



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2008

Louisiana Baptist Agricultural Missions Fellowship

P.O. Box 120, Homer, LA 71040

Men's Ministry/Special Ministry, Louisiana Baptist Convention

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Special Holiday Edition

Focal Scripture. *Therefore, all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them, for this is the law and the prophets. (Matthew 7:12)*

Why a Special Holiday Edition? As we approach the holiday season when we give and receive gifts we are reminded that many people, especially in Southern Mexico where the work of our Fellowship is focused, have never known the joy of receiving a gift, much less the joy of giving a gift. The poor, the hungry, and the dying cry out to us for help, often from premature graves. They do not ask for enough to make them rich, but only for a little to help them escape their plight. We are warriors in a war against poverty, hunger, disease, and death — a war we can win — a war we should win!

The needs of the truly poor are almost unfathomable to those privileged to live in the U. S., but hundreds of millions — indeed billions of our fellow human beings — are impoverished, hungry, and sick of spirit. Our job is to renew their impoverished spirits and point them toward the Savior in whose name we serve.

Making a Difference. We are not responsible for meeting every need of the poor, but we are responsibility for meeting needs that are within our power to provide. Indeed, God calls us to join Him in helping the helpless, and we repay Him for our blessings when we provide assistance to those who are poor and without hope. We are keenly aware that a hand out provides only a temporary benefit and often makes people dependent on more assistance. Our Fellowship believes in and practices a hand up — because it promotes independence and instills optimism.

By working together we can bring joy where there is no joy, we can bring hope where there is no hope, and we can bring life instead of a premature death and an early grave. When we help the helpless we honor and glorify God, which is our greatest single responsibility in this life. Our reward will come when we stand before the judgment bar and hear our Lord say “*Well done thou good and faithful servant.*” Matthew 25:21a)

Dreaming of Things That Never Were. Poor people, especially children, do not know how to dream of a better life for all they have ever known has been wrenching and excruciating poverty that destroys the

human spirit. Many of the poor are very young and are silent in their poverty, but their present circumstance need not remain for we can help them experience a better life. When helping the poor we must build up their dignity because if we are not careful they will come to think they are impoverished because they are imperfect, which strikes at their pride and self worth.

The Solution to the Problem. The fate of many poor families in Southern Mexico rests in our hands. Helping the poor is not only a responsibility; it is also a privilege, for we love best when we help those who are unable to help themselves. Paul said in Philippians 4:13 “*I can do all things through Christ, which strengtheneth me.*” We must not shrink from our responsibility to help the poor — both physically and eternally.

A New Paradigm for Giving. Some families are now giving the gift that keeps on giving by contributing to specific self-help projects through our Fellowship rather than give gifts for birthdays and Christmas. In so doing, they become a hero to people they will never meet in this life....**but God is watching and He knows.**

NEED AN AG MISSIONS SPEAKER?

South Louisiana: Contact Dr. Ken Tipton, 225-766-8286; E-mail = barkentip@aol.com

North Louisiana: Contact Dr. Nelson Philpot, 318-927-2388; E-mail = wnp@homerla.com

Project Support. Examples of projects individuals, classes, or churches can support are as follows:

Egg incubation facilities for a family = \$125.00

Rabbit project for a family = \$200.00

Chicken project for a family = \$200.00

Quail project for a family = \$200.00

Goat project for a family = \$300.00

Drip irrigation for a family = \$300.00

Heifer project for a family = \$500.00

Small greenhouse for a family = \$600.00

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

Please help us help poor people in Southern Mexico help themselves by sending a check made out to the Louisiana Baptist Foundation and mail to P.O. Box 120, Homer, LA 71040. Indicate the funds are for Ag Missions. Funds will be used to support agricultural mission projects in Oaxaca, Mexico, or possibly in other areas of the world the executive committee may approve.