



News From Foods Resource

FALL 2011

Events

World Food Prize:
Des Moines, IA
October 11-14, 2011

Heart of the Hill:
Washington D.C.
October 17 - 21
November 14 -18
December 5 - 8

Regional Meeting:
Strawberry Point, IA
February, 25, 2011

Overseas Trips

Asia - October 29-November 25, 2011

Program visits include: North Korea, India, East Timor (new program!), Cambodia, and Thailand

West Africa - February/March 2012

This trip may include visits to programs in the following countries: Central African Republic, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Zambia, Angola, and Liberia

Latin America Mission Trip Series - February 4-March 10, 2012

During the above dates FRB will lead 4 trips, 2 trips each to Guatemala and Nicaragua, that are designed to be mission focused. Get your hands dirty and learn about the work FRB is doing first hand. Perfect for youth or church groups.

El Salvador- Lolotique program visit - March 11-15, 2012

Harvest is Here! Are You Celebrating?

For FRB, Fall is a special time as we get to celebrate the hard work, luck and success of our growing projects. Just as every growing project is unique, each also has different ways of celebrating. As in the past, we list the upcoming harvest celebrations on our website. Please visit www.foodsresourcebank.org to check out what is coming up in your state.



Here is a sample of upcoming celebrations:

- October 16: Clinton/Elvira IA Growing Project's harvest celebration. There will be a potluck lunch, corn shucking, combine rides and a harvest celebration service.
- October 22 : Silverton, OR Growing Project auction. This is an annual event, including the auctioning of several beef cattle that are raised by the church.
- October 23: Portage UCC / Climax MI growing project harvest celebration. BBQ with combine rides, gospel choir, oxen and cart from Tillers International and more.

If we don't have your harvest celebration information please send date, time, address and activities to meg@foodsresourcebank.org.

A Great Time in Des Moines at the FRB Annual Gathering

Thank you to all who joined us in Des Moines for another successful Annual Gathering. Over 150 people met at Plymouth UCC Church for friendship, fellowship and to share their FRB experiences. We were joined by five overseas guests from Africa and South America as well as IA Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey. To see photos from the gathering please visit our Flickr page at www.flickr.com/photos/foodsresourcebank/ The date for next year's gathering is July 27-29th, location still to be decided. Hope to see you all next year!



Progressive Farmer to Kenya with FRB

Jim Patrico, senior editor of *Progressive Farmer* magazine, traveled with FRB to Kenya in June. His article, "The Hungriest Continent," chronicles his trip through Africa and the struggle that agriculture and the continent are facing as the population is predicted to double by 2050. Patrico and a group of FRB volunteers and staff traveled to four of FRB's programs in Kenya. An excerpt from "The Hungriest Continent" is below:



"Kenya. A sign on the one-room store owned by farmer Kahindi Suleiman in an eastern Kenya village reads: "Poverty is not a disability."

Suleiman has known poverty intimately. A few years ago, he was a charcoal man—in Kenyan society, one step above starvation. He cut down trees, burned them in a pit until they were charcoal, bagged it in gunnysacks and hauled it to town to sell for use as cooking fuel. The backbreaking process barely earned him survival. "I could feed my family only one meal a day," Suleiman says through an interpreter.

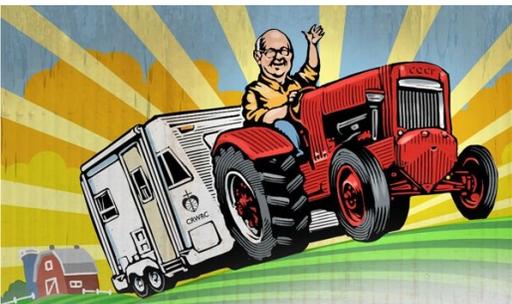
Today, the 36-year-old farmer, his two wives and five children eat three meals a day. He owns that store, is a beekeeper, raises both goats and crops for sale, and has enough money to have bought 30 acres of rough land he hopes to farm. He participates in a saving and credit program, and is proud of his new three-room mud house with a metal roof; it replaces a one-room hut of grass and mud."

A Serbian Family Five Years Later: From Desperation to Hope & Success

Five years ago, Milosz, a Roma man in Serbia, had been on the verge of suicide out of desperation. Today, he owns a home and provides income and food for his large family. In 2005, Milosz's family received vegetables as secondary beneficiaries of the Serbia- Displaced program, as well as a chainsaw for Milosz to cut and sell firewood.



Today, the family of 13 is working and saving together to get ahead. In 2005 their home was one sparsely furnished rented room. Since then they've been able to purchase the house and expand to three rooms with electricity. Food and income are still a challenge, but the family believes so strongly in education that it sometimes skimps on food to support the children with tools such as a computer. In a country afflicted by interfaith violence, the family is an example of unity: Milosz is Orthodox and his wife is Muslim, their children belong to one these two religions. For Milosz and his family, an extended hand, when most needed, has made a lasting difference.



Tractor Dave Returns Home

On June 1st, Tractor Dave started his journey around the U.S. He arrived home August 15th. While on the road he spent time attending events organized by volunteers from CRWRC Disaster Relief Services (DRS) and FRB.

Dave says— "I feel very privileged to be able to represent two great organizations and to have experienced a warm welcome no matter who I was with or where I was in this great country we live in. It is wonderful to see that all of God's people share a love of

helping one another when the need is there. I would do this again in a heartbeat." Thanks Dave, for your dedication and support in raising awareness for DRS and FRB!