

CONNECTIONS

AGCONNECT NEWSLETTER | FALL 2020

Welcome to our November update of ministry challenges, changes, and God-directed outcomes! As we all know far too well, 2020 has **not been** providing the clear vision we all anticipated in early January. What 2020 has provided, in many ways, is a clearer vision of what God intended for us to focus on—prayer! We know that when times get tough, we find ourselves spending more time praying. As a result, prayer became of greater importance for the Board of Directors of AgConnect Ministries. Each monthly board meeting begins with a spiritual challenge from Pastor Omar and prayer. Additionally, in 2020 the board has devoted the major portion of every other board meeting to prayer. Consider joining the Board of Directors and commit more time to pray for the challenges, changes, and clarity to know where and how God is leading ACM for his kingdom-directed outcomes.

Don McNutt
President, Board of Directors



MOLDOVA OVERVIEW

With so many things that could cause us to become discouraged this year in Moldova, from one of the worst droughts in recent history to the current pandemic, there are some bright spots to focus on. The small dairy farmers we are working with are doing quite well. There is good demand for their milk and dairy products, although the challenge of low supply and high prices for feed remain.

One of our farmers realized 5 tonnes/hectare (80 bushels/acre) corn, which is a good average even in a normal year. This is compared to 1.5 tonnes (23 bushels/acre) of others who were fortunate enough to even get any harvest. Many farmers chose not to bother harvesting their fields.

The cheese project at Dancu continues to be the bright spot in their farming venture. They are currently expanding their dairy barn to add 12 more stalls, and are in the process of purchasing some additional cows. They are blessed to have an abundant supply of decent corn silage, as neighboring farms allowed them to chop fields that would have produced little or no grain this year. While they didn't market any vegetables from their greenhouses, they did produce an abundant supply of food for their Feeding the Elderly project.

Demonstrating God's love through agriculture



The layers, broilers, and turkeys at Alexei's project in northern Moldova are doing very well. He is planning to begin butchering soon, and we are working with him to develop a sausage-making enterprise. He has also recently joined another man in expanding a hog raising project, and they have been busy building new housing and fences.

As of the writing and publishing of this newsletter, Les Yoder is in Kenya with Ed Eby, from Petra Church, visiting Randy and Bonnie Martin, another Petra Missionary couple. Their "Prepare The Way" ministry has started a community development project which provides small loans for people to start small businesses, many of them agribusinesses. Projects already underway include a pig and bee keeping ventures.



Prepare The Way is considering an opportunity to purchase land to start an agriculture enterprise that would provide ag education and hands-on training. One of the ideas is to start a mineral premix and feed blending facility to provide affordable, high-quality, properly balanced feeds to surrounding farmers. Randy has been working with a local veterinarian, Alex, who has a small premix company, and has become involved in this project.



As Ed and Les travel with Randy and Alex throughout Kenya, they are meeting with numerous farmers, learning their farming methods, and helping Randy decide which types of agriculture ventures to pursue. Along the way, Les will be conducting a number of seminars to farmers who are eager to improve their farming methods. Please pray for Prepare The Way ministry and ACM while there is an open door and urgent need for the type of support and resources that ACM can provide.

GIVING TO ACM

As we near the end of 2020 and reflect on the months behind us, we each have unique stories. And for many of us, this past year has been unlike any other we've experienced. Whether we have faced emotional, financial, or physical needs, this year has reminded us of our dependence on the Lord's perfect provision.

In the midst of each individual story, we are reminded of an eternal story that overarches the details of our lives. From the dawn of creation until the end of time, the Lord has been writing a story of hope and redemption in the hearts of people across the globe. His passion is to restore what is broken, to bring His prized possession—humanity—back to His heart where we belong.

AgConnect Ministries has been honored to join in the Lord's eternal story of hope and restoration this year, and it is because of your ongoing prayer and financial support. The Lord has provided for ACM, and His method of provision has been YOU. As 2021 draws near, we are deeply grateful for your end-of-year financial gift!

ANGELA'S UPDATE

This past month has seemed a bit more more normal for me, as my stomach issues are slowly subsiding thanks to some good probiotics. The COVID restrictions with travel outside the country have kept me from venturing to Ukraine or Romania, but thankfully do not affect my farm work. The markets are not closed, so the vegetable farmers have somewhere to sell their goods.

Recently I was encouraged by several Christian families that are working in Moldova. One family has 3 greenhouses, and until recently, was the only committed Christian family in the village. Their tomato crop is looking absolutely fabulous, and I told them they win the prize for this year's "best tomatoes."

Another family is trying to sustain itself, and recently bought several dairy cows. They are in the process of building a new dairy barn so that they can move the cows from a temporary lean-to made of saplings. They are the parents of 9 children—4 of their own and 5 adopted. Boris is a pastor and is working with 2 small churches in nearby villages.



As I look towards this fall, there is much to be hopeful for, even in the midst of the pandemic and drought that has hit Moldova very hard this year. I have been praying for teammates, for help to do a better job here as an agronomist/missionary. I was recently reminded that even if there are others joining me in the work, God is faithful to accomplish His work even if it is just me. I am praying that I can wait on the Lord and know His strength.

I am grateful for some women that are interested in helping with the youth group girls, and am also looking for a person to work with the elderly. And I just talked pastor Andrei into having a seminar to address alcoholism in our community.

Ag-wise, I am working with Dancu to build a giant compost pile for their greenhouse, working on some publications, and my strategy for next year. I am continuing to pray about purchasing a house versus starting a peanut butter business. I ask for prayer to continue to look to God as my "audience of one," and being teachable along the way.

Thank you for your support-both through prayer and finances. May we find our joy in Him!



Angela

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