



Doing Good That Is Good

The newsletter of FARMS International

April 2017 FARMS Creating Opportunity and Jobs in Cuba!

Providing revolving entrepreneurial loans to poor Christian families - Galatians 6:10

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Cuba!

God is doing wonderful things in Cuba through the ministry of FARMS International. This report will share a few of the stories that Bill Wingenroth brought back from his March 2017 trip to Cuba. Bill has been traveling to Cuba for almost 12 years with Provisions Bible Ministries, which trains church workers for the ministry through teaching seminars. He is also on our board of trustees and was instrumental in inviting us to consider working in Cuba. We are so thankful for his hard work and determination to see the gospel spread in this needy land.



Bill Wingenroth & Committee Pres. Michel

FARMS International began working in Cuba in 2012. What we have seen, even though there is a new freedom to create businesses and enlarge agricultural endeavors, **there is no capital available for the average Cuban.** If you are a resident of Cuba, your most likely source of capital to help start a business would be from a generous relative living in the USA. Otherwise, you are on your own! This is why FARMS is seen as a Godsend by those we work with. *Joe Richter*

Tourism is booming in Cuba. Now with regular flights from the USA, anyone can travel to this island nation. The demand for souvenirs **“Made in Cuba”** is a surprise blessing to one our projects!

Pastor Narlissus, is a skilled carpenter, and the FARMS Cuba committee helped him with a \$3,500 loan for tools and for improvements to his carpentry shop. Because of the demand for his work in building furniture and other items **he was able to hire three other full time workers and plans to hire two more in the coming months!** Hurricane Mathew hit the east end of Cuba, where his church and home is located, but even though he suffered a lot of damage, he has pressed on. The tithes of his employees have greatly blessed the church, enabling them rebuild their damaged church and even expand it. He also shared with me, that the project has greatly increased their family income enabling him to buy

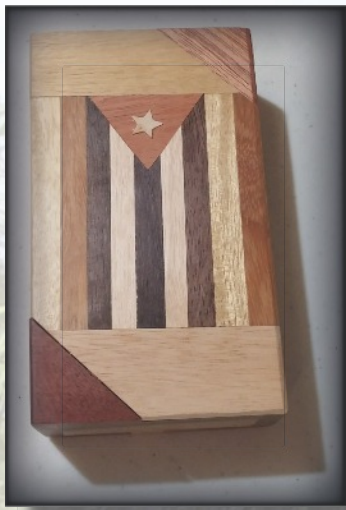


Pastor Narlissus and his wife Eny

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his wife Eny, a “much needed” wash machine.

When approached by a buyer about making souvenirs for the influx of tourists, Pastor Narlisus chose to make jewelry boxes with a “secret” way to open. These beautiful wood boxes were a tremendous success. **In the past two months he was able to make and sell 1000 boxes at \$1.00 each with a demand for many more.** To put this in perspective, the average wage in Cuba is less than \$30 a month!

Though they have serious problems getting supplies for the business they push on. Through all these setbacks they have praised God for the loan and continue to make their loan payments back to the loan committee. They told me that the loan from FARMS International

program is the reason they have been successful. *Bill Wingenroth*

Bici-taxi

Transportation is in big demand in Cuba. Very few can afford to own a motorcycle, let alone a car. Therefore, you see a lot of human powered transportation, especially in rural areas.

A **Bici-taxi** is a very popular mode of transportation. Pastor Mario was able to receive a loan of \$450 from the FARMS committee to buy a used bici-taxi. I was able to visit the pastor and heard that the pastor’s twenty year old son, Josbani, is the operator of the taxi. Mario related what the loan meant to his family. He said it was a “*huge blessing.*” His son now has a full time job and the taxi has created enough income to provide for their entire family of eight! Also, Mario and his wife have a son that is special needs, and the added income made it possible to improve a room where their son sleeps.

All of their income from the project is tithed to their rapidly growing church. In addition, about nine months ago they were led to plant another church that now has thirty members. Pastor Mario related that this project has allowed him to spend full time doing church ministry with the two churches. They use the bici-taxi to travel the 7 miles between their churches. Also, this taxi is used to take the elderly and disabled to the doctor and to church free of charge. Loan payments are made every 2 months. He again repeated, “*How huge a blessing this loan has been for him and the church.*” He could not stop praising FARMS International for the work we are doing in Cuba.



Pastor Mario in front of his church



Pastor Mario's family

Bill Wingenroth

Electrical appliance repair and vehicle flasher manufacture and repair

Mr. Rondo and his wife live near Camaguey in Cuba. Although Mr. Rondo was trained as an electrician and as an appliance repairman, he could not find work because he had no tools or a place to work. It took just a small loan of \$100 to enable him to buy some tools and to build a small shop behind his home.

When I asked him what the loan meant to him, his wife Helen and their two year daughter Angela, this was his answer. ***“The loan has been a prayer answered by God as a way to support my family. With my loan I started repairing small appliances in 2015 and because the business grew, I was able to employ my own father who had no job!”***



One part of the business that has really grown, is the repair and manufacture of “flashers.” These are like a blinking tail light and by law all vehicles need to have them to operate on the roads at night. His father helps him with this part of the business. Mr. Rondo also has expanded his



Mr. Rondo's small shop

business to do home wiring and trouble shooting. He is now, so busy that he says he will have to hire more help in the future.

He said, ***“The Lord has enabled me to provide for my family as well as giving my father work. I have been able to pay back my loan in one year while tithing to my church. I am thanking God that FARMS International has a program such as this to help church members such as me start their own businesses.”*** *Bill Wingenroth*

Memorial Gifts

In Memory	Given By
Scott Kaitlyn & Zack Blom	Joe & Pat Richter
Forrest & Carolyn Felix	Brian & Kathy Felix
Laura S Harrison	Raymond Harrison Jr.
Gareth Miller	Raymond Harrison Jr.
	Mary Sue McDonald
Pastor Jeff Sorvik	Joe & Pat Richter

Honor Gifts

In Honor	Given By
Richard Barnett	Michael Chiappinelli
Jeff & Peggy Boshart	Don & Carolyn Fitzkee
Gary & Nancy Wiebe	Stewart & Charity Merkel



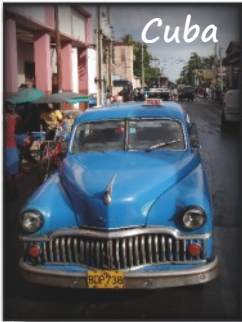
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That Is Good!*



Great Opportunity!

Our Moldova program has asked us to provide loan funds for a mobile well drilling rig. This rig will fill a great need for water wells, especially for the new greenhouse projects. It will be owned and operated by a brother in the south of Moldova.

If you want to be part of this project, you can designate your donation. The cost for the rig, training and transportation from the Ukraine is about \$8,000 US. It is estimated that the loan will take only a year to repay because of the demand for wells.



Donated greenhouses are going up fast in Moldova as spring approaches

Consider donating *frequent flier miles* to FARMS ✈

Spread the word!

- Invite your friends to a *FARMS Coffee* to introduce them to the ministry. We will send the materials.
- Connect with us on [FB](#) and our blog  <http://farmsinternational.blogspot.com/>
- Sign up for our e-newsletter and updates on our website www.farmsinternational.com

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