



FARMS International, Inc.
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*Doing good
that is good!*

PLEASE REFER FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND CHURCH MEMBERS TO THE FARMS INTERNATIONAL WEB SITE

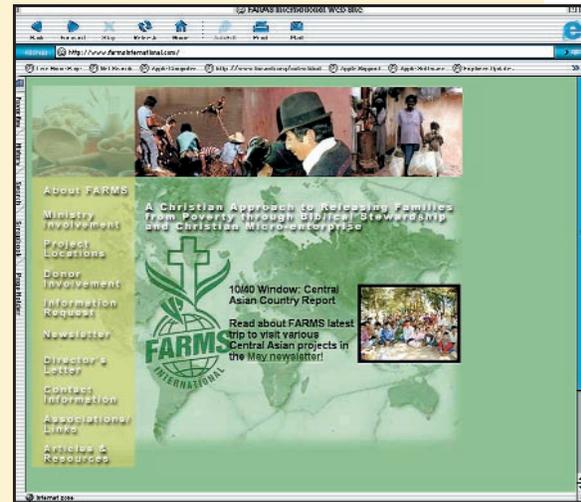
www.farmsinternational.com

FARMS International has grown significantly over the past few years. Just keeping up with all of the new countries, programs, and partnerships FARMS has entered into can be a challenging task. I know when I am speaking to people not familiar with the ministry and focus of FARMS it is helpful to refer them to our website, www.farmsinternational.com. This is also a great way for you to share the ministry of FARMS with others.

Some of the features on our site include: updates on the progress of each of our country program, the capability to download the latest and past newsletters, information on financial planning and planned giving, a feature to receive a free quote and information on our charitable gift annuities (CGA's), and an information request page where you can ask for our DVD and other materials. In addition, you also have the option to make a safe and secure donation or to join our **Monthly Partner Program**.

Please stop by and "BOOK-MARK" the FARMS site if you have not already. It is updated regularly so you will never be disappointed when you visit. Again, if I can be of any assistance with your questions on financial planning or planned giving please do not hesitate to call me toll free at 866-819-5295.

Nathan McLaughlin



Moving or a change of address?

Please send us your new address. If you want to be removed from our mailing list, please let us know.



A higher standard.
A higher purpose.

AERD Members
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220 I Street N.E. • Suite 270
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FARMS is able to accept credit card donations on our web site or by telephone. We trust this new service is of help to you.



AGRICULTURAL EVANGELISM

"Blessed is he that considereth the poor"



Nagaland, India trip report • July 2004

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings in the precious name of Jesus!

Pat and I just recently returned from a visit to Nagaland, India and Bangladesh. What we saw, heard, and experienced is difficult to adequately express. Being thrust into the lives of the poor always provokes emotions from joy to sadness. I often say as I teach about the poor, that confronting poverty will always elicit a response.



Even though we have lived with the poor and have visited impoverished areas of the world many times, we are still deeply impacted. Poverty is cruel; it truly is the enemy's signature.

How wonderful it is that Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil and how wonderful it is for all of us to be part of His redemptive plan.

"...For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil."

1John 3:8

Nagaland lies in the far NE of India. It was there in

1944, in the course of the battle of Kohima, that Naga, American and British troops stopped Japan's advance on India during WWII. In the memorial cemetery in Kohima there is a famous and sobering quote from a fallen soldier: *"When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow we gave our today."*

The Naga people consist of sixteen colorful and courageous tribes. It was my privilege to visit



Naga children

Nagaland for the first time in 1992.

Before that, Pat and I had prayed for Nagaland for over 20 years, so it was a dream come

true to make that first visit. The cultural and ethnic similarities between the Nagas and the Igorot tribes of the Northern Philippines, whom we had served as missionaries, are simply overwhelming. Because of our long-standing interest, we were thrilled for this opportunity to visit Nagaland together.



Naga children on their way to gather firewood

COMING THIS FALL FARMS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Your help is needed!

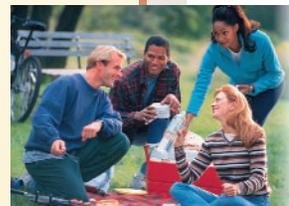
FARMS has a desire to respond to our many opportunities to help poor Christians around the world. In order to do this we simply need to increase our base of support. Therefore, this fall, FARMS will launch an Annual Membership Drive. This will be a concerted effort when current supporters may invite friends, co-workers, pastors, and church members to learn about FARMS unique ministry around the world.

The packet sent out to them will be a tasteful informational packet about FARMS. As always, there will be no "hard sell". We only want partners who agree and understand our philosophy about missions. This information packet will reflect a positive message of why each of you have given your prayer, time, and support to the ministry of FARMS International.

