

# AGRICULTURAL EVANGELISM

“Blessed is he that considereth the poor”



Philippines-Pangasinan & New Program Updates- September 2005

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

## New Program Update: Pangasinan, Philippines

**F**ARMS has served the Christian community in the Philippines for decades. The first FARMS program was started by Joe and Pat Richter in the mountains of northern Luzon. It demonstrated the impact loans for income generating projects can have when biblical faithfulness and stewardship is practiced. Numerous Igorot families were lifted out of poverty using their own talents and ingenuity. This FARMS program also helped spread the Gospel and facilitated in the establishment of several churches in the region through the tithing of project holders.

The success of this first program led to the start of three other programs in the Philippines. Our third

was in the province of Pangasinan. This program is an exciting one for us in a number of ways. It was our first program to be implemented by some of our Philippine program partners. We were so

pleased to see these Filipino leaders travel to Pangasinan to do the training and share the trials and success-



es they had experienced in their own programs. We feel strongly that this indigenous partnership between programs in the Philippines will be a great benefit to all involved.

This program had its start through the interest of **Jesus Is Lord Fellowship** in Tom's River, NJ. Over half of this congregation is ethnic Filipino. They had a sincere desire to help their countrymen. Their seed support and your contributions to the **Judith Duncan Memorial Fund** were combined to initiate this loan program.

We were delighted to have one of our trustees, Gary Wiebe, visit this program recently. Gary and his wife Nancy were visiting their daughter, Charity, who teaches in Manila and graciously spent part of their vacation visiting our program. Following is a brief report of their visit.

—Nathan McLaughlin

Our first stop was with Pastor Raul who has a plastic recycling

project with FARMS. In his small lot, there were bags and piles of all kinds of plastic. Young men were carrying 50 pound bags of shredded plastics on their heads and loading them onto a truck bound for Manila. Pastor Raul showed us how the plastic shredding machine worked, and told us that he paid 12 pesos a kilogram for the raw plastics before processing, then processed it and sold it for 20 pesos per kilo in Manila. In addition to income generated for his family, the project provided jobs for several employees.



Plastic recycling project: Pastor Raul

We also visited Brother Recindo and his wife who bought a bull for 16,500 pesos last February. They will feed the bull a diet of grass and rice straw over the coming months. They intended to sell it in 18 months, when it weighs about 500 kilograms, for 25,000 pesos. We also had the chance to visit numerous other FARMS's animal and agricultural projects that included rice pro-

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**Chicken project**

duction, chickens, pigs, goats, and cattle. All of these projects showed great potential.

We then visited with Ida who has a very successful bridal shop. She rented wedding gowns and other attire, and also produced tailor made clothes. Ida also ran a “sari - sari” store, which is small-scale convenience store stocked with water, candies, shampoo, laundry soap, cakes, beverages, food, and other necessities. From there we visited a motorized tricycle taxi project.

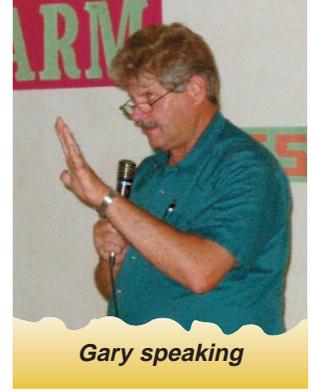
Our hosts also put on an event that brought together all the project holders and the loan committee. I, Gary, was presented with a nice certificate of appreciation that thanked FARMS for our prayers and support. I then had an opportunity to encourage them by expressing the uniqueness of this program and the promise I saw in all of their projects. I encouraged them to continue working hard and to keep “Doing good that is good™.” Our visit to the FARMS projects in Pangasinan was the highlight of our time in the Philippines.

—Gary and Charity Wiebe



**Ida's wedding gown shop was a very successful project.**

We appreciate Gary, Nancy, and Charity taking time to visit this new program and for bringing back such wonderful pictures and reports. We hope that you will continue to pray for this special program and the many other programs of FARMS.



**Gary speaking**

## Meet the FARMS Board: Trustee Gary Wiebe

I worked with FARMS in the jungle areas of Bolivia while I was with the Mennonite mission and the Summer Institute of Linguistics in 1968-1973. The style of development work was different then, but still had the principle of self-help for the poor as its emphasis.

Five years ago we sent a gift to FARMS, which resulted in Joe and Pat Richter contacting us and making a personal visit. I was asked if I would consider serving on the board, and I said I would pray about it. We decided after much prayer that it was a way that we could personally serve FARMS. I have served now for three years. My wife Nancy, our daughter Charity and I just returned from visiting a FARMS program in the Philippines. We look forward to more opportunities to visit other programs in the future.

Currently I am the manager of a lawn and garden equipment business in Belvidere, Illinois. Nancy, my wife, is a media specialist in a public school. Also, I am the chairman of our church and have been very active there for many years.

We have four children. Marcy teaches high school math. Charity is a music teacher at the International School of Manila, Philippines. Darryn is married and works as engineer; and is the father of our first grandchild. Kelvin has completed aviation mechanics and plans to work on the mission field.



**Gary, Nancy and Charity Wiebe with believers in Pangasinan, Philippines**

## FARMS launches new programs in Moldova and Senegal!

It is always an exciting time for us at FARMS when we start new programs. Each program has its own unique features and potential. In our July "Special Edition", we highlighted the process we use to arrive at the point where the loan process begins. It is a careful process, but is well worth the effort when completed.

It is an especially exciting time for us because we are reaching into new areas of the world. Our Senegal program is our first operational program in Africa. This program was made possible by our partnership with Dale Van Steenis of *Leadership Strategies*, and Christian Life Center of Tinley Park, Illinois. The committee in Senegal has put in a lot of hard work and has shown true ownership of their program.

Our Moldova program is our first in Europe and was made possible by partnerships with the Getsch Family Foundation, Gospel Ministries International, New London Presbyterian Church, and numerous FARMS supporters who prayed and also financially supported this program. This program is located in the region of Transnistria, a very needy and neglected area of Moldova. The churches there are thrilled to be part of this ministry. We look forward to great things as the church is empowered to evangelize and help its neighbors.

Look for updates on these new programs and please pray with us as the first loans are made.

—Nathan McLaughlin



**Moldova Committee**



Mike and Carrie McDonnell gave a generous gift to FARMS International in honor of their 175 wedding guests. They were married at Grace United Methodist Church in Coshocton, Ohio.

Mike and Carrie met in 2000 in Kenya on a study abroad program. They kept in touch throughout the next 2 years and then when they moved to Driggs, Idaho began dating.

Carrie wrote: "Our faith in God and in our relationship seemed to finally bring us together. We've certainly enjoyed married life so far and believe it is just the beginning of a long, happy life together."

Our prayers and congratulations go out to Mike and Carrie.



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**July Special Edition Newsletter**

We have our July Special Edition Newsletter available for churches, family, and friends. Please let us know if you need extras and we are happy to send them.



**Memorial & Honor Gifts**

Gifts in Honor of:	Given By:
Wedding Guests June 18, 2005 (See article)	Mike and Carrie McDonnell
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