



# Doing Good That Is Good

The newsletter of FARMS International

May 2018 - Those "that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

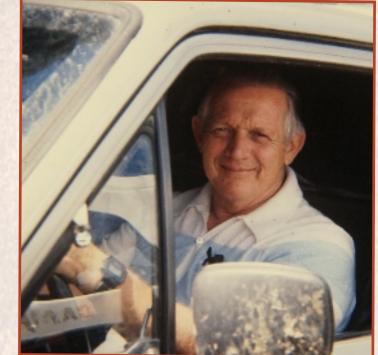
## Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is always a great privilege to share with you through this newsletter. Of course, I always enjoy sharing the testimonies of **those you help through FARMS International**. They are amazing stories of how this loan program lifts families and individuals out of poverty, while instilling the joy of giving back to God. **Their generosity translates into outreach, evangelism, church planting and even cross border missionary work.** Each person or family we help becomes part of the story God is writing. **It is a wonderful story, but it could not be written were it not for "faithful servants" and "good stewards," we work with, many of whom are unsung heroes.**

Christians, who against great odds stood firm in the face of the enemy of our souls. Yes, we know the names of many men and women who risked all to serve the living God, many are listed by name in God's word. Some have no names attached to their deeds, but are grouped together, as recorded in the books of Hebrews and Revelation. We marvel at the thought of this "**great cloud of witnesses**" that have gone before us.

As the Executive Director of FARMS, I have had the wonderful privilege of traveling to many remote parts of this world. On these journeys, I have met Christians that were and are **willing to risk all for the sake of the gospel**. Each one has humbled me, as well as inspired me. They all were ordinary people who lived extraordinary lives, serving their Lord Jesus Christ. In this age of "**Super heroes**," their humility and anonymity is a badge of distinction. Some were missionaries, some pastors, some evangelists; some had no title, no position, they just walked with their God. I will share a brief sampling of those, my wife Pat and I were privileged to meet. There is no order, or prominence implied by this list.

**J**ohn Weiss was an American missionary to the Philippines. He was of Dutch descent, with an enduring twinkle in his eyes. As a young boy, he heroically resisted the Nazi occupation of his homeland of Holland. **However, his real inner courage was demonstrated in bringing the gospel to many remote mountain villages of the northern Philippines.** It didn't matter if those villages harbored insurgents of the New People's Army, he boldly presented the gospel in their presence. He loved to use the **Jesus Film** to open new villages. He would bravely invite the communists to view the "Sine" i.e. film, but only if they left their machine guns and rifles outside! They did! John, through prayer, was instrumental in confirming our missionary call to work among the Igorot tribes of Mountain Province in the Philippines. He was always an encourager. John recently passed away.



**J**oshua Tsujimoto was an American of Japanese descent. **In fact, during WWII he was relocated to a Japanese internment camp in the southwest USA.**

There he came to know the Lord. In retirement from farming, he and his wife served in Bangladesh. His wife died as a result of a sickness contracted during their service.



**Devastated, yet not deterred, he returned to Bangladesh to work with a new "people movement" of Muslims coming to Christ.** Fearlessly, he worked and lived among them inspiring young workers in evangelism and teaching them agricultural skills. **His prayer group in the US, prayed that "thy**

**Kingdom come” to Bangladesh, which he saw as the key that produced a massive people movement, that now numbers in the hundreds of thousands of Muslims that have come to Jesus.** We need to pray this way also.

Joshua helped us start a FARMS loan program among these new believers. He was a dear friend of Pat and me, a fearless warrior for Christ, who never let advanced age deter him. He served as a missionary into his mid eighties. He is now with his Lord. He was a great example of a servant of Christ.



