



Doing Good That Is Good™

The newsletter of FARMS International Formerly AGRICULTURAL EVANGELISM

Vital Mission to Senegal, Part 2 - November 2007

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

PSALM 100 is a very familiar but appropriate verse as we enter the coming Thanksgiving Season. I hope you will meditate on Psalm 100 over the coming weeks because we are very thankful for what God is doing.

The past few years, God has allowed Joe and me the opportunity to travel and witness the progress of our partnering programs in Asia, Central America, Africa, and Eastern Europe. We are always touched by the faithfulness of God as He blesses and prospers those families that have been part of the FARMS program. We witnessed how the strongholds of poverty are broken in their lives when they implement the Biblical principles of stewardship and use their God given talents and resources.

All the families helped have one thing in common despite their varied locations across the continents, and their differences in language and culture; THANKFULNESS. It is expressed repeatedly by the families, pastors, and missionaries we partner with.

We wish all of you could travel with us and witness the hundreds of people who turn out to greet us as we arrive in a village. It is an atmosphere of celebration and true thankfulness for what God is doing

in their lives through the FARMS program. The project holder's sincerity and smile speak volumes as they give tours of their projects and share of the wonderful impact on the welfare of their families.

We wish you could listen to the pastors and missionaries as they tell of how the work of spreading the gospel has expanded beyond their thoughts and imagination. God is truly working through the faithful tithing and testimonies of empowered believers.

Through our newsletters, we attempt to bring you alongside us as we travel and visit. We are also happy to come and share more pictures and videos of the places and Christian families you have helped reach all around the world. Please do not hesitate to ask us.

We hope all of you have a blessed Thanksgiving Holiday. It is because of your faithful prayers and financial support that FARMS is able to work and support the Christian churches around the world.

In Christ,

The Board and Staff
of FARMS International

Psalm 100
Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.
Serve the Lord with gladness:
come before his presence with singing.
Know ye that the Lord he is God:
it is he that hath made us,
and not we ourselves; we are his people,
and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his courts with praise:
be thankful unto him,
and bless his name.
For the Lord is good: his mercy
is everlasting; and his truth
endureth to all
generations.

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Genesis 1:31: "And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold it was very good."

ON MY LATEST TRIP TO SENEGAL, we had an opportunity to travel to the home of a family gifted with tremendous artistic ability.

The name FARMS implies agriculture, but inevitably we come across people with unique projects that always impress us. This family's work was one that reminded us how God is uniquely creative, and He has instilled in all of us talents that are "very good".

The Santos family has incredible artistic talents. As I walked into their home, I noticed the walls were filled with bright African works of art. As we continued in, numerous projects on linen, canvas, and wood were being worked on by different members of the family. They were so welcoming and were excited to have my son and I visit their home and workshop.

The FARMS program enables the Santos family to purchase the materials in bulk. This allows them to complete projects and move on to the next one seamlessly without losing business. Their previous attempts to attain credit with other agencies were



Linen tapestry with an African flare

complicated due to their Christian faith. FARMS's extension of credit is meeting a crucial need for this entrepreneurial family. It provides an income for their family and an opportunity to share the gospel using their artistic talents.

They sell their artwork to street vendors, hotels, and tourists. They are well known as dedicated Christians. They share the gospel unashamedly and display their Christian faith openly. The attention to quality and detail of workmanship is evident in all of their projects. It was a real treat visiting the Santos family.

God has given everyone unique talents. The FARMS program encourages the committees to support and nurture the talents and dreams of every applicant. After seeing the artistic work and ability, I can say it truly is "very good" in the eyes of our Savior.



FARMS gives this family needed credit!



Nathan & Caleb McLaughlin

FARMING WITH FARMS

The FARMS program is helping develop farm land outside of Rufisque, Senegal. The area of land currently utilized by a few Christians spans thirty acres. There are other tracts of land in this area that are being looked at for future development. The FARMS program has been a real blessing to Christians in this area.



*Above: Mr. DJAKPA and Nathan McLaughlin
Inset: Carrot project in Rufisque, Senegal*

The climate in Senegal has its own challenge for growing produce. The rain patterns are inconsistent during the rainy season and non-existent during the dry season. The FARMS program has provided funds to install irrigation systems. The funding also covers initial planting costs like seeds, fertilizers, and labor.

FARMS provides more than just an opportunity for the project holder. In the case of this particular project, it produces jobs and income for many people as the land is worked, harvested, and the crops brought to market.



*Above: Okra project on 10 acres
Inset: Okra plant in bloom*



Nakagin children

The success was very evident as we toured this particular project. Their work ethic and dedication was evident as they developed this land by hand. Acres of carrots, okra, peppers, and cabbage covered the landscape. In addition, a few outbuildings have also been constructed where they raise chickens for market.

FARMS provides more than just an opportunity for the project holder. In the case of this particular project, it produces jobs and income for many people as the land is worked, harvested, and the crops brought to market. The cycle of money creates opportunity for these hard working people. It also creates tangible testimony to others in the area as they see God bless these projects.



Cabbage project on 12 acres

Their visions of building a Christian school, performing medical outreach and overall expansion of the churches are starting to be realized. All of this is a result of tithes and offerings that are generated by a hard working and appreciative group of Christians.

It truly is "Doing Good that is Good!"



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