



Doing Good That Is Good

The newsletter of FARMS International

December 2016 Greenhouses to Moldova and an Update on Haiti

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

Greenhouses: A promise of a better life!

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Christmas greetings from a thankful heart!

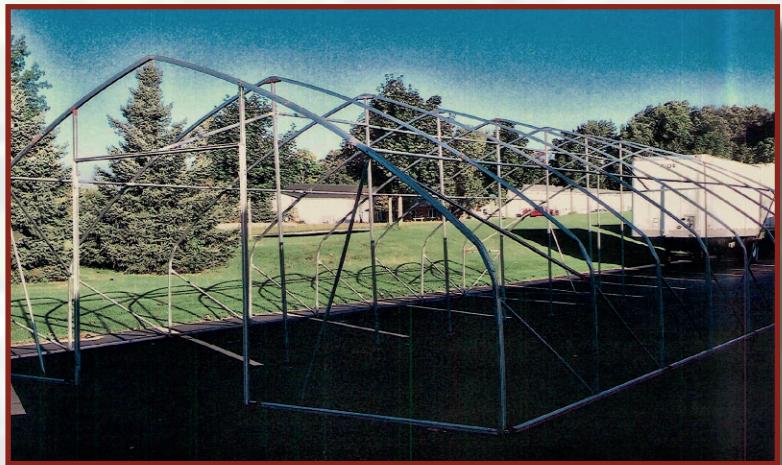
This morning we received tremendous news that a container filled with 18 donated greenhouses and 675 “Flip and Grow” pots were on its way to Moldova from Luurtsema Sales, Inc. in Jenison, Michigan!

These durable greenhouse frames will be distributed amongst Christian families that are part of the FARMS Moldova program. The green house is not only a gift, but an integral part of each project loan package. To make it a functioning project, plastic will be purchased out of the loan as well as the other items needed to make them successful projects. ***Without a doubt, these greenhouses will be a “dream come true” for many families.*** Their cost would certainly be out of reach for most families.

The “Flip and Grow” three-gallon pots will become part of every greenhouse project, increasing their growing capacity. They will also go to other families to use around their homes and in their gardens. The pots require no weeding, can be reused and crops are ready weeks earlier than normal planting.

You can help!

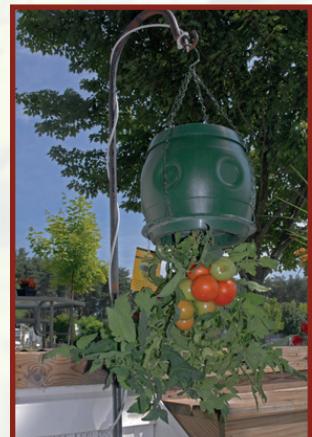
Please consider a donation to help make each of these greenhouse projects successful. ***They have proven great potential to increase the income of families that are in real need. Also, the local churches will see a tremendous increase in their offerings from the project holders.*** This will help support their pastors and fund much-needed outreach. It will be an excellent example of God blessing through local generosity. Please be in prayer as this container makes its way to Romania and then overland to Moldova.



The greenhouse framing, 26 ft x 48 ft



Tomatoes starting out in Flip and Grow pots.



Tomatoes growing after the pots are flipped. Up to 30# of vegetables can be grown with each pot.



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**Greenhouse frames prepared
for shipping**



Frames loaded in 40 ft. container



**Fully loaded, ready for
shipment to Moldova**

Luurtsema Sales, Inc. has graciously donated and shipped eighteen greenhouses and “Flip and Grow” pots to our FARMS program in Moldova. These photos show the 40 ft container as it was loaded.

Tamara's Story

Tamara began her life in a small village in southern Moldova. Sadly, like many children there, abuse and neglect destroyed her youth and self-worth. She shared her story with my wife Pat and I while in Moldova last Spring. "My life growing up was very sad, I felt more like an orphan than part of a family. I felt like rubbish! Worthless! I felt like there was no reason to live, I might as well die. My life was aimless. Then one day a girl shared with me a verse from the Bible. She read John 3:16 like this. *So God so loved Tamara that he gave his only son that Tamara should not die, but have eternal life.* For me to hear that God loved me, was such a surprise, so amazing. Love was something I knew little about. I knew nothing about God, or how to pray or even how to act. Then some time later a friend of mine gave me a Bible and by reading God's word, I became a Christian in 1996. Because of this, my parents kicked me out of my home, but thankfully a Christian family with eight other children took me in. They taught me so much. I was so thankful to God for my salvation I was determined to give my whole life to God and to share this great love of God with others."



