

Keeping the Lamp Lit

In the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25, Jesus exhorts us to prepare for uncertain times ahead. Wall Street high-rollers and government regulators in the U.S. and abroad would have done well to take heed of this advice over the past few years as they chased easy money through badly-conceived mortgage investments. Today uncertainty over the global economy brings concerns that – quite remarkably – have pushed *Al Qaeda* terrorism several steps down in our list of fears that keep us awake at night.

In the midst of this economic uncertainty, we praise God for the 108 people who faithfully supported our ministry in the month of September. A \$30,000 match from the J.E.S. Edwards Foundation in Ft. Worth was earned by your contributions totaling \$32,846!

Sustainability has long been a cornerstone of our agriculture missions training at WHRI, but in times like these, we are exceedingly grateful that our predecessors also developed a sustainable financial base for our organization. This includes, first and foremost, sound relationships with individuals, churches, and foundation supporters who understand and believe in our mission.

In addition, our endowment fund, initiated just over two years ago by two visionary donors, has grown

steadily and will be the focus of our capital fundraising this year. A fundraising dinner, prepared in August by live-in volunteer and professional chef, Chris Becker, raised \$3,500 toward this cause.

Through the hard work of staff and interns, sales of WHRI farm products has become an increasingly important source of our income, accounting for close to 30% of our operating funds last year. These intern-managed enterprises are also a rich source of business management lessons which prepare our trainees for service. Modeling sustainability gives us added credibility as we send interns out to work with farmers and small businesses around the globe.

Evidence of the wisdom of a long-term view of missions and development comes to us regularly from those who have gone out...



Aaron Dowdy (r) helps local farmers build a trellis for their apple orchard in central Asia

After completing her WHRI internship in 2007, Meredith Mayrand began serving women's groups in Olinala, Mexico, with Mennonite Central Committee. Although she has been working for a relatively short period of time, she is already pondering issues of sustainability and long-term viability:

... Lamp Lit

"Work is going well. Most of the women in the 23 gardens we are working in have transplanted their seedlings and direct seeded, anticipating the coming rains. This past month, we have built 55 dry latrines in one of our neighboring



WHRI alum Terry Waller (r) has used simple technology to drill water wells in Bolivia and around the world for twenty years

communities, and 10 water cisterns. We currently have requests to fill up the next 2-3 years of work constructing these various technologies. We are thankful for this timing, because people begin planting their corn fields as the rains begin to fall, and we are unable to build during the months of heavy rain.

"We are praying for God's provision to meet all of these requests in the next few years. Our team has recently begun asking questions about how we are 'doing community development' and feel that there will probably be some changes made in the next few months as we evaluate how we are working, how

we are building capacity in the people of the communities where we are working, and how we are empowering others to continue this work in the future. I would appreciate your prayers for humility as we examine what we have been doing, and the grace to make necessary changes.

"I especially feel encouraged as I visit the women's houses and they eagerly invite me in to show me the weekly progress of their seedlings. I pray that as we work together, plant together, eat together, and share the stories of our lives, God's love will be shared and that all of us would be changed for the better."

Halfway around the world in central Asia, Aaron and Faith Dowdy ponder similar issues of long-term sustainability.

"In [the former Soviet Union], there are thousands of acres of apple orchards going to ruin. Under the Communist regime, these trees were managed efficiently. However, when communism fell, the orchards were left to rot, disease, and weeds.

"Suddenly, the local people had a chance at success ... a chance at a new way of life. But yet they had never been taught how to manage an apple orchard. Soon, many of the trees were overcome with disease and weeds, and what was left was chopped down.

"Ten years ago, the Central Asia Harvest Project (CAHP) was formed through a group called IDEAS to teach the local farmers ...how to effectively manage their own orchards. Additionally, the CAHP provides community development, business marketing, education, and discipleship."

Thanks again for helping us keep our lamps trimmed and filled with oil. The light they shed reaches literally around the world!

Blessings,

Neil

WHRI Featured on
Texas Country Reporter
Television Show
Weekend of 25 October

Find your local broadcast day/time at:
www.texascountryreporter.com



Fall Farm Day
Saturday 18 October 9 am - 4 pm

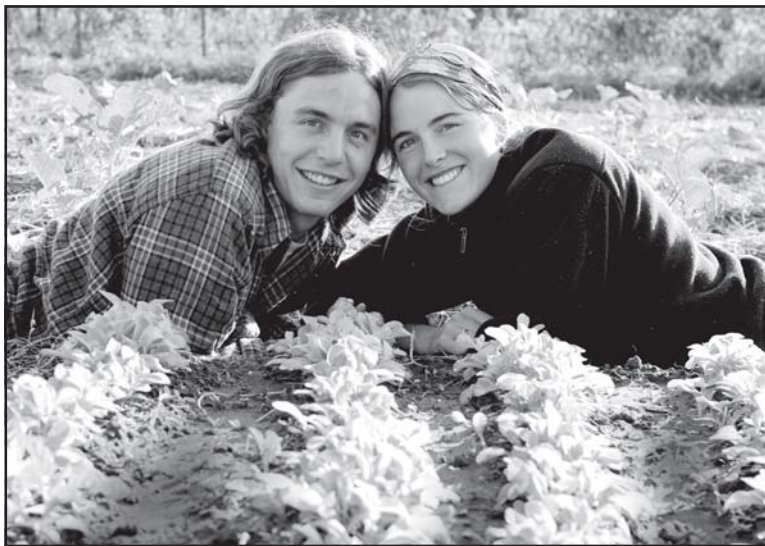
Featured Speaker:
WHRI Alum John Garland

