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Doing Good That Is Good

The newsletter of FARMS International

Program Updates: Cambodia - Haiti - Philippines November 2011

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

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the wonderful name of Jesus!

In every thing give thanks : for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Certainly we want to be in God's will, and thankfulness puts us right in the center. Even in unsettling times, our hearts should be filled with thankfulness; there is no safer place. You receive this newsletter and support this ministry because of your concern for the poor and the lost. This concern, and the opportunity to do good to those that need our help, fills ones heart with thankfulness. In this update we will share about a new program start in the Philippines and an update on our programs in Cambodia and Haiti.

We all want to thank you for your faithfulness to the poor. FARMS International was incorporated in New Jersey in November 1961. Fifty years of service to the poor; that is an awesome milestone! Many of you have been partners with us for decades; what a testimony of faithfulness. We have seen countless lives changed, yet if we could fully see the thousands that have been brought into the Kingdom of God because of this ministry all our hearts would leap for joy! Again thank you.

With thanksgiving,

Joe Richter- Executive Director



Cambodia

Gary Colfax, a missionary with Evangelical Friends Mission, sent us this report from Cambodia.

Voun Bun Ly

"When the humble see it they will be glad; you, who seek God, let your hearts revive." Psalms 69:32 (ESV)

Ly is a short, thin youth that has been living at the church for over five years. As a believer, he continues to grow and show his Christ like character in very humble ways. Throughout his early life he was ridiculed because of his small size and taken advantage of. Because Ly was unable to finish his education, his reading skills were limited. In our TEE (Theological Education by Extension) program he struggled to learn and had to read some books twice. He came from an extremely poor family and though his siblings found work in Thailand, they forgot about Ly and his family. Even on ministry trips he was teased but we never saw him complain or waiver in his determination to be the best he could be.



Ly in front of his new electrical repair shop that was under construction.

FARMS International has a newly designed web site, where you can view videos, listen to audio and keep up to date on the ministry. We also have a much improved donation page, enabling you to easily set up recurring donations from your credit card or bank account. This approach is good stewardship because it cuts costs and time. WWW.farmsinternational.com .



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Continued:

When I read the verse ***“The meek will inherit the earth”***, I think of Ly. He has studied hard and now reads much better. Recently, he received training in electrical repair. He is very adept at working with his hands and is learning to weld from our son Chris. His humble character spurs him on.

Ly’s Christ like character has attracted many young people to the church in Battambang City. He naturally shares the gospel and inspires many other young adults to come and learn.

Ly has not let his short stature hinder him. We were thrilled, but not surprised, how he stepped in to help when Sovan, a church member, had an accident. Ly would spend each night with Sovan’s young son, so his mother could be at the hospital. When Sovan’s wife needed to return to work, Ly continued to stay with the family to help. This was a great encouragement to the family. His servant heart is so appreciated, that Ly is becoming a “pillar” of the Church. We praise the Lord for this!

Recently, Ly took advantage of our FARMS International Loan Program and borrowed \$200 to open his own electrical shop. His desire is to earn a living while serving the Lord. So far, his business is going great, and he is now trying to adjust to a busy life with customers. **(Please pray about supporting our program in Cambodia.)**

Haiti

Jeff Boshart, Vice President of FARMS International’s Board of Trustees, makes frequent trips to Haiti as part of his work with Brethren Church Mission. He recently brought back this report from our program committee in the Central Plateau of Haiti.

The FARMS program has been a blessing to churches and to many people who had no where else to get help. Families have used their project profits on their businesses to help pay for school fees and provide for food on their tables. All of the loan recipients have paid back their loans. These families were given a second loan from the new grant from FARMS. Also, two new churches were added to our program.

Our hope and prayer for next year is to add an additional three churches and to increase the loan amounts to the first two loan groups who have been faithful. We are asking FARMS to consider new funding starting this December 2011 through 2012 of \$6,000 to \$8,000. This would allow us to increase our loan amounts and to reach more new families. They also expressed a need of a used laptop.

When asked how the increased tithing was being used they reported, “The churches use the tithes for helping widows and orphans. In addition, some churches have bought new instruments for worship and gas for electric generators so that they can hold evening services.” **(Please pray about how you might help this important outreach in Haiti.)**

New Philippine Program

FARMS has a quarter century of experience helping families and churches in the Philippines. Executive Director, Joe Richter and his family served as church planting missionaries in northern Luzon and established the first FARMS Philippine loan program. If you have had the chance to have Joe share in your church, then you have seen the pictures and heard the stories of the dramatic wealth creation and poverty alleviation that resulted from that program. The news of the success of this program spread throughout the Philippines and resulted in opportunities for two other FARMS programs.

The model FARMS uses today, of volunteer run committees, was birthed in that inaugural program. Those that were involved in this program were instrumental in starting and training new program committees. The biblical principles coupled with the revolving fund model are still our foundation for poverty alleviation and stewardship. It is very gratifying to see nationals training nationals.



Committee member Claude Souffrance discussing project with loan recipient.



Continued:



Christian Life Center Church members preparing relief supplies for victims of last July’s flooding

We are pleased to announce the beginning of our newest program.

We are partnering with Christian Life Center Church of Tinley Park, Illinois. Pastor McQuay has served as a missionary to the Philippines and his church has partnered with Christian Life Center Church in Davao, Mindanao for the past 15 years. They believe that the FARMS program will dovetail perfectly with the vision of this fast growing church. The training for this program will take place this December and will be performed by the director of one of our existing Philippine programs. Our goal is to help those in need and to provide a practical platform to teach practical stewardship. Davao City is located in the Southern Philippine province of Mindanao. It is an area that has been a challenge for the gospel over the years because of radical religious elements. FARMS is pleased to help start a program in this area because Christian Life Center Church has been so instrumental in reaching the area for Christ. **Please pray for this new program.**

- Nathan McLaughlin-Assistant Director for Development

Memorial and Honor Gifts

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In Honor of: Given by:

William Johnson	Tom and Diane Rickles
Pat and Joe Richter	Mrs. Elaine Ingraham

Therefore, as we have opportunity.....

Galatians 6:10 is a foundational scripture for FARMS International because it represents the very essence of Rev. Gareth Miller’s mission and vision when he established this ministry 50 years ago. Today, the opening five words of the verse ring true more than ever. We have several solid *opportunities* presenting themselves that can move FARMS into areas never imagined possible. God continues to bless and surprise in amazing ways.

These opportunities will allow us to partner in regions where the Gospel has witnessed barriers for generations. Due to the sensitive nature of these opportunities we cannot be more specific at this time. However, we hope you will add these items to your personal and church prayer lists. Prayer is the key ingredient that has sustained our ministry for years.

- Pray that God will give the interested parties wisdom in the setup for the new programs.
- Pray for new committee members with the right heart to serve their churches and communities.
- Pray the funding for each program will materialize. Initial start up costs for each new program is about \$15,000 dollars.

You can also help by sharing our last two newsletters: ***Thailand Survey and What is wrong with microcredit.*** If you need additional copies just contact us. We also have copies of our free DVD for distribution.



Cambodia