



News from **Foods Resource Bank** • [www.foodsresourcebank.org](http://www.foodsresourcebank.org) • Summer 2008

**2008 FRB Annual Meeting**  
*All are welcome!*  
**Sioux Falls, South Dakota**  
**July 22 - July 24**  
**Details on Page 2**

### FOOD CRISIS HIGHLIGHTS NEED FOR COOPERATION

In our world, 854 million people are hungry. That's one-sixth of the world's population! Of those at least 70% live in rural areas, where drought, harsh conditions, malnutrition, disease, especially HIV/AIDS, and sometimes political unrest threaten even the simplest subsistence. The current food crisis, fueled by high food and fuel prices has made long lasting solutions to those in difficult situations all the more important.

In challenging times like these, FRB's work through its members and partners around the world can help. In San Miguel, El Salvador, people like Godofredo Gonzalez and Jose Ramirez and their families are working together toward a better future. The program which FRB supports through Lutheran World Relief, is being implemented to secure a better future for the people in this area. Our website has many details about this program as well as all the other programs that FRB supports.

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According to Bev Abma, FRB Executive Director of Programming, "Food prices and agricultural production costs continue to rise while total world food consumption has surpassed production for several years. FRB's focus on small holder agriculture is an important piece of the solution."

FRB's grassroots network in the US includes thousands of farmers, landowners, agribusinesses, and non-farm people working together in growing projects to raise awareness and generate financial support for FRB's overseas programs. FRB's focus on working together across cultural, geographical, historical, denominational and racial divides is one of the keys to long term success.

FRB's President, Marv Baldwin sums it up "... we have an opportunity to make a difference in our world and we must try. It begins by asking one another *how can we work together?*"

We are thankful for the opportunity to work together in the U.S. with so many farmers and other volunteers, communities and churches, legislators and governmental agencies, and with organizations, such as Bread for the World, The Alliance to End Hunger, and the Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa. The circle is completed through our denominational member organizations and their in-country partners, and through the gifted individuals who benefit from FRB programs, build lives for themselves and in turn reach out to change their communities and help others. Each individual and organization brings a unique and needed piece in creating a world that works.



**Godofredo Martinez Gonzalez**, married with five daughters, from Concepcion, Lolotique, San Miguel, El Salvador

*"...this (FRB) project has really changed our way of life...we've learned how to grow crops, plant trees, and we've learned about the importance of the environment... In the meetings I've learned to share and not be afraid to speak up...By forming a group of farmers, we can buy seeds, nutrients, and bags. We would buy them together and try to get other things together, too, so we can get them cheaper."*

**Jose Rigoberto Ramariz**, married with 6 children, La Caridad, San Buenaventura, Usulután, El Salvador

*"I've learned to grow things...We eat a little, and if we have a little tomato and chili pepper left over, we can sell it...The best thing for me has been that I have been able to learn things and put them into practice. I've learned about the doses of nutrients and fertilizers I should use, and I've learned how to prevent diseases. We are going to use what we sell to buy nutrients and seeds. This thing has to be sustainable. We don't want to lose the sequence of planting... we want to multiply what we've learned every day... we are the ones benefiting from it... I'm always looking for ways to work and to learn more to help others."*



## Everything is connected

Dear Growing Project Friends,

Last week I had coffee with a couple of women who are the FRB representatives from their city churches. I suspect that we would have ended up friends no matter what circumstances had brought us together, but it is our shared passion for FRB that unites us. And so our conversation included the complexity of the global food crisis.

"Everything is connected," commented one woman, and we all shook our heads with an understanding that deepens year by year. That awareness is one of the great gifts we receive in being part of FRB. Easy answers fall by the wayside.

This is a harder place in some ways. This spring's storms are not about us and our wet basements or soggy gardens. We think first about fields that are under water, and what that means to farmers who are faced with losses, hard decisions and lots of stress. Harder places call us to prayer. May those of you who farm and are enduring difficult times know that there are a lot of city folks who are praying for you.

This is a more joyful place as well, for joy comes in embracing our connectedness. Joy comes in our standing side by side and knowing that we are not alone.

May grace and peace be your companions,

Joan

The thoughts in this note written in early June by Joan Fumetti, Director of Growing Project Support, express FRB's sentiments. Everything, and everybody, is connected!



## Travel Opportunities with FRB

FRB friends and growing project volunteers are invited to travel with FRB staff to meet some of the people who are utilizing the resources and training provided through FRB to create long-term solutions to world hunger in their own unique context. Join us on one of the following life-changing trips:

- ◆ September 2008 – Burkina Faso Gourgou (Lutheran World Relief, Implementing Member) Gambia (United Methodist Committee on Relief in collaboration with Concern Universal) – one opening still available
- ◆ November 2008 - Asia, including India Thenkaria (United Church of Christ – One Great Hour of Sharing) and possibly one other country
- ◆ January 2009 –East Africa, including Zambia Mongu (Catholic Relief Services) and programs to be determined.
- ◆ February-March 2009 – Uganda and Ethiopia – plan to attend the World Agricultural Forum in Kampala, Uganda on Feb. 24-26. FRB hopes to bring as many as 6 US farmers and 12 Ugandan farmers as a group to the event. In addition, FRB plans to visit programs in Uganda and Ethiopia.

If you are interested in participating, please contact us for further details.

## Come One! Come All! Please join us for the 2008 FRB Annual Meeting Sioux Falls, South Dakota, July 22 - July 24

Highlights of the meeting:

- ◆ The opportunity to meet, welcome, and hear presentations from FRB overseas program representatives **Anahit Gasparyan** from Armenia, **Adalberto Ulloa Banegas** from Honduras, **Caroline Azucena Hernandez** from Nicaragua, and **Justin Kadyeni Phiri** from Zambia.
- ◆ Keynote Speaker **Orion Samuelson**, FRB Board Director and longtime Ag Director for WGN-Chicago Farm Radio.
- ◆ Insights from **Dr. Julie Howard**, Executive Director of the **Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa**

The event will start on Tuesday, July 22nd, with a 7 p.m. reception, and end on July 24th at noon at: **HOLIDAY INN CITY CENTER**, 100 West 8th Street, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104

Make your reservations directly at the hotel at 605-339-2000. Be sure to ask for the special FRB rate of \$84 per night. If you will be coming to the meeting but not staying at the hotel, please let us know so we can prepare enough materials and have a nametag for you. Please call 269-349-3467 to register.

### Donations:

Foods Resource Bank • 75 Remittance Drive Suite 6539 • Chicago, Illinois 60675-6539

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