

AGRICULTURAL EVANGELISM

"Blessed is he that considereth the poor"



2005 Year in Review • March 2006

Bangladesh • Guatemala • Haiti • India • Moldova • Nepal • Niger • Philippines • Rwanda • Senegal • Thailand • Vietnam

Peace in the Storm

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. —Romans 15:13

It was certainly a trying time throughout many parts of the world this past year, which included our own challenges here in the United States. As children of God, however, we know that God will work all things together for good, though during a disaster it may seem otherwise.

The verse quoted from Romans is a tremendous comfort to all those who are in Christ, because we trust, we move forward in this world with confidence, joy, and peace. We



Grieving victims of Hurricane Katrina

therefore continue to proclaim the gospel around the world so that others can have this same peace through the power of the Holy Spirit.

It has been almost one year now since a devastating earthquake struck off the coast of Sumatra deep in the Indian Ocean. That earthquake created a Tsunami that killed

an estimated 275,000 people and did billions of dollars of damage.

Here at home we saw the most active hurricane season ever recorded. An entire city with a population of 1.2 million people was flooded and evacu-

ated. Hurricane Katrina was bad enough by herself; yet, it was preceded and followed by other destructive storms hitting the gulf coast.

Then in the Pakistani area of Kashmir there was another tremendous earthquake, leveling remote

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2005 Year in Review

2005 was a productive year for FARMS International. We continue to see the blessing of God on this ministry both here in the United States, and around the world. Following are some brief highlights from the year.

• **The first major undertaking of the year, originated from our supporters who wanted to help the Tsunami victims.** We were so thankful for the outpouring of prayers and

support that allowed FARMS to take part in this relief effort. Although we are not a relief organization, we were able to quickly help through our network of loan committees. Sri Lanka was devastated and our partners were already on the ground and helping as able. Due to the generous support of our FARMS family from around the United States, \$10,000 dollars was sent almost instantaneously to our friends on the front lines. We were uniquely positioned to help out in this disaster, and the reports from the committee continue to come in. It will take years to recover from this disaster and your prayers for this area are still vital. We will continue to update you on progress as reports come in.

• **Moldova was our first program launched in Eastern Europe.** The area FARMS is cur-



You can tell by their faces, the Ribca family loves their new poultry project. Pray that they succeed and grow the business as God blesses their faithfulness in Moldova.

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(Peace in the Storm – continued)



Earthquake in Kashmir, Pakistan

villages. Many areas are still digging out and are in need of massive aid just for survival. It has been one of the most trying times in recent memory from a natural

disaster front.

Over the past few weeks I have had some wonderful opportunities to meet with missionaries and pastors from areas affected by some of these disasters. I have also had the chance to meet with some of our leaders from various FARMS committees.

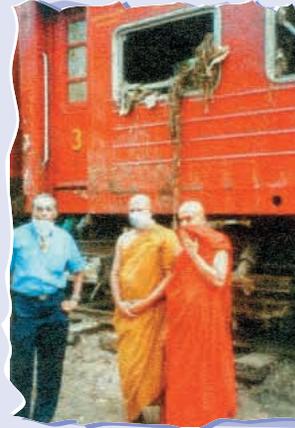
As I began to reflect on some of the meetings two things struck me. First, was that the people working to help in the areas that were affected by the disasters were

not filled with fear at all. Rather, they showed tremendous peace, joy, and confidence. This kind of confidence can only be found through Christ.

Second, was a majority of the contacts and conversations I had were with missionaries and pastors that were not from the "West", but rather they were from developing countries! Given the philosophy FARMS has of "Doing good that is good!", it was encouraging to see that churches in developing countries are supporting and sending their own pastors and missionaries. This is why we strive to strengthen the local church.

Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world.

—Nathan McLaughlin



This train in Sri Lanka was swept off its tracks during the tsunami. Over 1,700 passengers lost their lives. Tamara Mendis, wife of Pastor Eardley Mendis of Hyde Park, Chicago was among the victims. Photo sent by relief team.



