



Doing Good That Is Good™

The newsletter of FARMS International Formerly AGRICULTURAL EVANGELISM

Moldova Update Part 1 - FARMS at NM Convention March 2007

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

Surprising Moldova! Part I

OUR FARMS MOLDOVA PROGRAM is our first in Eastern Europe. This past January I traveled to Moldova and was excited to see first hand the program we started there about two years ago. It was a privilege to travel extensively through this beautiful country with Ghiorgghi and Christina Cazacu of GMII Ministries. They are ministry partners with FARMS and they have a zeal for evangelism and a wonderful rapport with the people. I was so impressed by the people and felt very much at home.

As with any trip to a new place, it is important to read the impressions of others. One comment that is heard over and over is that **Moldova is the poorest country in Europe**. This is true if you look at the statistics: per family income is only \$800 to \$1,200 per year. This coupled with sobering reality facing the family and the general economy paint a pretty bleak picture. Nevertheless, what I found erased many of those initial impressions, especially the word "poor". I discovered a Christian community full of hope, reaching out to unsaved neighbors. I also found a people full of creativity, so evident among the FARMS project holders.

We traveled to several remote areas of Moldova and in each place we heard and saw wonderful and touching testimonies of spiritual and economic growth. In one place we visited a FARMS project that was a joint venture of three families. **They had transformed the lower level of a vacant building into a mushroom growing facility.**



Using plastic garbage bags and straw they were growing very valuable mushrooms for market. They heated the facility with a



Explaining how they now are growing several mushroom varieties for market

homemade furnace. **Their creativity and hard work has taken a loan of \$1,000 and transformed it into income and jobs for dozens of people.** The project is self sustaining and they have plans to expand. I did not speak their language, but their pride was unmistakable as they explained the process to me in detail.



The mushroom project team



Home-made boiler to provide humidity and a constant temperature to the mushroom project



Nathan and Ghiorgghi with mushroom project team. Dozens of jobs have been created from this one project.



Remote city where we partnered with GMII on the Mushroom Project

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“We now have churches that did not exist two years ago, growing in attendance and in influence in their villages. Without the opportunity and training provided by FARMS, we wouldn’t be where we are today.”

Honey production projects are another very profitable enterprise in Moldova, as most of the economy is agricultural. Honey is a rare commodity with high market value. The project holders, with loans of \$500 to \$800, are **now earning incomes three to five times as much as they had earned previously.** This has truly changed their lives and their future.



Honey projects provide good income. Honey is a rare commodity at market.

The impact of the FARMS loan program was two fold. The local pastors and missionaries shared the following with me.

- One is certainly the increased tithing that is allowing pastors to focus on evangelism and sending out missionaries to un-reached villages around Moldova.

- The other, is helping to maintain the family structure. A problem in many developing countries is the necessity of the father or mother leaving the family to find work. In the very best case scenarios they send money back to support the family, but the hardship on the children and spouse is often strained to a breaking point. Sadly, children often times end up in orphanages. The opportunity presented by FARMS has allowed families to stay together, and is the greatest testimony to un-reached people in their villages.



Families can remain intact through our partnership with GMII.

One pastor told me, *"We now have churches that did not exist two years ago, growing in attendance and in influence in their villages. Without the opportunity and training pro-*

vided by FARMS, we wouldn't be where we are today."

This is only part of the story I witnessed. I will further elaborate on this wonderful transformation in a coming issue of our newsletter. Special thanks again to Ghiorghe and Christiana Cazacu of GMII Ministries who are working alongside FARMS in the common goal of building families and churches that glorify Jesus Christ.

– Nathan McLaughlin



Nathan McLaughlin speaking at a new church plant



Animal feed processing project

A project supplying farmers with proper animal feed mixes has helped to provide funds to remodel a church plant building.



Storing hay in an outdoor "barn"



FARMS volunteer loan committee. A second committee is planned for this year.



Moldova is filled with amazing monuments built after WWII by the Soviet Union



Moldova meals are simple and beautifully presented.



Outdoor market in the capital city of Moldova

(More photos on back)

So, How Can I Help FARMS?

I RECENTLY HAD THE OPPORTUNITY to represent FARMS at the National Missionary Convention in Indianapolis. I learned about this convention from one of our FARMS supporters when I first started working with FARMS, and have attended every year since. All I can say is that I am amazed at all the opportunities this one convention has opened for us. For example, we have gained new partner mission agencies, new partnering churches, and speaking engagements with mission boards and colleges.



The convention has 15,000 attendees

I'm sure the person who told me of this conference felt it was just a good suggestion. Yet, if she saw the opportunities this has created for FARMS over the last four years, she would see that her suggestion has multiplied into relationships very beneficial to the ministry.

So, how can you help? Consider letting FARMS know of mission conventions in your church or area. You might also know of Christian charitable foundation that would be interested in supporting our unique Christian loan program. You might also know of missionaries that would be interested in having their own FARMS loan program. All of these contacts are very valuable to us at FARMS. Our ministry is based on relationships, and you may be the one God uses to start a new one.

Church Involvement and Sponsorship Opportunities

Over the years many supporters have introduced FARMS to their Church, mission committees, and Sunday school programs. We are always happy to come and share about the ministry of FARMS and on world evangelism.

We also appreciate our partnering churches, some have sponsored specific FARMS programs. There are many opportunities for this, so if this is an interest, please contact us.

We are a faith based mission, so every opportunity to share the vision of FARMS with like minded congregations or individuals is very important to us.

Please contact Nathan McLaughlin at **218-756-2124** with any questions or e-mail him at nathan@hcctel.net or info@farmsinternational.com



FARMS booth at the National Missionary Convention in Indianapolis



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(Photos from Moldova, Continued from page 3)



Christmas and New Years are celebrated twice in Moldova



Pastor Igor and his family are the first missionaries to this remote village in Moldova

James 2:5: Harken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? KJV

Isaiah 29:19: The meek also shall increase their joy in the LORD, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel. KJV

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