



## *"First the bread then the Bread of Life"*

*"Time Flies—Even in the Mission of God"*

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Can you believe that 2009 is almost gone? The old saying about time passing by so quickly the older you get is amazingly true. Though it has seemed overwhelming and like a whirlwind at times, it has been a wonderfully productive year for Agrimissions. The Small Garden Demonstration project at the INNFA Center in Gonzanama was completed only to have doors opened in several communities for new projects. In Paraguay, we have taken over the responsibility of getting the center fully operational. Currently, we are designing the project in Costa Rica for *The Refuge* (the rescue center for sexually exploited young women) and in the initial planning phase of two new projects with SIM Ecuador. On top of all this, we are working to get the training center initiated at the Crockett headquarters—which is something you may not know much about yet, but you will soon.

As Agrimissions moves into 2010 and as mentioned in our Fall 2009 newsletter, there have already been more requests for assistance than we can handle—the calendar is already getting full and 2009 is not even over! Besides the international assistance, there have been quite a few requests for assistance stateside also, which is unexpected, but a blessing and welcome addition to the workings of Agrimissions. A very exciting and important event in February, 2010 is that Douglas will assume the role of director for Agrimissions as Larry Williams steps down from that position.

In December, Doug along with staff from The Mission Society will be in attendance at Urbana 2009. This is a conference hosted every three years by InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and will see an attendance of 15,000-20,000 university students. Hopefully while Doug is there, the story of Agrimissions will be told and there will be students who feel called to agriculture and the mission of God and respond. Since one of our major endeavors in 2010 is to add more members to "Team Agrimissions", pray with us that time spent at Urbana will be the spark to achieve this undertaking.

Besides workers, our second great need for the coming year is the never ending story for all faith-based ministries—Finances. First and foremost we do want you all to know that because of our very generous and faithful support family, we are ending the year on sound financial footing. However, we do need you to know that with the pending 2010 requests for assistance, our needs are even greater. As you look to the end of 2009 and into next year, please consider how you will be a part of Agrimissions to continue to bring ***"First the bread, then the Bread of Life"***.

### WINTER 2009-2010

#### LOOKING AHEAD

##### January

\*Jim Ramsay visits Agrimissions HQ in Crockett

\*Trinity on the Hill UMC Outreach Celebration, Augusta, GA

##### February

\*Paraguay-meeting with national Methodist church; work at ag center

\*Agrimissions 10-year Celebration, Trenton, GA

##### March

\*Ecuador-with SIM on project installation

#### PRAYER AND PRAISE

\*Successful surgery for Becky's dad, Charles

\*Safe travels—we logged about 12,000 miles in the air and on the highway since our last letter

\*Great visit with Stonebridge Community Church, Franklin, TN; the Williams Family in Lubbock, TX; the Butler's in Caledonia, MS

\*Many thanks to Anne Fryga and Mt. Hebron UMC in West Columbia, SC for hosting Agrimissions advisory board meeting in October

\*Kudos to Frank and Lisa Lemkowitz for hosting Agrimissions in the Richmond, TX area (great chicken legs, Frank)

## **Baby CALEB CHARLES FOOKES**



***Our new baby is finally here! Sherman, Sarah, Cade and Cole welcomed baby CALEB on November 28, 2009. He weighed in at 8 lbs. 14 oz - ready for the big league!***

As we prepare to welcome once again the new born King, I pray we can all be like Simeon. He recognized—knew immediately the new born baby brought to him was The One, Messiah. How did Simeon know this? Because all of Simeon’s life he had been waiting, longing, searching for Him. He was so thankful that his eyes had seen God’s salvation he said he could depart in peace. I know it can hardly compare with the coming of the Messiah, but we can sort of understand how Simeon felt as we have been waiting for our fifth grandchild, although we have only had to wait for nine months.

In all the busyness that can accompany this season, let’s not get so caught up in the things we are doing that we miss or fail to recognize the arrival of the Messiah, Savior, Prince of Peace. Blessings as we sing and celebrate once again and tell everyone—“Joy to the world. The Lord is come!” – BECKY (Mimi)

### **Olger – Keeping a Dad at Home**

Let us share one of our potential projects for 2010 in Ecuador. Olger and his family were one of the first to come to the Bible study in Portete in 2006. All the family has come to faith and was baptized last March of this year. Olger is now becoming a major spiritual leader in his community and is receiving Bible training.

Just imagine that your entire life exists on roughly half an acre. And, imagine that if you could make \$150-200 a month this could possibly take care of your entire family needs for one year. This includes your food, utilities, educational needs for your children, food for your animals—anything you can imagine. Now imagine this is almost entirely impossible to do where you live.

Presently in the U.S., unemployment is a major concern. For those who live in the developing world, such as Olger, “joblessness” has **always** been a worry. One of his alternatives is to move to another country to earn the finances he needs, but not see his family for years at a time. Is this something you would choose to do? We imagine your answer is No! This, however, is Olger’s situation.

At this time Agrimissions, partnering with SIM Ecuador, is developing a farming system that would enable Olger to support his family on his 0.625 acres. What we are looking at is the installation of a year-round vegetable garden that will provide produce to take to the market each week. The issue is not Olger’s inability to farm because he is a very good farmer. His problem is a year-round water supply. For example, currently Ecuador is rationing electricity. Power is being turned off 4 to 8 hours a day in the entire country because the rivers are so low due to inadequate rainfall and sufficient hydroelectric power cannot be produced. Therefore, we are designing a cropping rotation and irrigation system to provide Olger a year-round production potential. Upon the success of the model farm, Olger will train and demonstrate the system to other farmers around him enabling them the same opportunity to stay home with their family, be involved with their local community and church while producing a sustainable income.

Pray continually for the success of this project.