



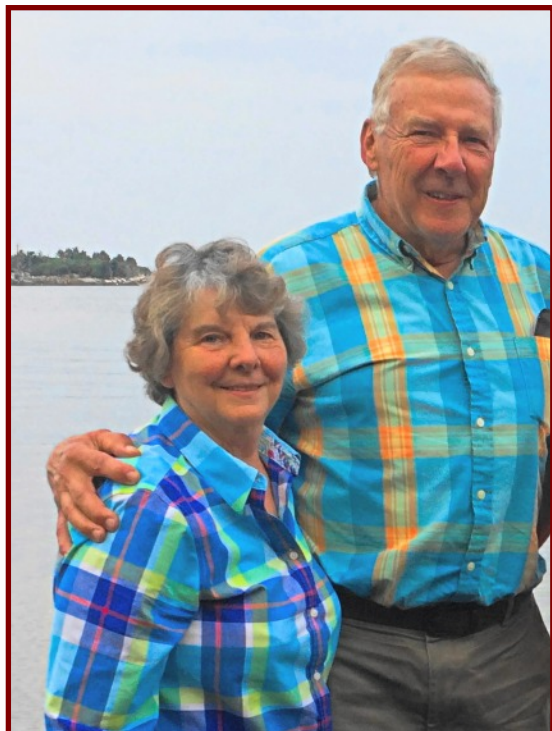
# Doing Good That Is Good

*The newsletter of FARMS International*

November 2018 - God at work in Cuba

Providing revolving entrepreneurial loans to poor Christian families - Galatians 6:10

## *Update from the Richters!*



Joe and Pat Richter

## *Dear FARMS family,*

Jesus said during his "Sermon on the Mount," *"Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away."* Matt. 5:42. This is what FARMS International has always been about. Helping those who need an opportunity to work and give their way out of the cycle of poverty. The fruit of this unique approach was clearly demonstrated by the families we helped with FARMS' loans as missionaries 34 years ago. We were church planters in the mountains of the Philippines. We saw firsthand that many families were blessed and became generous, new homes were built, a church was built, children were sent to college, and even more importantly, many Igorots were delivered from animism and are now following Jesus! Moreover, this is still happening, all because God enabled FARMS to be there.

As I write this, I am in my first few days of retirement. After over 34 years of working with FARMS, 25 as its executive director, this is a monumental change. A good change for Pat and me, yet it comes with some heartfelt emotions as you might imagine. At the same time, we are excited to hear what God's new direction is for us.

As the leadership of FARMS transfers to Scott Clifton, our prayer is that you will continue to be a blessing to this ministry in prayer and financial support. Pray for Scott, Sara and their children. A ministry that brings light to dark places around the globe will always face opposition, sometimes fierce opposition.

Several new doors of opportunity have recently opened for FARMS, incredible opportunities, and we want you to be a part of them. We are confident that God will continue to bless and expand the work of FARMS. In so many places, we are the only help for our brothers and sisters. I trust you will continue to *"bear the burden"* of those that are in deep need. Yes, this is *"Doing Good That Is Good!"*

Recently, Scott and I, and two board members, Bill Wingenroth and Chris Eby made a weeklong trip to Cuba! Only God could open this door. What a privilege and a joy to encourage our brethren in this difficult place. God is so wonderful.

Thank you all for standing with our family through these many years, and the Lord Jesus bless each of you abundantly.

In Christ's everlasting love,

*Joe and Pat Richter*

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## ***Hello -***      ***A Message From Scott***

It was clearly God who made a way for FARMS to have a presence in Cuba. I am excited to share how God continues to use FARMS to strengthen the Church among the Cuban people. Note: Due to the sensitive nature of these stories, we've refrained from using the names of individuals. Also, through the transition of leadership from Joe to myself most of the contact information has remained the same; however, there were a couple of changes. Reference the Contact Info. Section (back page) for all of the up-to-date information. Additionally, included with this newsletter is a personal letter from Joe as he reflects on his time with FARMS.

