



Partnering in Stewardship

Ministry is, first of all, receiving God’s blessing from those to whom we minister. What is this blessing? It is a glimpse of the face of God.

- Henri J.M. Nouwen

The flood of generosity we receive each year at this time during our Matching Campaign leads me to reflect on the meaning of stewardship. One of the central themes of WHRI’s work is stewardship – taking care of that which we have been entrusted with.

We particularly focus on environmental stewardship in a Christian context, knowing our world was created by God, belongs to God, and is valued by God. Stewardship then does not mean simply giving generous gifts from our many possessions, but also realizing that it is God owns it all.

We recognize that we have been entrusted with the goods of the earth, and have an obligation to both provide for ourselves and to maintain a way of life that respects our own dignity as persons. We also recognize that most of us in North America have opportunities and resources at our disposal that other people will never have, and we are convicted to make those resources available to others.

John Bergstrom wisely asserts that “the Christian steward helps to utilize nature as God intended in

the service of both God and people. When making use of nature, the Christian steward recognizes that he or she has a responsibility to manage ... nature in a way that is not wasteful or destructive of the original functions of nature designed by God.”



Matt Lester photo

As a result, Bergstrom notes, the steward learns that he can live more richly by consuming less. He is seen by others as one who loves God, the creatures, and the earth, but it is evident that he is investing his life and wealth in another world. Best of all, he has many opportunities to minister to the poor of this world, whether he is rich in material wealth or not.

More broadly than just environmental stewardship, WHRI extends this concept of stewardship to financial resources. WHRI is guided by an understanding of a Divine economy as the balance between the plenty we are given and the call to share ...

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... Stewardship

... out of our abundance. We humbly seek to live so that our lives reflect this balance.

The Faith & Money Network claims that "many people of faith in today's economy are searching for meaning beyond their work and consumption, for deeper relationships, for a part in a more sustainable economy that supports all people as well as our planet." We believe this to be true, and we know this from listening to you who financially support the ministry of WHRI.

Each year when I call Jareen Schmidt of the J.E.S. Edwards Foundation to thank her for the most recent generous gift that allows us to offer a Matching Campaign, she first thanks me for the opportunity to be a partner in a ministry she believes God has called her to participate in. This collaboration serves to draw us together through a common vision and purpose to act out our faith. Her example teaches me that giving is a form of grace – a grace we both receive and a grace we both have the opportunity to share.

WHRI understands that one of the reasons you give money is because of what it does in your own heart and life. God changes you, and us, through giving. Very simply, through giving we fulfill the commandment to love our neighbor.

Henri Nouwen so elegantly writes that financial stewardship is "... a very rich and beautiful activity. It is a confident, joyful, and hope-filled expression of ministry. In ministering to each other, each from the riches that he or she possesses, we work together for the full coming of God's Kingdom."

Peace, Dale

Matching Grant Campaign

The J.E.S. Edwards Foundation in Ft. Worth, TX, will match financial contributions to WHRI in **August & September** up to a total of **\$35,000!**



Fall Farm Day
Saturday 6 November
9 am - 4 pm

World Hunger Relief, Inc. is a tax-exempt, non-profit corporation registered with the State of Texas under the 501(c)(3) IRS status.

Mission Statement

World Hunger Relief, Inc. is a Christian organization committed to the alleviation of hunger around the world.
God calls us to:

- Train** individuals in holistic ministry that equips them to work with communities in developing sustainable farming techniques
- Educate** those with an economic abundance on methods of conserving and sharing resources
- Participate** in local and international sustainable development programs

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Off the Beaten Path

Looking at my background growing up in the suburbs of Georgetown, Texas, you would have never guessed I would now be becoming a farmer. Though not physically far from corn fields and cattle ranches, I might as well have been in a different country. The surrounding rural areas were appealing, but I knew nothing of that world. I went off to college like many middle-class American kids to prepare for a career in who knows what. That is just what we were supposed to do.

Nearing the end of college, I felt aimless and somewhat afraid to finish to enter the “real world” of mortgages, insurance policies, and a steady career with benefits. I felt faced with two choices: going to seminary, or going overseas as a missionary. I longed for broader experiences and was interested in a place called Kashmir I heard about through the media and friends. I met Charley & Brooke Ramsey, who were working in Kashmir and had previously trained at WHRI. I found a way to go overseas and join them, doing a small oral Bible translation project and working for the Ramseys on an agricultural development project.