So, start thinking about people you would like to share the ministry of FARMS with and look for more information this fall.

Important Note! You can begin helping FARMS grow by sharing your extra copy of this newsletter with a mission minded friend or group. This will greatly help us meet the needs and challenges before us.

God bless you!





Joe receiving an honorary "dal" from village elder. We were the first foreigners ever to visit this Ziliangron village.

Nagaland was annexed and militarily occupied by India soon after India gained independence from Britain. As a result, independence from India has been the Naga's heart's cry for over half a century. Furthermore, until a recent ceasefire, Nagaland has had an active underground resistance movement. Tragically, many lives have been lost on both sides. Tensions still run high, but the hope of an independent Nagaland have dimmed. Because of this,



Mego (left) and Joe spoke at Ziliangron day of fasting and prayer



Naga church choir

travel to this troubled state still requires special security clearances and permits. Pat and I are part of a new church plant in Duluth, Minnesota, and our pastor is from Nagaland! His immediate family in Nagaland, graciously secured our travel documents and arranged our itinerary.

It was very special for us to be able to coordinate our visit with our pastor, Mego, his wife and two girls who were visiting family in Nagaland.

Mego's family has a distinguished history in Nagaland. In fact, Mego's grandfather was one of the first of his tribe to become a Christian through the work of Baptist missionaries. He later became the first Naga medical doctor. His accomplishments were a true inspiration to all the Naga tribes. Sadly, his life ended in martyrdom at the hands of Indian troops in Kohima. In addition, Mego's father, after his conversion to Christianity, lived a life of



Nagas at prayer during day of prayer and fasting

The Nagas have embraced Christianity in overwhelming numbers. Some estimates put the percentage of believers at 80% of the population.

Christian philanthropy. Many Christian ministries in Nagaland owe their start to his generosity. Therefore, it was an awesome privilege to stay and fellowship with Mego's family while we were in Nagaland.

The Nagas have embraced Christianity in overwhelming numbers. Some estimates put the percentage of believers at 80% of the population. Several revivals have swept through Nagaland and nearly every village has a church. Christianity is very intertwined with the culture and even Naga political life.

We were in Nagaland to explore the possibility of starting a FARMS micro-loan program. Only recently have believers taken the challenge to look beyond their own borders as mission opportunities. Because Nagaland is located strategically in one of the least evangelized areas of the world, many Nagas are sensing God's plan for them to reach the unreached in their corner of the world. Churches are now sending missionaries into several



Lady on left, her husband is on right and parents with Pat, is a Naga missionary to an unreached people group in neighboring Assam

adjoining countries and beyond. Because of this, we feel that a FARMS loan program and the increased tithing that results, will help enable effective support of evangelism, even across borders!

The Ziliangron tribe was recommended as the most neglected and disadvantaged. This tribe, because of its remoteness, has had few opportunities for economic advancement. In fact, many of them

have relocated to better their livelihood. For years, security concerns have restricted travel of foreigners to any outlying villages. So, we felt very honored to be able to visit three Ziliangron villages. In fact, we were the first foreigners ever to step foot in these particular villages! What a welcome! We spoke to

over 2,000 people during our visit! There was an eager sincerity in every place to hear God's word.



Naga congregation in Ziliangron village



Naga dance group performed a special presentation in honor of our visit



Naga toy car

The response was overwhelming. We were able to visit many families and even though they were very poor, they showed their gratitude and love in many tangible ways. Our time went all too fast. We felt so much at home, and we eagerly look forward to a return visit. The outlook and potential for a FARMS program is very good. The consensus is that our self-help loan program will impact many families and churches in a significant measure.

A FARMS loan committee, named CHRISTIAN FAMILIES HELPING HANDS, is formed and trained. They recently submitted their program policy statement. Therefore, we



Christian Families Helping Hands committee, Nagaland

are eager to start this program as funds become available. **If you or your church is interested in helping sponsor this exciting new program, please let us know. Start up cost is estimated to be around \$9,000.**

Joe Richter

Joseph S. Richter
Executive Director

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of:	From:
Douglas and Donald Beaudette	Gail Y. Christensen
Bruce Gray	Joanne Ryan
Bertil Holm	Sally Button
	Fredrick and Judy Geyer
	Robert and Janice Goddard
	Joe and Pat Richter
	Perry and Lorraine Straw
Gareth Miller	Remington Baptist Church Women
Evelyn Richter	Steve and Kim Salowitz

In Transition:

Steve Salowitz, after a two-year leave of absence from Wycliffe, took a position with the Seed Company, an affiliate of Wycliffe. Steve will serve as their east African field coordinator and will work out of his home office. Pray for the Salowitz family as they make this transition.