



ECHO NEWS

Honoring God Through Sustainable Hunger Solutions Volume 33 Issue 1

SPREADING VITAL INFORMATION AROUND THE WORLD

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Agricultural Conference

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the Long-term Approach



YOUR GLOBAL IMPACT

Michel was a thin African man, wearing a brown suit that looked like it had been worn for many years. He spoke with a kind, tired voice in French, with a distinctive African accent. **This was his first time to hear about ECHO** as he sat in the meeting in Ouagadougou as we were planning the ECHO Agriculture Forum to be held in Burkina Faso next September.

“Oui” (yes), was the first word out of my mouth, as Michel asked if we had techniques to help them grow vegetables even though they did not have land. Michel sat forward as I explained that ECHO had several urban gardening techniques and documents in French on our website. He had a burning desire to help the families of those living with HIV/AIDS, but had no idea how to go about it. **The world of ECHO and how it could empower him to help others became instantly clear.**

Suddenly the joy of our meeting was overtaken by the devastating news of the tragedy in Haiti. During our annual conference in December, we welcomed 55 people from Haiti, anxious for information and training to help feed their people. **ECHO has former interns and over 300 network partners who live in Haiti**, and we were inundated with emails and pictures from them during the first days after the quake.

While relief organizations bring much needed food, water and supplies to that shattered country, **ECHO stands ready** to educate those working with the poor in how to grow food under such difficult conditions. ECHO's resources will be vital as Haiti rebuilds and families leave the urban areas of cities such as Port-au-Prince, migrating to the countryside.



Stan Doerr
President, CEO

ECHO has launched the **Haiti Recovery Initiative**, a new focus to provide sustainable food sources through agriculture. With your assistance to help fund this project, ECHO will continue educating network partners with ways to produce nutritious food for communities and families affected by this disaster.

In a moment, just as the lives of the people in Haiti changed through destruction and loss, Michel's world changed in Burkina Faso through hope. **This is why ECHO exists.** Your financial support of ECHO makes this possible. **Thank you for bringing that spark of hope to Michel and our Haitian brothers and sisters!**

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE FARM?



Nomads Make a Big Dent

In the workload that is! The United Methodist Nomads are a group of travelling volunteers that spend six weeks every winter using their specialized skills to benefit ECHO. From minor repairs to major plumbing and building projects, the Nomads stay very busy helping the staff manage the large ECHO campus. These special people, along with 400 other individuals that volunteer at ECHO, are the lifeblood of this organization. Thank you so much, Volunteers!



Cold weather lingers around ECHO Farm

The Staff of the ECHO Farm experiences mild frost each year, with usually only one night of potentially freezing temperatures. This year however, temperatures dipped below freezing for eight nights in a row. Some nights the damaging temperatures came before nine pm. Staff members worked diligently to protect the plants from freezing and to save as many of our demonstrations as possible. Though there was some loss, many plants will bounce back in the coming months.



ECHO's Agricultural Conference 2009

"In Rwanda, we express appreciation by saying "Morakaye Cyane". Literally, that means 'you have really worked!' This conference has been a life changing experience for my husband and me. There are plenty of conferences out there for church leaders, but this is the only one available for agricultural missionaries! We have been challenged and inspired beyond anything we could have imagined! We can hardly wait to get back to the field and apply what we've learned. Your sacrifice and giving will bear fruit in Rwanda for eternity."

This woman had tears in her eyes as she told us how discouraged they were with their ministry before they attended conference this year. ECHO's Agricultural Conference changed their lives and encouraged their ministry.

We receive many letters and pictures like the ones on this page from people whose lives have been changed through information that ECHO has provided. Your support allows ECHO to offer these learning opportunities to organizations working with the poor around the world.

With heartfelt gratitude from the delegates who attended from around the world, volunteers who spent hours preparing for and hosting guests, and ECHO staff who coordinated the event, **We Thank You!**



INTERN SPOTLIGHT

My name is David Prins and I am the rainforest intern here at ECHO. During the six months that I've lived in North Fort Myers, I have learned many unexpected things -- one in particular is the art of rearing ducks. I grew up on a tomato farm in Alberta and studied agriculture in college but nothing prepared me for the peculiarities of raising these birds. They quack with a hint of annoyance when I wait too long to feed them, or will waddle arrogantly if I unlock their cage too late into the morning. But I have also learned that, even with their peculiarities, they can have an important role in small-scale farms. They are a relatively low-maintenance animal that can produce quality, delicious protein through their meat and eggs, and, if you treat them well, they will eat some of the weeds around your garden. (Don't let them get too close to the crops, though).



