



# 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.** *As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God (Psalm 42:1-2 NIV)*

**Focal Thought.** We are not really human beings having a spiritual experience, rather, we are spiritual beings having a human experience. — Author unknown.

**Report on Projects Among the Zapotec Indians of Southern Mexico.** Your Fellowship has sponsored a wide variety of agricultural projects in Southern Mexico for upwards of 20 years. Those projects have made a tremendous difference among the Zapotec Indians with whom our missionaries have worked. People have been empowered to help themselves, new churches have been established, and people have come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Evidence of the benefits of some of the projects we have sponsored can be seen in the pictures that follow.



Chickens provide eggs, meat, much needed income, and baby chickens by incubating eggs in an inexpensive incubator previously funded by your Fellowship. All of the various chicken projects we have helped sponsor have been very successful at helping people become self sufficient in terms of food production, while at the same time improving their health and standard of living.

Another of the more successful projects we have helped sponsor has been the growing of tomatoes in a greenhouse located at an agricultural center or demonstration farm that hosts thousands of people per year where they learn improved agricultural production methods. This project was so successful that it became necessary to reinforce the metal beams to which the tomato vines were attached. Other projects at this location include rabbits, pigs, and vegetable gardens.



A registered ram, known as Big Daddy, which we provided, sired all of the lambs shown below. Again, this project helped provide meat, milk, wool, and income that was of great assistance to those benefited by our support.



Tilapia and trout production have also been successful and have helped provide variety in the diets of people who for generations have depended on corn as the staple of their diet.



Many readers may have difficulty believing that grasshoppers are not only food for fish, but they are also a delicacy for the people, especially when roasted. Yes, our contributions have contributed to the growing of these lowly biblical creatures.



We have also helped provide water wells where a source of pure water was difficult to obtain, and gravity-fed sprinkler irrigation systems for home gardens. Pig production has helped provide both excellent food and income. Provision of clay ovens for cooking tortillas has been of tremendous value to people in areas damaged by earthquakes. Moreover, brick production has been enhanced in areas where the soil is suitable for this use.

Finally, let's look at some of the human benefits of our sponsorship. One of the goals of our missionaries is to come alongside the local leaders, and once they are successful, the missionaries move on to new locations. Here, we see Pastor Gaspar, who has been described as an "animal for Christ" because of his zeal for the gospel. On one occasion he was attacked by drunken men with machetes. Gaspar suffered several severe slashes but nothing can deter him from his work for the Lord. Shown with Gaspar below are Estela and Julio who represent the next generation of workers sharing the gospel.



Another prime example of the benefits of the work we have sponsored is Abraham, Maria Luisa, and their son Matias. They are busy constantly sharing the gospel and have become an amazing force for Christ in the region.



The man in the striped shirt below is Edigio. He used to be a personal body guard to the president of Costa Rica before God messed him up in a great way. He came to the agricultural center to learn more about how to grow food for the orphanage he now runs in Central America.



The caption for the picture below is "you have loved me, now I teach others to love others." This is what our Fellowship is all about — loving others.



**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 that 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.*