**Tamara comforting abused
children**

Tamara eventually went for training with *Operation Mobilization* in the capital city of Chisinau. After several years, she felt a call back to her own home village! She was hoping that God would call her as a missionary to Africa or India, but God had a different plan. It was difficult, but little by little people responded to the Gospel, even some in her family and eventually a small church was started! They now have outreaches to six other villages.

Tamara has a vision to build a children's shelter for abused and neglected children. Although she raised money for that project, but the start was a couple years off. She prayed and felt that God was telling her to put the money to use in a project that could make money. Which led her to decide to do a greenhouse. Tamara was able to erect the metal framing, but still needed funds for the plastic. She heard about loan money available through FARMS and was able to get a \$1,000 loan to finish the project. To her amazement, she made a good profit the first year, and by the second year had recovered all of the original funds. Tamara

shared, "God taught me many things through this greenhouse. I am so impressed with what God has done. I learned that when we give to God, He knows what to give to you. He will do His best for us. He also taught me how to work and how to farm a greenhouse profitably." Tamara expressed how the greenhouse has given her many opportunities to share with others about God's love; "People ask me, 'Why are you different? Why do you give your profit to help the elderly and youth and not keep it for your self?' It is a great witnessing tool."

Tamara has a vision for more greenhouses and for a poultry project. She is now part of the FARMS committee. Her desire is to see churches in Moldova practicing local self support, instead of looking outside the country for support. Pray for Tamara.



Tamara in her home village

Update on Haiti

Haiti a land of trials, disasters, sorrows, hardships, droughts and mudslides due to deforestation, earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, corruption, and despair! A place easy to give up on, right? However, we can't give up. Why? Because God has not given up on Haiti, so we won't either! As, "... one member suffers, all the members suffer with it." 1 Corinthians 12:26

FARMS International has worked in Haiti for many years. In contrast to the approach of many "helping" in Haiti, we provide a way out of poverty, that builds real hope, without creating dependency. It is hard, there are always setbacks and disappointments, but we have seen real success. Yes, **Haiti can help itself.** Believers have learned the joy of giving and giving generously. Therefore, they have seen God's blessing upon the work of their hands. They appreciate the self-help approach of FARMS. **Pray for the believers in Haiti, they have the message of hope that Haiti needs.**

Special Update by Jeff Boshart, Vice President of FARMS International.

Thanks to a recent gift from FARMS International, the local FARMS committee on the Central Plateau has added 13 new participants. Their businesses range from animal raising (pigs and goats) to basket making and small retail stores selling gas, cooking oil, food staples, fruits and vegetables. Long time FARMS volunteer, Claude Souffrance, reports that churches continue to see increased tithing and that **some of these small loans literally mean the difference between life and death**, especially for widows who have no other reliable source of income.

The FARMS program in Haiti's Central Plateau has faced major challenges in recent years, but God has been faithful to the efforts of the local committee to keep things moving forward. Hurricane Matthew did not make a direct hit on this part of Haiti, but its impact was felt. Farms all over the country, even hundreds of miles away from the western arms of the country that saw Matthew's full fury, experienced crop and animal losses due to heavy rains on exposed mountainside farm fields. In 2015 the country had major crop losses due to drought, and hunger continues to be a daily reality for many families.



★ Locations of our programs in Haiti

Pictured here are some of the new participants in the FARMS-Haiti loan program.



Mrs. Vernio Breus sells thread, passion fruit, coffee and baskets



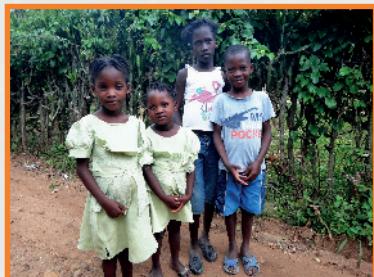
Delomene Cheriza raises pigs and sells passion fruit



Mrs. Gener Nesidor sells baskets, garlic and pineapple



Handicraft project





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Mrs. Seguy Jean sells charcoal and baskets



Mirlande Aldonza sells gasoline

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Please send us your new or alternate address & dates. Or, if you want to be removed from our mailing list, just let us know.



Honor Gifts

In Honor of:

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On their marriage

From:

Deanne Wegner

Consider donating *frequent flier miles* to FARMS ✈

Spread the word!

- Invite your friends to a **FARMS Coffee** to introduce them to the ministry. We will send the materials.
- Connect with us on FB and our blog <http://farmsinternational.blogspot.com/> 
- Sign up for our e-newsletter and updates on our website www.farmsinternational.com

FARMS accepts credit card and checking donations. You can also set up automatic donations. Go online or call 218-834-2676.

farmsinternational.com

Great Idea!