. We must never forget that working to alleviate poverty is a God-approved strategy for reaching the lost because the majority of the poor are lost and the majority of the lost are poor. When we care for the hungry by helping them have food, and we empower them to meet their own physical needs, we are proclaiming that Jesus is indeed the Bread of Life.



**Recent Accomplishments.** Many of the projects our Fellowship has supported, and continues to support, among the impoverished Zapotec Indians of Southern Mexico were mentioned in our July 2007 Newsletter. In addition to the traditional agricultural projects we support we were advised earlier this year by agricultural missionary Kerry Johnson that a native Zapotec man by the name of Arsenio, who has helped with some of our agricultural projects, was losing sight in both eyes at the age of 29. He and his wife and their six children

depended entirely on agriculture for their survival. They lived in a bamboo hut with a dirt floor and no electricity.

Kerry Johnson took Arsenio to an eye surgeon and learned a surgical procedure would likely restore sight. The cost would be \$1,500 per eye but the family had no money and Kerry asked if our Fellowship could help with the cost of surgery on one eye. Your Executive Committee decided not to use funds designated for agricultural projects and asked for special donations. Within 24 hours the entire \$1,500 was raised and the surgery was performed.

Arsenio has now regained much of his vision and can once again provide for his family. He is no longer a timid person but is one possessed of both confidence and humility. Kerry reports he glows with the love of the Lord, and others are now coming to know Christ as result of our projects. A picture of Arsenio is below.



**Project Support.** Examples of projects that individuals can support are as follows:

**Egg incubation facilities for a family = \$125.00**

**Drip irrigation for a family = \$300.00**

**Rabbit project for a family = \$200.00**

**Chicken project for a family = \$200.00**

**Quail project for a family = \$200.00**

**Small greenhouse for a family = \$400.00**

**Goat project for a family = \$300.00**

**Heifer project for a family = \$500.00**

**Water pump and pipe for a village = \$2,000.00**

*Please help us in this effort to help poor people in Southern Mexico help themselves by sending a generous check made out to Louisiana Baptist Foundation, P.O. Box 311, Alexandria, LA 71309. It is critically important to indicate the funds are for the LA Baptist Ag Missions Fellowship. Funds will be used to support agricultural mission projects in Oaxaca, Mexico, or possibly in other areas the executive committee may approve.*