



# NEWSLETTER

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Louisiana Baptist Agricultural Missions Fellowship

P.O. Box 120, Homer, LA 71040

Partnership Missions Ministry, Louisiana Baptist Convention

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**Focal Scripture.** *He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap.* (Psalm 113:7 NIV)

**Focal Thought.** God comes in where helplessness begins. —*Oswald Chambers (1894-1917)*

**Report on the Eden Agricultural Project We Are Supporting in Thailand.** The objectives of this work are:

- Promote organic agriculture for support of ministry.
- Increase the number of discipleship members.
- Teach and equip disciples in the local area.
- Create sustainable income.

The work is ongoing on several project, but progress to date has been encouraging. Below are examples of two fields that were prepared for planting grass. Both fields had previously been in rice patties.



Last year, heavy rains flooded the area resulting in total destruction of crops. No funds were available with which to restart the work. Your Fellowship's modest contributions have helped rejuvenate the area for agricultural activities. The two pictures in the column to

the right show two of three fields planted to grass for livestock production. The fields will be fenced with wire and concrete posts. Some wooden posts will also be used that will be cut from trees on the small farm where the Eden Project is located. The first picture shows the method used to harvest grass. This method is labor intensive but the cost of purchasing and using equipment is cost prohibitive.



Another project involves the growing, milling, and processing of rice as shown in the two pictures below.





The small rice mill is now operational. They also have the capability of vacuum packing the processed rice. Not only do they process their own rice, but they also offer milling services to several nearby villages from which they receive a small portion of the milled rice, plus rice bran and husks as payment for milling. Processed rice is sold locally to raise additional funds with which to support the farm and assist with ministry and discipleship activities.

Yet another project your funds are helping support is fish farming in which catfish, tilapia, shrimp, and eels are being raised in blue netting cages as shown in the picture at the bottom of right hand column. They had originally planned to raise the fish in concrete rings, but those were not available. The blue netting cages are located in a rice patty.

**Spiritual Impact of the Eden Project.** These projects are overseen by a believer named Wirak and his wife. They go out of their village regularly on prayer walks seeking persons of peace with whom they can develop relationships and share the Good News of Jesus Christ. They have started a new discipleship group in their immediate village. In addition, they minister in other areas that are near the Eden Farm Project. For example, they have served as Church multiplication trainers at six different, two-day training events in recent months.

The Thai people are kind and humble. Most of them are professing Buddhists, which means the fields are white unto harvest for souls in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Please pray for success of the Eden Project and that the local believers will be successful in leading others to a saving knowledge of Jesus.

**Christmas and the New Year are Approaching.** As you make plans for Christmas and year-end giving, please give prayerful consideration to making a contribution to support self-help agricultural projects. The needs all over the world are great. Not only do your contributions enable us to support a wide range of self-help projects, those same projects open the door to opportunities to share Jesus with persons of peace. The new believers then become your brothers and sisters in the faith. One day you will have the opportunity to meet them in heaven and spend eternity with them worshipping and glorifying the God of the universe and His Son, Jesus the Christ.

The goal of your Fellowship is never to provide a handout because experience has shown that those do not result in lasting solutions to the poverty, hunger, and all too often death that are the constant companions of the needy. What we provide is a hand up.

**Project Support.** *The greatest need of your Fellowship is always for additional funds with which to help the poor help themselves.* Following 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:

**Egg incubation facilities for a family or village.**

**Rabbit project for a family.**

**Chicken project for a family.**

**Goat project for a family.**

**Sheep project for a family.**

**Dairy heifer project for a family.**

**Vegetable garden project for a family.**

**Drip irrigation for a family.**

**Small greenhouse for a family.**

**Water filters to provide pure water to families.**

*Please help us help those in desperate need to help themselves by making your check payable to Louisiana Baptist Foundation and sending it to P.O. Box 120, Homer, LA 71040. Indicate the funds are for Ag Missions. All donations are tax deductible and 100% of your contributions go directly to the mission field because the Executive Committee pays all expenses for operating the Fellowship.*

