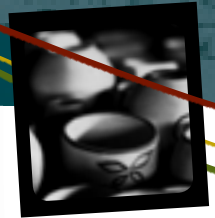


HNGR

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Year 36, ed 3 | Winter 2012



Merry Christmas!

From all of us at the HNGR Program



Tulu Gada, in the Huri Hills of the Kenya-Ethiopian frontier. The Gabra pastoralists affirm this is where God meets them, receives their sacrifices, hears their prayers, answers their pleas for peace and the flourishing of their people and livestock. It is a sacred place, liminal space. where heaven and earth meet. Photo by Paul Robinson.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

IMMANUEL

“The Word became a human being and, full of grace and truth, lived among us.” Jn 1.14

“For the Lord your God has arrived to live among you. He is a mighty Savior. He will rejoice over you with great gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will exult over you...” Zeph 3.17

**God with us.
Present to us. Living among us.
Presence.**



Wheaton College®
For Christ and His Kingdom



**Merry Christmas from
Santa Paul!**

Thank you, Paul!

On March 2, the Saturday after the Symposium events, the HNGR office will be hosting an Alumni Celebration. We hope that you will join us to reflect on Paul's time here at Wheaton and to celebrate the service he gave to each of the interns who passed through the office during his tenure.

RSVP to the Alumni Celebration on the Symposium registration form.

If you have any photos of Paul, memories you would like to share, or words of thanks and encouragement, please send them to Sydney McRay.

**Register for the
2013 Symposium
now!**

Small Plots, Big Change

The Role and Potential of Small Scale Farming to Feed the Hungry

February 28 - March 1, 2013

The eighth annual Symposium in Human Needs and Global Resources will be held on February 28 - March 1. This year's Symposium, **Small Plots, Big Change: The Role and Potential of Small Scale Farming to Feed the Hungry**, focuses on the challenges that are inherent to small scale agriculture, the potential that farmers with only an acre or two of land have for responding to a growing population, and the importance of not overlooking these vital contributors to the fight against world hunger. Through the keynote addresses and other events, the Symposium will explore avenues of engaging and strengthening the work done by small scale farmers.

Smallholder farmers – farmers who plant on only five acres of land or less – are among the most vulnerable populations in the world and yet, they are a key to responding to an ever-increasing demand for greater food production. Their success is dependent upon self-sufficiency in their approaches to agriculture and animal husbandry. Increasingly these farmers are not only challenged with self-sufficiency in crop production, but they are also enmeshed in and at the mercy of a sea of cultural, economic, political and scientific influences that can vary in magnitude from matching plant seed and agricultural practice with soil types to the vast array of conflicts in property rights. Their success is essential to addressing hunger and it is imperative that development efforts work with these farmers in order to move forward.

The keynote speakers for this year's Symposium are **Roger Thurow** and **Dr. Gebisa Ejeta**. Thurow is the author of *The Last Hunger Season: A Year in an African Farm Community on the Brink of Change* and *Enough: Why the World's Poorest Starve in an Age of Plenty*, and recipient of the 2009 Action Against Hunger Humanitarian Award. Dr. Ejeta is the son of small scale farmers and a Distinguished Professor of Plant Breeding & Genetics and International Agriculture at Purdue University. Dr. Ejeta is the recipient of the 2009 World Food Prize for his work with sorghum hybrids that are resistant to drought and his break-through genetic research on controlling Africa's endemic Striga weed.

The farming process of poor farmers half a world away may not seem to have significant ramifications for those who will attend the 2013 HNGR Symposium, but in reality their situation is intricately intertwined with our lives. Understanding the causes and effects of challenges faced by smallholder farmers not only informs our response to drought and famine, but equally affects the lives of up to a billion hungry people all over the world. Even beyond ending hunger, increasing food security for developing countries has implications for developing countries all over the world as volatile food prices affect stability in all sectors of life. Increasing the success of smallholder farmers not only improves the lives of the millions of farmers themselves, but could also feed millions of hungry others.



Dr. Gebisa Ejeta

Roger Thurow



HNGR Interns, Past and Present

Here are some photos taken during the past six months of 2012 HNGR interns with some faces from the past.



Holly Bachilas ('12) with Chris De Boer ('10) and Sarah Komline ('09) at Kagando Hospital in Uganda.



Matt Soerens ('05) in Kigali, Rwanda with one of his small group students, Austin Schrag ('12)



Jared Noetzel ('12) with his host supervisor, Drew Jennings-Grisham ('06) in Santa Cruz, Bolivia



Sarah Johnson Beebout ('96) holding her daughter Miriam (HNGR Class of 2030?) with Lynn Burndige ('12) in Los Banos, Philippines



Erin Pyne ('12) with Sara Sywulka ('94) and Erin's Bolivian host mom



Catherine Queen ('10) visiting with Lia Smith ('12) in Huanuco, Peru

Returning from the field

Please pray for the 2012 interns as they return to Wheaton from their host contexts. Pray that the return retreat will be a time of refreshment and encouragement before what will be for many their last semester before graduation.

The following is an excerpt from the final assessment letter of one of the 2012 interns, Marisa Foxwell

I fell a little in love with Phnom Penh, I have to admit: the rivers, the markets, the culture, and mostly the people. I kind of hope I can go back to work there some day, or at least do similar work to what I was doing, because I loved it. But I stumbled upon the story in Luke recently, where Jesus heals a demon-possessed man. The man wants to stay with Jesus after this, but Jesus sends him away. Jesus says: "Return home and tell how much God has done for you." So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him (Luke 8:39). I guess that's where we

are right now. For a brief time we were called to be on these HNGR internships far from home, (further for some than for others). And now we are called to return home and tell how much God has done. We don't need to return home and cry about poverty, or get angry about materialism, or miss our host-countries, (although I foresee some of that happening). It's time to remember all of God's faithfulness and tell others about how He is moving in the world around us.

Whether you are home or abroad, may each of us take time this Christmas season to remember God's faithfulness and seek to hear how He is moving in the world around us.

The 2012 HNGR just before leaving campus last spring

