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Doing Good That Is Good™

The newsletter of FARMS International

Cuba and Philippines Update – March 2013

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

Dear Friends,

Our Heavenly Father is amazing! The scripture says he hears the cries of the poor, but does he hear all of them, all the time?



As an earthly father I can remember times that all four of our children were clamoring for my attention. "Daddy, Poppa, Daddy, Dad!" Not only was it impossible to hear them all at once, but it was also impossible to respond; not so with our heavenly Father. Our minds may have a hard time comprehending how God hears millions of prayers simultaneously and responds to them. Nevertheless, we know this is true because the scripture is full of references of how God answers the cries and prayers of the poor. For example, Ps 72:12 declares, **"For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth ; the poor also, and [him] that hath no helper ."** So, how does he do this? He does it through his children.



We are the answer to the "cries" of the poor? This is an awesome privilege. When God hears their cry, he speaks His will and desires into our hearts and we respond! The cry of a poor woman, man or child

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Cuba Update: Our reports from Cuba have been very exciting. The program is off to a good start. It is evident that those involved are dedicated not only to improving their families' income, but are reaching out to help others that are in desperate need. This is very exciting!

The program began by helping five families increase their vegetable production. Each of these families has a contract with the government for a certain amount of produce, some they can sell privately, but with the surplus they are helping to feed about 70 elderly people ! The photos they sent really tell the story.

We are so thankful to be able to partner with these believers. We look forward to seeing more good fruit from this program as it grows.



Project families harvesting root crops and other vegetables from their improved and expanded gardens. Some of the produce will be sold on contract with the government and some privately, and a portion will be used to help feed 70 needy senior citizens.

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How you can help!

- Please pray for the board and staff of FARMS International
- Pray for our 22 volunteer loan committees for strength and wisdom
- Pray for the families we help that their projects will be successful
- Pray for the overseas churches involved that they would be blessed abundantly
- Pray for a significant growth of our mission, the needs are great
- Pray for the resources FARMS needs to meet new opportunities
- Pray that all of our hearts would be sensitive to the needs of the poor



Thank you

for faithfully supporting
the ministry of
FARMS International



Enhancing Trust

Special note to donors:

The address for donations has changed and the correct address is:

FARMS International, Inc.
PO Box 535
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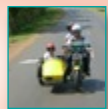
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is then answered through us. This is thrilling! We may have experienced something similar when someone shared, **“You are an answer to our prayers!”** It is humbling to hear words like these, it is life changing, for we are getting a glimpse of the workings of heaven. This is normal Christianity. It is part of being God’s child, His light and His love in this fallen world. This is what you and FARMS are all about.

Many of us are familiar with Proverbs 31, known as the “perfect wife” chapter. But this chapter begins with, **“The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him.”** She has many words of advice before she goes into the description of a virtuous woman. Yet, her final counsel is found in verse 9. **“Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.”** In other words, become a friend of the poor; do the right thing by them, don’t forget them.

Then following her instructions on how to be a good king, is the familiar description of the “virtuous woman.” And, nestled in this challenging description is a vivid picture of her relationship to the poor. Verse 20 says, **“She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.”** She is an answer to their prayers. She extends herself. Yes, she is busy, just like all of us are, yet she hears God’s voice and responds. What a wonderful example for us.

I trust you will meditate on what the scripture teaches us about the poor, for in them are the answers for a blessed and fulfilled life.

In Christ Jesus,
Joe Richter



Igorot children with pig bladder balloon!



Cabbage crop: Cubans are excellent gardeners!



Seniors enjoying a good meal, including vegetables from the project gardens



Project holders, senior center staff and oversight group

Please pray for this program and this open door!

Philippine Update: Our program in Pangasinan Province is located in a rural and depressed area of the Philippines. There are many Christian families living in poverty in this province, even though the larger metropolitan areas of the country are prospering. This is true in many parts of the world. My wife Pat and I visited the program about a year ago. The committee needed to reorganize after their president passed away. Pastor Vic Estabillo Sr. was a wonderful pastor and he is missed by all that knew him. The committee did reorganize and his son Vic Jr. is now playing a key role in the FARMS committee. We are happy to report that the program is going well and is helping many families in this difficult area of the Philippines. The tithing is also helping the churches with needed improvements. Included here are some project photos.



Pastor Vic Estabillo Sr. with his project bull



Vic Estabillo Jr., with his family in their project rice field.



Irrigation has helped increase Vic’s rice crop



Egg plant project



Eleuterio Saoi Sr. cattle fattening



Hog rearing project

Memorial and Honor Gifts

In Memory of
Gareth Miller

Marian Newby
{Pat Richter’s mother}

Hugh Wharton
In Honor of:
Gary Wiebe

From:

Gunhild Miller

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Jeff & Candi Berry
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