(2005 Year in Review – continued)



rently working is one of the poorest places in all of Europe. There has been a great amount of thanks expressed from those who are receiving the first round of loans. Continue to pray for the success of this exciting new program, and watch our web site



The Zdrobau family is very thankful for the loan to do a pig-gery. They report, "We already purchased two male pigs and one female. In a year we will slaughter the males and in eight months we will breed the female and in four months she will bear her first litter of six to seven piglets. Subsequent litters should reach up to twelve piglets."

and future newsletters for updates.

• **Senegal was our first program launched on the continent of Africa.** I had the opportunity to meet with the head of the Senegal program, and his reports were very encouraging. Senegal is located on the North West side of Africa and the Christians in this country make up less than one percent of the total population.



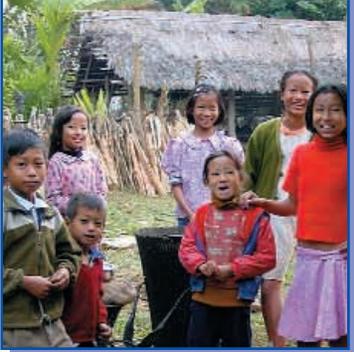
• **Nagaland, India became the site of our second program on the subcontinent.** Nagaland is in the northeastern corner of India, bordering Myan-



Christian Families Helping Hands committee, Nagaland

mar, Assam, and Manipur. It is an area with a maturing Christian Church and the program will help them further the cause of Christ in many ways, including breaking the cycle of poverty.

Cross-cultural missions is a burning vision for the church. FARMS will help make a strong church base for this. Truly, this is "Doing good that is good."



Naga children

We appreciate so much the opportunity many of our supporters have given to us to speak at their churches, Sunday schools, and mission conventions this past year. It is because of your prayers and your partnership we are able to continue helping the Body of Christ around the world. We look forward to an opportunity to meet with you in 2006. Thank You!

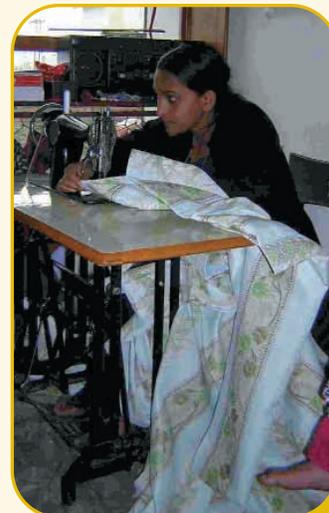
—Nathan McLaughlin



Nagas at prayer during day of prayer and fasting



*Plastic recycling project
Pangasinan, Philippines*



Tailor work, Nepal



*Van rickshaw project,
Bangladesh*



Hand irrigation, Vietnam

Real Estate Gifting

THE GIFTING OF REAL ESTATE is an excellent way to support the ministry of FARMS. Some of our supporters have used this financial planning tool to great advantage. Making a gift of real estate to FARMS International, Inc. will:

1. Reduce the value of your estate and possibly save or eliminate costly estate taxes.
2. Entitle you to a significant **current** tax deduction. Generally, someone that has held a property for more than one year has a deduction equal to the full fair market value of the donated property. In addition, the donor can avoid capital gains tax on the appreciated portion of the property that would have been taxable if the property was sold.
3. Eliminate possible probate delays and court fees. Real estate (i.e. home, land, cabin, etc.) can be sold immediately or after passing. Why not contribute this property now and leave a mission legacy for years to come?
4. Take satisfaction and pleasure in knowing it will be used for God's purposes. It makes for a wonderful gift while you can still receive thanks and recognition.

You will still have all the rights and responsibilities for using, taking care of, and paying the taxes on the real estate while you are alive. In addition, you can even receive any income it may generate for as long as you like.

If you have questions about Real Estate Gifting, or wish to discuss any of the planned giving options that support FARMS INTERNATIONAL, please contact the office of Nathan McLaughlin by calling

866-819-5295, or email: nathan@hcctel.net



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 that is good!*

*“May the God of hope fill you
 with all joy and peace...”*



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