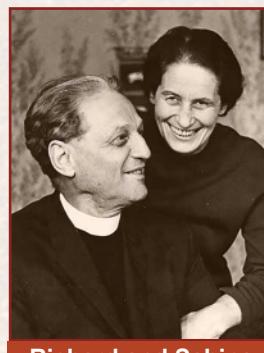
**Joe and Josh having fun with a rickshaw**



**Sha and his rebirthed Christian family**

up hitch hiking and gave him a Bible. Sha came to Jesus and fearlessly followed his new savior. **His Muslim family and village mates rejected him and cruelly banished him.** He once was beaten nearly to death by radicals in his home village and hung up to die in a hut. An old man came into that dark hut and cut him down and said, **“Son, leave quickly.”** Sha had never met that man in his village! With multiple, internal injuries, he miraculously caught a bus and went to a Christian hospital where he was treated and recovered! Sha has overseen a massive people movement in Bangladesh, facing many death threats on him, his family, and his workers. **Many in the movement have been martyred, yet he continues to press on with supernatural endurance.** FARMS has partnered with him for many years. **Pray for Sha and his family.**

**Richard and Sabina Wurmbrand,** whom Pat and I have met on several occasions, wrote the inspiring book, Tortured for Christ. Recently, Voice of the Martyrs produced a film by that name, that is truly inspiring. Please try to see it. In 1948 the



**Richard and Sabina**

occupying Soviets called a meeting of church leaders in Romania. One after another each church leader stood praising the feared communists! Sabina said, **“Richard, stand up and wash away this shame from the face of Christ.”** Richard replied, **“If I do, you’ll lose your husband.”** But Sabina said what Richard knew in his heart: **“I don’t wish to have a coward as a husband.”** He bravely stood and declared that there could be no fellowship of Christians with atheism! He soon was arrested. He suffered unbelievable torture for 14 years in Romanian prisons for not submitting to the communists. His wife was also imprisoned for three years, some of which were cruel hard Labor. She wrote an inspiring book titled, The Pastor’s Wife. I can’t overstate how their lives impacted ours. **They truly exemplified loving your enemies**, which was so instructive and inspiring; preparing us to serve among the communist insurgents in the Philippines. His book inspired a whole generation of believers in those Philippine mountains and now many of those former communists are serving the Lord Jesus! Sabina died in 2000 and Richard followed in 2001.



**Pastor Lamb**

**I t was 1992**, our daughter Belene and I were visiting an “underground church,” in Guangzhou, China, pastored by **Samuel Lamb**. He had previously spent 20 years in a labor camp because of his Christian beliefs. We had smuggled bibles in from Hong Kong for their congregation. Before the service began, we saw an elderly man, sitting by himself, bent over praying in a darkened corner. **They told us quietly how this man had been beaten and his back broken by the communists, because he would not renounce Christ.** Even now, his image is still vivid in my mind. In the service that morning, a young lady shared how she had been beaten and thrown out of school and her work permit revoked for evangelizing. She beamed with joy as she shared her story in that dark, cold room, packed from wall to wall with hundreds of other people eager to suffer for Jesus’ sake. We were profoundly moved by what we saw and heard during that three-hour, standing room only, service. **It truly was holy ground.** Pastor Lamb was well known for his courage in the underground church movement in China. His favorite comment was, **“The more persecution, the more the church grows!”** In 2013, at the age of 88, he



**Wurmbrand upon release from prison**

went into the presence of the Lord. **Estimates of 30,000 believers attended his funeral in Guangzhou!**

**W**hile attending a church service in Cuba, a middle-aged couple stood up to sing a duet. Their faces beamed with joy. They both had spent time in Castro's prisons and their bodies showed the deformities from the tortures they endured. **Their crime, "being Christians."** The disciples of Jesus rejoiced that they "*were counted worthy to suffer shame for his names sake,*" many in Cuba rejoice also. Oh, there is so much to learn from our brothers and sisters.



**I**n southern Nepal, just north of the border of India, I was attending and sharing at a three day open air meeting with two other missionaries. I was also there to explore a program for FARMs. **The Maoist rebels had threatened to attack the meeting, but the believers said they would not cancel!**



Part of the service was a time of testimonies where eight former Hindus shared why they wanted to be baptized. The missionary pastor, who was an American of Nepalese descent, asked them, "**Why do you want to be baptized?**" He probed them to see if they really understood the seriousness of their decision. Each one gave their reasons, but one was especially memorable. **A tiny lady came forward in her Nepalese sari.** The pastor reminded her, that when her husband was baptized, the radical Hindus nearly beat him to death! She replied, "**I don't care what they do to me, they can beat me too. I once was in darkness, but now I am in the light. I love Jesus. I will not turn back. I am not afraid!**" Tears are filling my eyes as I remember that evening. Paul said, "**I am not ashamed of the gospel.**" Yes, we have much to learn.

