



Lasting Harvest: February - May 2018

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last.” –John 15:16a

Hello everyone! This year has been moving along quite nicely here in Panama. We are excited to share with you what God has been doing these past few months.

Support Raising: Missions Festival

In February, we flew to Atlanta to participate in one of our supporting church's week long Missions Festival. We were able to connect with individual supporters, as well as, meet new faces at the church and share with them about the work here in Panama. The week consisted of number of activities geared toward helping the church as a whole get to know their supported missionaries and the ministries they serve in around the world. Through a small group, Sunday school class, Men's prayer breakfast, and other activities through the week, we were able to share what God is doing in Panama through Lasting Harvest. We also had the opportunity to be encouraged through time with other missionaries sharing our stories and enjoying meals together. It was a very busy and exhausting week, but also encouraging and energizing at the same time. One of the highlights of the trip was hearing Ravi Zacharias preach the opening Sunday message. It was truly inspiring.

Demonstration Farm Development

The first round of the year-long chicken breed yield verification trials came to a close with some very interesting results. We plan on continuing to trial other breeds and have now begun to use alternative diets with the goals of finding the most productive breed for growing in rural Panama, and the most profitable and feasible way to feed the chickens for the Ngobe. One interesting result from the first year of this trial is that the breed pushed most by the feed stores (where most rural Panamanians get their information about agricultural practices) is the least efficient meat producer of all the breeds that I have trialed to this point. It takes more than double the amount of feed to grow these birds compared to the most efficient in the trial. No wonder the feed stores encourage their production. Aside from the chicken yield verification trials over the last few months, farm development has been progressing slowly but surely. Funds are too low to buy many materials at the moment so we have spent a lot of time on maintenance and repair like fixing the greenhouse roof. The little development of projects that we have been able to do has been using very basic materials. For example we are close to finishing a raceway for fish production using recycled pallets and pieces of plastic. This demonstration



Figure 1- Fish harvested on the farm

is timely as we are so low on funds for materials and if it works, it will be a low cost demonstration that will be within reach of the rural poor around the world.

We also have made some progress on the dorms as funds allow. I am waiting to have the next Ngobe training program until the dorm kitchen is better set up because the first several training programs that we have had without the kitchen being more usable have been great programs but difficult for feeding the students.

Other News

In other news, we are happy to announce we will be adding another member to our family in October. We are very excited and thankful for this new little one. Please keep Bethany and baby in your prayers. Bethany has had some minor health issues that have been stressed by pregnancy, so prayers for healing and continued health are very much appreciated.



Figure 2-Baby Courtwright

Financial Needs

As always, we appreciate your prayers and support. We are still in need of additional funding. Lasting Harvest's financial situation is a source of increasing concern so much so that we were not able to fulfill all of our financial obligations in April. We were able to put a few bills off until May; however, that means that the financial need in May and June has been even greater. Please prayerfully consider giving to the work here in Panama. Your donations are going to help the local indigenous and internationals receive training in Christian community development and hear the Gospel. Helping us pay staff, develop the demonstration farm, and support your missionaries makes this all possible. If you are interested in making a donation to LHI, please make checks payable to *Lasting Harvest International*, and send checks to 45 NE E Hwy, Warrensburg, MO 64093, or visit our website to donate via PayPal. Please remember that when donating via PayPal, they do take a small service charge. May God bless you all and thank you again for your support.

Your partners in reaching the world,
Corey, Bethany and Anne Courtwright



Pineapple demonstration on the farm with maturing pineapples. This looks nothing like a commercial pineapple field but they are growing and producing on not much more than bare rock. Sometimes Christian community development is not about producing at commercial standards because the rural poor do not have access to appropriate land; instead, it is about making something grow where others think it is hopeless.