



News from Foods Resource Bank • www.foodsresourcebank.org • June 2009

*Please join us for FRB's
10th Anniversary
Celebration - let's write
the next chapter of FRB
together!*

FRB Annual Gathering August 4, 5 & 6

**Augustana College
Rock Island, Illinois**

Contact Joan Fumetti at
1-563-542-2870 or
joan@foodsresourcebank.org for
more information. Call the Radisson
in Moline at 1-800-333-3333 for FRB
group rate of \$81 by 7/3/09. There
is no charge for the event. **Event
registration deadline 7/24/09.**

- **Hear keynote speaker
Roger Thurow, Wall Street
Journal correspondent and
author of Enough**
- **Meet overseas program visitors**
- **Network with U.S. growing
project volunteers**
- **Share in FRB's vision at
strategic planning listening posts**

Overseas Travel Opportunities

September 19 – October 2
Bosnia Herzegovina and Armenia

November – December
Laos, Cambodia and India

For more information, contact
bev@foodsresourcebank.org.

Foods Resource Bank celebrates ten years of working toward the day when all people have enough to eat

In 1999 nine people gathered with a vision of connecting U.S. agriculture with people around the world to help vulnerable people feed their families. Learning from the Canadian Foodgrains Bank experience, U.S. growing projects began building community and responding in unique ways with a common vision of supporting small holder agriculture in other parts of the world.

As we celebrate our 10-year anniversary, we are thankful for the progress that we have made. Last year farmers, pastors and volunteers in 210 U.S. growing projects raised the money to support 57 sustainable agricultural programs around the world. Here are the stories of some of the 490,000 people, who, through their participation in FRB supported programs, took steps to develop a better future through agriculture:

In Katanga in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the FRB/United Methodist Committee program has empowered 165 families to feed themselves, sell their excess vegetables, build houses, pay school fees, and buy medication and clothing.



Mama Ilunga, pictured on the right in this photo, from the Katanga program, is proud of the 15 roofing panels and 2 new bicycles she and her husband bought with the proceeds from their onion and cabbage farm.

After the collapse of the sugar cane industry in Batey Euskarduna in the Dominican Republic, an FRB/Church World Service agricultural program has brought security to former sugar cane workers. Malnutrition is now almost nonexistent. Participants are experiencing the emotional stability and dignity of having a secure food supply, selling their excess crops, owning something, and sharing with others. Health promoter Elikorn explains *"We have our own food; we can go on with what we have learned and teach others."*

Lisay Pierret, another participant in that program offers a prayer for FRB, *"Our thanks come not from our lips but from our hearts."*

**Celebrate the Past,
Live in the Present,
Experience Hope
For the Future...**

**Please join us!
10-Year Regional
Anniversary
Celebration**

**Michigan, Indiana, Ohio
& Eastern Region**

July 16	5:00 pm to 8:00 pm
July 17	8:30 am to 4:30 pm
July 18	8:00 am to 11:00 pm

(All are welcome to attend – not just those from this region. Those unable to attend the Annual Gathering in August in Illinois, please come to Michigan!)

Friendship Christian Reformed Church
Byron Center, Michigan

Contact Laurie Kaniarz at
1-888-276-4372 or
laurie@foodsresourcebank.org for
more information. Deadline for FRB
group hotel rate is 6/26/09; **event
registration deadline 7/6/09.**

• **Hear keynote speaker
David Dethmers, FRB Board
Director representing the Reformed
Church in America – Reformed
Church World Service**

- **Meet overseas program visitors**
- **Network with U.S. growing project
volunteers**
- **Share in FRB's vision at strategic
planning listening posts**
- **Attend Farm Tours**

**Roger Thurow book
now available**



To get your copy of **Enough: Why the
World's Poorest Starve in an Age of
Plenty** by Wall Street Journal
correspondents Scott Kilman and long-
time FRB friend Roger Thurow,
contact Barbara Ward at 1-888-276-
4372 or
bward@foodsresourcebank.org.
The cost is \$20 (includes postage).

FRB welcomes overseas program representatives

This year, FRB welcomes **Philomene Bidimbu from the Micro Devru program in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Timothy Chapman**, a student in International Agricultural Development at UC Davis in California who grew up in the DRC, is fluent in Kikongo and Lingala and will translate for Philomene.

Angela Boss will represent the Gamboula (Central Africa Republic) program.

As of this writing, a visa is still pending for our visitor from Zambia.

While here, our guests will visit growing projects, attend meetings in Washington, DC and various meetings around the country, including the Annual Gathering in Rock Island, Illinois and the regional meeting in Byron Center, Michigan. They will also spend several days at ECHO's demonstration farming complex in Ft. Myers, Florida.

There is space available for 2 additional people to join the trip to ECHO. Growing project volunteers or others interested should contact Bev Abma at bev@foodsresourcebank.org or 888-276-4372 for more information.

FRB's example inspires guest from Ethiopia

Last fall, **Kiflu Arega of Ethiopia** attended **Decorah, Iowa's FRB Winneshiek Community of Hope** growing project harvest celebration as a guest of Luther College professor Brett Johnson. Kiflu was so impressed with his combine ride and what the FRB growing project was doing for people they didn't even know that he was inspired to do something for his own people in Ethiopia.

Kiflu requested and received a \$10,000 grant from the Davis Projects for Peace for his project, *Collaborating on Irrigation to Fight Hunger*. Kiflu will go back to Ethiopia this summer to see how the project is progressing.

"From Poverty to Productivity: How to Feed the World's Hungry"

On June 17, FRB President Marv Baldwin was a participant in a panel discussion convened by The Chicago Council of Global Affairs addressing the economic, political, ecological, and social dynamics that cause hunger and what steps the international community can take to assist developing countries in the midst of dual economic and food crises. Other distinguished panel members included **Wall Street Journalists Roger Thurow and Scott Kilman and University of Illinois Gardner Chair in Agricultural Policy Robert Thompson.**

Commenting on his participation, Marv said, *"It was a great opportunity and honor to have a place at the table with others who have long been involved with this work. The number of people attending and the depth of questions indicate a growing concern and understanding of the issues that affect hunger and poverty around the world."*

At the event, Roger Thurow and Scott Kilman signed copies of their book, *Enough*. With each copy sold, FRB included a bookmark highlighting FRB and marking Chapter 16, Small Acts, Big Impacts, which features FRB's story. Roger Thurow will be the keynote speaker at FRB's Annual Gathering. **For more information about *Enough*, see <http://www.enoughthebook.com>**

Contact FRB at 888-276-4372 for the bookmark in pdf format if you'd like to replicate it for your growing project or church.