*David J. Prins
From Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Responsibilities: Tropical
Rainforest, Ducks, and Seed Bank*

It is this, plus a multitude of other things I have learned since being here, that has excited me about agriculture. More specifically, it has excited me about the place agriculture has in the redemptive message of the Gospel. You see, coming to ECHO has really helped me to realize that agriculture is an important part of holistic ministry to the poor of the world. As such, it is a great way to introduce people to Christianity; but even more so, it is a relevant and significant way to show the love of Christ by helping people to feed themselves and their families.

As I finish up my internship at ECHO, I look forward to learning more new and unexpected things about tropical agriculture and development. I truly look forward to the day I can look back and say, "Ah, so that's why I had to learn about ducks as an intern!"

Update from Algeria

In Tindouf, Southwestern Algeria the call to evening prayers is echoing across the town from various mosques. Nearby, ECHO staff members Stan and Beth Doerr are teaching local leaders and nutrition workers about Moringa.

Through a partnership with the World Food Program, ECHO has been asked to teach about nutritious food plants like Moringa and chaya and how to grow them. These plants will aid thousands of malnourished children in refugee camps in the area.

"We have been able to visit several of the groups we worked with on our first visit and the interest in Moringa has grown to a level we could only have hoped for. Plants that we planted last visit are surviving, although the conditions here are harsh, to put it mildly," states President Stan Doerr.

This program not only offers a locally sustainable source of vitamins and minerals, but it also provides a constructive activity for the refugees. Through this project, the refugees

can grow and process Moringa powder, making a positive contribution to their own livelihood.

The next phase of the project including hands-on training will take place next month. Thank you for being such a vital part of allowing ECHO to meet the needs of the poor around the world!

Beth shows an educational video about Moringa on a laptop



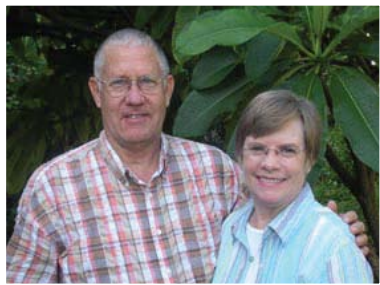
REBUILDING HAITI! ...THANKS TO YOU!

Communities all over Haiti that were not badly damaged by the earthquake are suddenly being affected in a major way. Life in the damaged areas is so horrible that thousands of people are fleeing to other towns and the countryside. Sometimes they hope to live with relatives; others just leave and hope to find something. Past ECHO interns are now heavily involved in meeting this challenge.

Past intern Cory Thede (1990) and his wife Kris and family have served for several years now as Wesleyan missionaries. Kris, a medical doctor, spent three weeks after the



earthquake in a town not far from Port-au-Prince helping to treat the injured. Cory is an agricultural specialist and will be working with those who are coming to the area to start a new life for themselves and their families. Cory writes, "It's about a seven hour drive from here to Port but some people began arriving a few days after the earthquake to stay with relatives. Some lost everything and left Port au Prince with just the clothes on their backs."

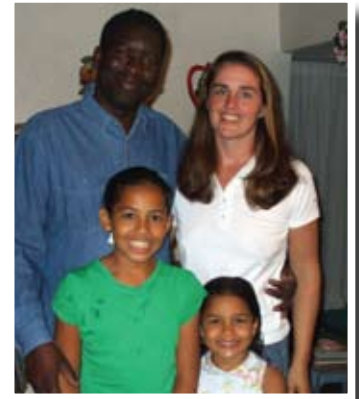


Keith and Jan Flanagan are long-time network members serving in Port au Prince with Christian Veterinary Mission (Their son, Past Intern Brian (2003) is serving in the Southern part of Haiti.). Being so close

to all the problems, they are working with neighbors and others to provide for their needs. In a recent update they shared, "we received blankets, hygiene supplies, and some plastic sheets to help make temporary shelters for 100 families. One priority is to establish development and work programs to occupy people from Port Au Prince and other damaged cities such as Jacmel. Small animal production (chickens, fish, rabbits) will also be a priority."

Past Intern Kristie Mompremier (1995) is now working in the Central Plateau of Haiti with her family. She reports, "right now, we have over 24 staying with us. Sometimes it is hard to be responsible for so many but we are so thankful that these people are not in Port anymore. People there still have to sleep in the street because of the instability of the houses. We are very glad that our house is full and

that there are 24 people that have a roof and food to eat. We are happy that the Lord can use us in this way. We will take in more, if need be." JeanJean (Kristie's husband) has been busy organizing the community leaders into a response committee. "We have been sending trucks into Port to evacuate people. We will not only be retrieving people from our area but also offering the trucks to take people to other parts of the country where their family is", says JeanJean.



It is through our almost 300 network members in Haiti like Cory, Kris, Brian, Keith, Jan, Kristie and Jean Jean, that ECHO will be able to be most effective in the coming months and years.

