



GLOBAL FOOD INITIATIVE

E-news of the Global Food Initiative

www.brethren.org/gfi

FALL 2018

Canton, Illinois and Dundalk, Maryland: New Community Garden Grants

The Canton (Ill.) Church of the Brethren received a \$1,000 grant to begin a new garden project. The goal of the congregation is to provide an affordable and nutritious food supply for residents of Canton who may find it difficult to meet this need for their families. They also hope to provide opportunities for people of diverse backgrounds to work together and build relationships. Excess produce will be donated to a local food pantry.

In Dundalk, Md., the GraceWay Church of the Brethren received a second grant (the first was in 2017) to expand its community garden. This new grant totaled \$1,569.30. Among others, the project serves African refugees settled in the community. Goals for the project include improving the diet and health practices among low-income families and promoting awareness of hunger issues in the area.



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Nigeria: Soybean Update

As part of a long-term recovery plan for northeast Nigeria, Brethren Disaster Ministries and the GFI are working together to support a soybean value chain project of Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, Church of the Brethren in Nigeria). This project is in its second year. EYN agriculture staff and volunteers are training farmers on improved agronomic practices as well as working to connect farmers to the market (buyers such as feed mills) where they can sell their crops. New this year is an increased emphasis on maize (corn) production. Together with Dennis Thompson, a semi-retired, adjunct faculty researcher with the University of Illinois, EYN agronomists have produced a planting guide. Reliable seeds and farming inputs are available to farmers through this project. Another new focus for this year is supporting the processing of soybeans for both commercial enterprises and household usage for women's groups within EYN.





Foods Resource Bank – Global Food Initiative Collaboration

After four years of GFI support for a small animal project in Honduras with Proyecto Aldea Global (PAG) and five years of support for a multi-faceted crop production project in Haiti with L’Eglise des Freres d’Haiti (Church of the Brethren in Haiti), the work of both organizations is now being supported by grants from the Foods Resource Bank (FRB). In Honduras, PAG uses a ‘passing on the gift’ model, with its new project underway in 11 communities

near the Meambar Blue Mountain National Park (PANACAM). Presently there are 53 families participating in small animal projects including poultry, pigs, bees, and fish. In Haiti agriculture staff are working with 250 farmers across 10 communities on soil conservation, reforestation, and income generation projects.

Each year the Church of the Brethren pays membership fees to FRB so that Church of the Brethren congregations may participate in ‘Growing Projects’ to raise money for FRB international programs. More information about FRB can be found at www.foodsresourcebank.org/.

Haiti-Honduras Exchange

Community health staff members working with the Haiti Medical Project of the Church of the Brethren traveled to Honduras earlier this year for a week of visits and seminars with their Honduran counterparts from Proyecto Aldea Global (PAG). Obtaining visas was a complicated process, but thanks to prayer and the tireless efforts of PAG’s executive director, Chester Thomas, the team was able to receive their visas and make the journey. The itinerary of the trip included field visits to agriculture, water, and health projects, as well as a short visit to the Meambar Blue Mountain National Park (PANACAM), managed by PAG. Along on the trip was Romy Telfort, the general secretary of L’Eglise des Freres d’Haiti, who shared, “This trip was life-changing, and has helped me in my ministry and in so many other ways.” Smaller delegations from Haiti Medical Project and PAG have traded visits in the past, but this was the largest exchange to date.



Book Review: Ministering in Honor-Shame Cultures

When offered a gift, should you take it? What does that gift mean? If you give a gift, are you creating dependency or building social ties that strengthen long-term relationships? When asked to pay something extra for services rendered by a government official, is it a bribe or a fee for doing business? Should you accept a seat reserved for you at the front of the church? These and other questions regularly confront Western Christians working in other countries as mission workers or in the business world.

Authors Jason Georges and Mark Baker provide helpful insights on how to navigate cross-cultural differences in their new book, *Ministering in Honor-Shame Cultures: Biblical Foundations and Practical Essentials*. Many societies operate under different social standards and assumptions about personal conduct and ethics than do Western cultures. These differences may lead to misunderstandings and outright conflict. Georges and Baker offer personal anecdotes and scriptural references to guide Western Christians who find themselves trying to understand and minister in non-Western settings. This book is available at: www.brethrenpress.com/ProductDetails.asp?ProductCode=0830851461.