As I have transitioned into the role as Executive Director, I have found myself reflecting on the biblical principle of generosity. So much of FARMS is rooted in generosity, from our supporters who give financially, to the volunteers who give their time to run the committees, to the loan recipients who give joyfully back to the church. It really is meaningful to be a part of an organization that operates under such selflessness. In fact, it points to the infinitely more generous nature of God, who freely gave to us in the person of Christ. I recently heard someone describe God's love as bankrupting heaven. Now that was a thought that gave me pause! Restated, God did not hold back a portion of Himself to test the waters with a safe investment in the currency of love. He went all in, holding nothing back, investing everything, selfless even unto death, that we may know love, which is to know Him. Have you considered that when you are generous, your gift is actually the conduit used to remind followers of Christ that God is good, God sees them in their trials, and God loves them? What a privilege to convey such a profound message!



**Passing the torch: Joe Richter with Scott Clifton**

*Scott Clifton*

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***New Committee*** - We had the opportunity to meet with a new committee and train them in regard to the principles by which FARMS operates. This committee is in a different location than the committee currently operating, thus increasing the opportunities of FARMS to help the people of Cuba. It was encouraging to hear the committee speak of their desire to see the gifts God has given to those in their community be leveraged to rise out of financial poverty. Please pray that God would be with the members of this committee and cause the work of FARMS to flourish among them.

***Bici-taxi Update*** - There are some exciting updates from one of the projects previously visited. The last newsletter on Cuba mentioned a bici-taxi project that was used in many ways to help the church. At the time of the last visit, just about two years ago, the people who received the loan also oversaw two churches. Now, we are thrilled to hear that it has **grown to five churches!** The expansion of the church, as well as the distance in between these partner churches, is part of what compelled them to invest in a larger taxi project. They also said, in good humor, that at 63 years old the pastor was finding it difficult to pedal by day and speak at night! The decision was made to purchase the frame for a motorized taxi that is more rugged and has more capacity than the previous bici-taxi. This new taxi will fit 11 people besides the driver. This will be very useful among the churches, and will also generate more income. What's more, once they are able to sell the bici-taxi and buy the remaining parts needed, they expect a net profit!



**Work in Progress: Motorized Taxi**





Bill Wingenroth with FARMs loan recipient.

**Electronic Fabrication Update** - Since we last heard from this entrepreneur nearly two years ago, a hurricane destroyed his home and damaged his business, causing him to lose many tools. Through this upending time, his wife was pregnant and gave birth to their second child. Thankfully, God provided for them through his business of electronic repair and fabrication. He was able to pay for materials necessary to construct a new home, and has plans to expand his shop. This business was started through a FARMs loan in 2015! Not only have supporters of FARMs been able to help a member of our global family, but he also has the dignity of using the gifts that God has given him to provide for his biological family. Praise God!

**Farm on Mission** - One project we visited shared about the remarkable story of a church who cares for the elderly and disadvantaged youth in their community. Their care is holistic and encompasses spiritual, physical and emotional elements. The pastor's family owns a farm and uses much of the produce to provide food for those being cared for which amounts to over 70 families. They also sell produce in the local market, which allows them to meet necessary expenses as well as hire labor. In total, 11 people are employed either through working on the farm or through preparing meals and devotions for the participants. They desire to see more churches pursue this type of sustainable ministry as a way to show God's love and care. The Lord is meeting their needs and even providing increase, as they are focusing on generously giving to those in need around them. They recently received a FARMs loan to build a fence around their crops. This seemingly small improvement has resulted in a significant impact on their yield, estimated at an **85% increase!** Before the fence, both thieves and animals would ravage the produce, but now that increase allows them to both expand their ministry as well as improve their income.



Scott Clifton with those who own, manage, and work on the farm

This group would like to continue to develop the farm as they have seen its effectiveness for the purpose of ministry. Please pray for them with regard to the following:

- They desire to further develop the cropland.
- They are in the process of constructing a modest structure to provide amenities for staff and living quarters for critical times of planting and harvest.
- They would like to hire more members of their church to raise animals on the land, including pigs, chickens, or ducks.

Thank you for partnering with our Christian family through prayer!

### Memorial Gifts

In Memory:	Given By:
Judith Duncan	Ryan & Amy Duncan
Ruth S Mendez	Gary & Nancy Wiebe
Dan & Connie Nyberg	Kenneth Soderstrom
Victor Schneider	Gary & Nancy Wiebe

### Honor Gifts

In Honor:	Given By:
Tim Blomberg	Drake & Meg Peterson
Joe & Pat Richter	Mr. And Mrs. Darwin Bears



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