ECHO is launching the **Haiti Recovery Initiative**, which we will implement as funding allows. As part of this, ECHO staff are assembling Haiti Earthquake Resource Kits containing seed packets, a Sawyer Products water filter, and

*Please Help!
Donate \$100 for a Haiti
Recovery Kit today!*

information on topics such as Moringa, water purification and simple cookstove designs. You can help us provide these kits to our network partners in Haiti for a donation of \$100. We also plan to establish a presence, for however long is necessary, in Haiti to provide technical support to development workers there. Donations towards the resource kits, as well as direct donations to the Haiti Recovery Initiative, will be used to cover the costs of the kits and to place ECHO staff on the ground in Haiti. The strength of ECHO is that, once the immediate needs for relief are met, we can provide the training and resources to help the Haitian people rebuild their communities and food supply in sustainable ways. To find out how to donate to the Haiti Recovery Initiative, visit our website!

Your ongoing support of ECHO's ministry will be vital to help us help so many who are hurting!

19th Annual Farm Day Saturday, March 13, 2010 9am to 3pm

Can you identify this plant? We'll give you a hint; billions of people around the world depend on it everyday.

To learn the answer to this question and more join us for our 19th annual Farm Day at ECHO!

Experience our Global Farm tours, attend workshops, view interesting demonstrations, and enjoy delicious food and music! The cost for admission is \$5.00 per person and children under 12 are free. Pre-sale tickets will be available in the ECHO Bookstore February 1st - March 12th for \$3. The entrance fee will help pay for the expenses of the event, but all workshops, demonstrations and tours are FREE!



We are proud to announce our returning sponsors this year, Lee County Electric Cooperative (LCEC) in the alternative fuel area, First Bank, in our Tropical Monsoon Area, Sun Harvest Citrus sponsoring our orange juice squeezing demonstration, Travis Reprographics sponsoring the Semi-Arid Demonstration, Walmart sponsoring the Children's area, Rotary of Cape Coral N as a workshop sponsor and Fafco Solar sponsoring our Solar Electricity Demonstration and Costco will be providing refreshments. We are also welcoming our new major sponsor, The News-Press Media Group.

Making Plans early?
Purchase Pre-sale tickets for \$3 and save 40% on your entry fee!

Visitors will enjoy seeing how ECHO is networking with organizations to provide agricultural options to the poor through education and training. Stop in at the Global Hunger Forum tent where our CEO, Stan Doerr, will give you an overview of how ECHO is responding to world hunger, or attend one of our fruit tree arboretum tours. Our workshop on Planning and Implementing Community Gardens and our behind the scenes tour of the Seed Bank will show you how ECHO is working to help the poor farmer grow more nutritious crops and produce higher yields to feed his family and produce an income.

There are plenty of things to see and do at ECHO's Farm Day! It is a fun event for the entire family!

For more information, contact Mary Moore at (239) 567-3349. We look forward to seeing you at ECHO!



Center to Bottom: Farm Day attendees taste fresh sugarcane juice; Workshop attendees experience the Appropriate Technology Center and learn about improved cookstoves and alternative fuels.

LAST CHANCE!

DON'T MISS EUROPE!



ECHO's last films in the Passport to the World series are coming up Friday March 5th and 12th. Tour the islands of St. Vincent and The Grenadines experiencing beautiful waterfalls and incredible underwater gardens! Then, journey by land and sea to some of the most colorful countries of Western Europe! Visit castles, the canals of Venice, and take in the breathtaking countryside of the Swiss Alps!

Order your tickets today to this exclusive event by calling Debby at 239.567.3347!

SINGLE FILM TICKETS: \$100 per couple or \$50 per person includes a delightful lunch buffet at the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre.



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If fluctuating markets and low interest CDs are limiting your retirement plans, consider a charitable gift annuity.

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To learn more about the security of a charitable gift annuity, please call us at 239.567.3343, email ologelin@echonet.org or visit www.echogifts.org and click on *Peace of Mind Gift Annuity*.

*Did You Know
that ECHO's website
receives visitors
from 149 countries
every month!*

Placement
Size for
FSC Vertical
Logo



EXTRAORDINARY PLANT:

Atemoya

The Atemoya is a member of the Annona family, a group of custard-like fruits that have their origins in tropical America. Atemoya gets its name from an old Mexican name for Sugar Apple 'Ate' and the Cherimoya 'Moya'.

The fruit itself looks like a stone-aged artichoke with its green-grey skin, but don't let that deter you from this tropical delight. On the inside you will find a white, creamy flesh which is very rich and sweet in taste. The fruit is often served chilled and is best eaten with a grapefruit spoon.

The Atemoya tree grows from lowland tropics to cool subtropical climates, making it a great candidate for some areas of Florida.