Following the Plan

Coming to WHRI from the great state of Idaho in May, Nicholas Waters has quickly endeared himself with his work ethic, flexibility, and boundless enthusiasm. In his words, here is the story of his path to the Farm:

There is a plan, perfect and precise: "... A plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Him (Jesus Christ), things in heaven and things on earth" (Ephesians 1: 10).

In 2003, God began stirring in my heart a longing for His plan. I was in Oaxaca, Mexico, playing soccer in the streets with youngsters; daily reading to Gloria, a 22 year-old blind woman; and for the first time, experiencing solidarity among the poor and simple. Shortly after that, Jesus lifted me out of the squalor that was my inner life and began washing me in His Word.



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Nicholas & Molly in the WHRI garden

It was a *tour de force* from Genesis to Revelation, and the paradoxes abounded: that God would become man, that the meek would inherit the earth, that in dying is life, that freedom is found in servanthood, and that in poverty are riches. The clarion call rising from Jesus and his disciples' life called me to a life of simplicity and trust.

Translate this into the context of the University of Idaho – and the result was a degree in soil science. God had begun birthing in me a passion for small-scale agriculture and Christian community. Coupled with my experiences in Mexico, I became a Jesus-following, agricultural sojourner who delighted in beginning to live life in solidarity with the farmers of the world.

Simple life can be rich fare, and God's peace was guiding me away from the "progress" and strife and "fear of man" that is

our 21st century. So, I opened up the Google browser on my laptop, searched for: "Christian agricultural community," and happened upon WHRI's internship program.

It would be a few years until I would find my feet standing upon the dense, clay-laden soil of the Farm's CSA garden, battling Bermuda grass, mending drip tape, side-dressing organic veggies with a 3-pronged arsenal of WHRI's custom-blended fertilizer, and reaping the multiple harvests made possible by a longer (stickier) growing season than Idahoans are used to.

First, I had to pursue another dream and ask Molly Scott (the love of my life, whom I met at university) to be my wife. Four "yesses" later, and the two became one; her amazing passion for Jesus deepened my faith, and my passions for simplicity, agriculture, and Christian community resulted in loading up the station wagon and driving to Waco.

God's plan will one day become reality, as the voice from the throne assures us: "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more..." (Revelation 21: 3-4). Molly and I eagerly await the Lord's return and His wonderful leadership that will restore the earth.

Until that day, we are committed to being faithful stewards of His creation and partnering with Him in the redemption of humanity through His Son, who dwelt (and dwells) among us and showed us ultimate solidarity: that of heaven and earth.

WHRI Alumni & Intern Updates

◆ Matt & Katie Sciba

This tireless family of six just returned to Texas after serving three years in Southeast Asia with a wonderful river-based medical ministry. Matt has accepted a position as an Associate Pastor at LifePointe Fellowship in Victoria. Matt writes: "It is a new church and is turning out to be a pretty exciting place ... We are grateful to have landed in Texas, which makes it possible to get over to see you guys from time to time." We eagerly await the return of the Scibas to WHRI!

◆ David & Hanna Heddy

David is working for Habitat for Humanity in the Vancouver, WA, area. The Heddys happily share this news: "We're having a baby in March! We are thankful God has blessed us in this way, and we look forward to this new phase of our lives. We are also excited to share with you that ... we will be traveling to Xela, Guatemala, (in November) as part of a 16-person Global Village Team through Habitat ... We will spend our time helping 2 families in Xela build their own homes. God is continuing to give us a desire to serve in an international setting and this is our first opportunity as a couple to do this."

◆ Sara Ingram

Sara has remained connected to the Farm since completing her internship over five years ago; most recently, she has joined the Board of Directors and is serving on the Advancement Committee. Working as a manager at the local Barnes & Noble, she is in the process of applying to law school.

◆ Kelley Bruce

Former Master of Social Work intern at WHRI, Kelley recently wrote: "I am doing well and still living in Sheffield, England. I am a social worker in a small town called Rotherham. I find the work incredibly intense and challenging. I have an average caseload of 22-25 children ... with families in the midst of court proceedings to remove the children and families ... just in need of social support. When I'm not at work, I enjoy painting, reading, and helping out at my church. I am helping my church become involved in efforts to stop human trafficking in Sheffield and in the UK - this is something I feel strongly about stopping."

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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