



Planting Hope International

"Spreading the Gospel through improving agriculture, education, and health in developing countries"

Summer 2017 Newsletter – Hello from Floyd and Gayle Dowell!



Grain drying center in Laos funded by ASABE and Planting Hope International

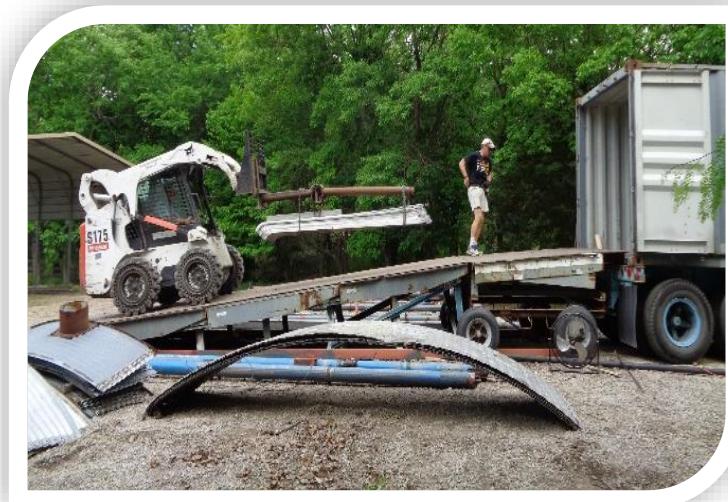
This year has been very busy for us as we continue to fund agricultural Business as Mission projects, pay tuition for many students, and provide funds for various medical needs in developing countries. God continues to bring many opportunities our way to touch people's lives, and we thank you for your continued support. We continue to operate on less than 1% overhead cost so that all your donations go directly to projects we support. Below is a summary of some of the projects you have funded this year.

Business as Missions. We were fortunate to receive a grant from the American Society of Biological and Agricultural Engineers (ASABE) to help establish a grain drying center in Laos that supports Business as Mission (BAM) work. Several of us are Agricultural Engineers and this is a nice example of how our professional full-time jobs sometimes overlap with our charity work. The funds were used to build a facility to dry grain and mill

the grain into feed, thus reducing grain losses due to spoilage and also adding value through making feed. This improves the income for local farmers, and all work is overseen by Christians so the Laotians hear a Gospel message and work with Christian business men and women.

In addition to this work, we have been collecting donated grain bins and grain handling equipment for BAM projects in Laos and Kyrgyzstan. This culminated in taking down two 10,000 bu grain bins, and then loading two 40 ft containers in May. We were quite busy for a few weeks! The two containers are now on their way to their respective countries to support BAM projects there. Many churches have been started as a result of these efforts over the years. It is a great way to spread the Gospel in societies where Christianity isn't necessarily welcome as Kyrgyzstan is primarily a muslim nation, and Laos is primarily buddhist.

Student Support. We continue to support students of all ages as we see this as a way of witnessing to young people while helping them obtain a good education. We hope this will help them have a long-term impact in their own countries. Many young people have no opportunity to get an education in these developing countries, and thus are confined to a lifetime of poverty and chronic hunger. Young women and young mothers are especially vulnerable in these situations, so we emphasize helping young girls and the kids of young mothers get a good education. We are now supporting, or have recently supported, 108 students ranging from primary school through college. We have partnered with several other groups to fund and maintain accountability of the students, including Help to Help (Tanzania), Children in the Wilderness (Zambia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe), and Africa University (Zimbabwe) where we are funding a scholarship in memory of Pastor Gerald Martin, one of our former Board members.



Loading grain bins heading for Kyrgyzstan

For all students we support, we require them to make good grades and send us receipts for their expenses. We also check with schools and people from the surrounding community to make sure students are doing well. We maintain email contact with many students or their relatives, and we have met many of them personally.

Medical Support. One of our favorite projects continues to be supporting the clinic at Eden Children's Village in Zimbabwe. In the past we have shipped medical supplies to them, but this has become a problem as both our governments have increasingly stringent regulations for shipping medical supplies. Thus, we are sending funds for them to source whatever they can in-country.

Some of our plans for the remainder of 2017 include:

- **Agricultural needs:** We hope to send additional grain handling and storage equipment to Business as Mission projects in Kyrgyzstan which will require a shipping cost of about \$15,000. We also plan to help Jeff and Carol Way to establish a business in Zimbabwe as a way for them to witness there as Jeff teaches construction skills and Carole works as a nurse. We are donating a tractor and shipping costs, and they are looking for additional construction equipment such as a truck and backhoe. You can learn more about them at Zimbabwe.org.
- **Educational needs:** We continue to get requests for tuition help from kids of all ages. Depending on their school and age, the cost is from \$50 to \$6,000/yr.
- **Medical needs:** We continue to help specific medical emergencies, and we spend about \$10,000/yr on medical needs.

We welcome your contributions as we seek to continue Planting Hope in lives around the world. You can contribute through our website or send a check to the address below. You can see our annual reports and past newsletters on our website. Donations are tax deductible, and we hold the highest rating issued by GuideStar for our commitment to transparency.

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James 1:27, 2:18 "care for the orphans and widows . . . show your faith through your works"



A student funded in memory of Gerald Martin at Africa University



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