**T**here were many stories from the Christians in Cambodia. **Many had witnessed the annihilation of over half the country's population, thus the term "The killing fields."** Yet, their faces beamed with a joy, that was infectious. My



wife and I were shown a place where over 200,000 Khmers were murdered by Pol Pot's communist Khmer Rouge. **Pray for the church there. We are looking to restart our work in Cambodia, as the Lord leads.**

### **I could share many stories**

from those we discipled in the mountains of the Philippines. **These Igorot believers were fearless in the face of an insidious**

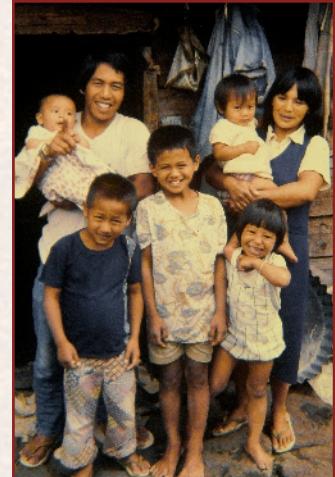
**communist insurgency.**

At times, these guerrilla forces would descend from the mountains and occupy their villages. They would then record all the names of the young people and would enlist them in the communist youth movement by force. One night a mandatory meeting was called of all the youth in a village we were working in.

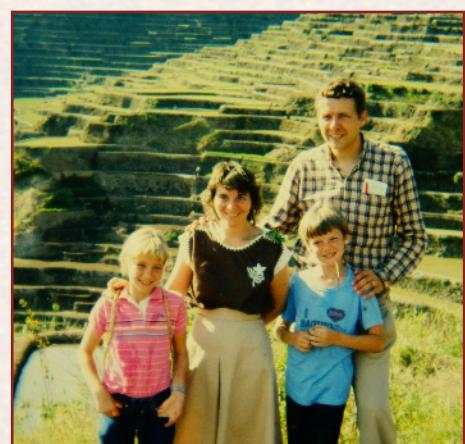
**Nevertheless, Pastor John told his young people not to attend.** When the guerrilla commander heard that the Christian youth were not in the meeting, he went with his automatic weapon to the John's hut in the center of the village. It was late in the evening. He roused John from his sleep and demanded to know if he had forbidden his youth from attending the "mandatory" meeting. John answered this way, "**You have your men and you are sworn to protect them. Well, as a pastor, I am sworn to protect my sheep.**" He added, "**What fellowship has light with darkness?**" Confounded by these anointed words, the feared commander said, "**I understand,**" and walked away. **"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."**

**T**here are many more stories, but I will end with this one. My wife Pat has been an integral part of our ministry. She faced death several times on the mission field, but I will just share one account that is burned in my memory. Pat and I served as

missionaries in Mountain Province in the Philippines.



**John and Marciana Ap-apid, 1985**



**Belene, Pat, Luke and Joe 1985, Mountain Province**



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**During the years of 1984 to 1991, the place God called us to was a stronghold of animism and a communist insurgency.** In fact, we eventually learned that just five miles north of our home, there was a major guerrilla training and command camp. We witnessed and heard about many battles and executions that occurred, some very near us. It was a trying time for us, and to compound the threat, there was an active hashish manufacturing operation near our home. Obviously, our presence was disdained by more than one faction.

One day Pat had gone alone to the open market in the center of town. A communist drug dealer approached her. **He pointed his loaded pistol at her, and threatened to kill her.** The market crowd cowered in shock. Pat said, "*I am not afraid of you and I am not afraid to die.*" The man just stood there pointing his gun. He finally just walked away. Afterwards, the town's people shared how ashamed they were for not coming to her defense; but they witnessed something they will never forget. ***"Let God arise and his enemies be scattered."***

I trust these stories have touched your heart. All of them were birthed out of the **FARMS International ministry**, and there are many yet to unfold. **Please take some time to pray for FARMS; for our staff, for those we serve, and for those we partner with. Also, ask God how he wants you to support this ministry. We are blessed with the needs of new programs and growing our existing programs and your help is needed and always appreciated.**

*Joe Richter, Executive Director*



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