I spent two years in Kashmir learning to live and work cross-culturally. It struck me was that everyone grew most of their own food – and Kashmiris love good food! They were always looking for an opportunity to have a cup of tea with a glazed loaf of sweet bread, or to eat a mountain of locally-grown rice topped with spiced lamb meatballs. Kashmiris also love their land, and work hard to get a good harvest from their fields, gardens, and orchards before the snowy winter comes.

But life is not easy in their beautiful valley. There have been three wars between India and Pakistan fought over this small territory, and an insurgency for Kashmiri independence from India has been raging off-and-on for twenty years. In

October 2005, a major earthquake hit the borders of Kashmir, killing 80,000 people. This event drew me to work there.

During my time in Kashmir. I began to realize that agriculture was so central to the people there that I needed to know more if I really wanted to help. At the half-way point of my overseas tenure, WHRI’s Neil Rowe Miller came to Kashmir to consult on our project. I met up with Neil in Delhi and we took the long crazy Indian road up to Kashmir together.

I learned more about WHRI while we traveled, and decided that the internship was the necessary next step to take me deeper in my agricultural education. My girlfriend Jessica was a Live-In Volunteer at the Farm, so I applied for the internship. Returning to Waco, Jessica and I married, and began our WHRI internships in January.



Justin Bullock & Charlie Ramsey share coffee with A.J. Khan in Kashmir

Since coming to the Farm, Jessica and I have learned more than we can keep up with!

Jessica is our Livestock Intern, and I am the Pecan Intern. We are honing our newfound skills everyday by milking, scouting for pest damage, and repairing irrigation pipes. WHRI has empowered and equipped me with knowledge and skills that will be life-long. We enjoy almost every moment we have here – working with our community of friends, learning in class, and evening discussions about life.

Jessica and I know we would like to work cross-culturally helping farmers and communities. In order to more effectively help, we need additional training and experience before returning overseas. Currently, we are searching for another training farm experience after our time here is through in January. I believe our experiences at WHRI are building a great foundation for a life in agriculture.

Peace,

Justin

WHRI Alumni & Intern Updates

◆ Zachary & Robin Heppner Entz (2007)

Faithful correspondents from Mali, they recently wrote: "As we anticipate a second term among the Fulani, we hope and pray that we will continue to build relationships and solidarity. We hope we can "learn to stay put" a little bit more in the coming years and speak (the Fulfulde language) with integrity. We hope the trust that has been built will be a bridge of communication."

◆ Terri Lynn Paulson (2008)

After a recent trip to The Gambia, Terri Lynn writes: "Three months is not enough to DO anything. It's just long enough to figure out "good morning", "cabbage", and "thank you" in a few different languages ... Just long enough to develop relationships to a level where someone might tell me if I were doing something wrong. Just long enough to wonder if any of the good intentions of our "development work" will have any kind of lasting impact. But also long enough to see real need, positive change, and remember that there are some things of my own culture that are in need of change as well."

◆ Joshua & Maria Eley McClain (2006)

After returning from Honduras, Josh & Maria are enjoying being near Josh's family. Living in a diverse cultural area of Buffalo, NY, they both work at *AIDS Community Services*, an HIV support services non-profit. Josh is taking nursing pre-recs planning on enrolling next year, and Maria is taking Adult Ed classes. They are proud parents of Marlon, their first child.

◆ Aaron & Faith Dowdy (2006)

After recently celebrating the birth of their son, Jesse, the Dowdys write: "It has become quite a bit harder to obtain a visa at the moment. Along with us, there are two other families currently in need of visas. Please pray for this situation. We are confident that this nothing more than a minor hiccup in our plans and that God has us in His hands."

After ten fruitful years as WHRI Development Director, **Dale Barron** has decided the time is right to move on to other challenges. Dale's involvement at WHRI reaches back to his college days when he served as a volunteer. He joined our staff at a time when the organization was in critical need of leadership and direction. He has been instrumental in setting us on the path of growth and service which has continued until today.

The depth of Dale's faith and his commitment to our mission has helped define who we are as an organization. For many of us, it is hard to imagine WHRI without his hospitality and humor. Nonetheless, he plans to remain connected to and supportive of the Farm and its ministries. Please join us in thanking Dale for his service to WHRI, the Waco community, and those we serve around the world.

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