



Doing Good That Is Good

The newsletter of FARMS International

October 2016 Update on Moldova and Philippines

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings in the precious name of Jesus!

“And let us not be weary in well doing:...” Galatians 6:9. Why did God inspire Paul to write these words? I think deep down, we all know the answer. God’s children are his instruments of love and mercy in a fallen world. If we don’t do good, who will? Also, the rest of the verse reveals the promise. **“...for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”**

Weariness is a common malady, of all those that do good. It fosters the temptation to give up. The many needs we are confronted with overwhelm us at times. Therefore, we all need this reminder not to grow weary.

As the Executive Director for FARMS International, I see and hear about needs all the time. I love my work, the ministry, and those we serve, but I too sense weariness at times. Sometime ago, I set up my screen saver to go randomly through my photos from my visits overseas; what great therapy! Those faces, those smiles, those families, those villages, and the memories, flood my soul and spirit with joy! The temptation to grow weary in doing good fades away.

In this update, we will be featuring our programs in Moldova and Pangasinan, Philippines. Both of these countries share a history of poverty. However, Christ’s love and transforming power is bearing good fruit in the lives of those you serve through FARMS. This inspires us to do more!

In Christ Jesus,
Joseph Richter
Executive Director



Moldova Update:

My wife Pat and I had the privilege of visiting our program in Moldova this past spring. It was a fascinating trip. Our missionary liaisons, Ghiorgi and Cristiana Cazacu took us from northern Moldova to the southern border of the country. It is a beautiful country with rolling hills and rich farmland. Along the way we visited several of the families with existing FARMS projects and other families that need our assistance.

Moldova and Albania rank together as the poorest countries in Europe. Life in Moldova is extremely difficult, and signs of poverty are abundant.



It is a common sight to see rows of men and women cultivating large fields with hand hoes; reminiscent

of farming in America over a century ago! Good jobs are nearly non-existent, forcing many of the young and educated to leave the country. The costs of basic necessities are high and fuel is extremely costly. Horse drawn carts are a common sight. The average wage of a schoolteacher is about \$100 a month! Couple this with winter heating costs of \$300 a month, one wonders how people survive.



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When we asked families how they cope, the common answer was that one could not depend on just their wages for all their needs, other sources of income were needed. They shared that some families have relatives out of the country that send some money home as they can, others take side jobs to make ends meet. Otherwise, everyone seems to have a garden in their yard and some animals. Fruits and vegetables are canned out of necessity.



Widow, sharing her strawberries with us

Very little land, even around their homes, is wasted. Pruned grape vines were saved for firewood. We saw strawberries growing under the grape arbors, and each home had several kinds of fruit trees. Many have turned to agriculture as a source of income, even though this means long hours of hard labor. The elderly are especially destitute, depending on children and relatives to meet their needs.



Baptist pastor gathering feed for his goats

Most pastors we met were also farmers, because tithing in the churches is minimal. Our hope and trust is to see the FARMS program helping many families to prosper enabling them to give generously to their churches. We believe this will be an example to others that the church in Moldova can prosper and be self-supported through the generosity of their members.



Radu and Gheorghe Tardea, Ghiorgi and Joe in their green house for tomatoes. Plants were grown in bags and buckets due to a disease in the soil. Greenhouses extend the growing season and the crops command a greater price, increasing their profits..



Pat, Cristina, Mr. & Mrs. Ion Leca, and Ghiorgi in front of their homemade greenhouse. This couple has a children's ministry.

Ion with his honey bees ▼



◀ Christina, Ghiorgi, Pat and Tamara Bucur. Tamara works with Operation Mobilization and has been sent as a missionary to her home village. She has been instrumental in evangelizing many and a new church has been planted in her village. Tamara is on the FARMS loan committee. We are in front of her greenhouse. She grows specialty crops of high value, like red and yellow peppers for a local pizzeria to support her ministry.





Special Update: Through the generosity of a Christian businessman in Michigan, 18 greenhouses, sized 26 x 48 feet, are in the process of being donated to our program in Moldova. The donor would like to see a **matching fund challenge for the cost of shipping**. These funds would be used to provide loans to those receiving the greenhouses. This is a great opportunity really to impact many families with a very profitable enterprise. Please be in prayer as we work out the logistics of shipping a container of these beautiful greenhouses to Moldova. **Interested? Contact us for more details.**

Philippines:

The **Pangasinan-Philippines** volunteer committee is doing a great job administering the FARMS program. Pictured here is the committee and several project holders at their monthly meeting. During these meetings they pray and encourage each other. They also make payments on their loans or receive new loans. Following the meeting, they visit ongoing projects. These meetings have been a real blessing to the program and the project holders. In addition, the committee meets once a month to consider new project proposals.



Project Highlights:

Pictured here is Marivic Estabillio, the secretary-treasurer of FARMS Pangasinan with Marites Largo at her bakery. She has paid back her original loan of \$425 and was given a second loan of \$640. Besides her bakery, she has a small store that FARMS has helped her with. She has been very faithful with FARMS and very thankful.



Mr. and Mrs. Edmundo Bachar and their children. Edmundo is pictured here with his rice field, drying rice in the sun, and with part of his rice harvest. They faithfully paid back their first loan of \$425 and the committee gave him a second loan of \$640. He has been very successful with his projects. FARMS interest free loans significantly increased his profit and therefore his tithing to their local church.





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Jeneth Banes and Leny Penida partner
in a home-based beauty shop



VBS helps Philippines FARMS-Pangasinan program

Dear Brother Joe,

We had a great **VBS** week in July. We had 33 student and 15 workers. We shared a little about the Philippines each day, along with some pictures of

some of the projects. We were able to send home some of the newsletters that you had sent also. The offering for the Pangasinan program totaled \$552.23.

Thank you for all you do for the FARMS International ministry. It was a good reminder for all of us of what a sensible plan it is to help the poor help themselves and grow the church.

God Bless -
Sheri Stewart

VBS Director, North Argyle Community Church, Argyle, NY

Memorial and Honor Gifts

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| David Green | Ruth Green |
| Laurie Hammond | Ira and Rae Weissinger Jr. |
| Colleen James | Linda Downs |

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(FARMS Board) | Earl & Barb Eby |
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Great Idea!