

# MORNING STAR FISHERMEN **MORNINGSTAR**

REAL INSIDE STORIES ON THE FIGHT AGAINST WORLD HUNGER

October-December 2006

**“Give a man a fish, he eats for a day, teach him to raise fish and vegetables and the whole community eats.”**

*Psalm 146:7 “Blessed is he.....who gives food to the hungry.”*



Hans and Silvio visit with local farmers

The Site of MSF Nicaragua  
Donated by Silvio Echaverry

Hans Meets with Rotarians in Jinotepé

## **Nicaragua Project Update**

Morning Star Fishermen's project in Nicaragua, a fish farm and training center in Jinotepé made possible through support from Rotary clubs in central Florida, Rotary District 6950, the Rotary Foundation and Club Rotario de Jinotepé is moving forward. Our many thanks to Rotarian Silvio Echaverry for donating 3 acres to Morning Star Fishermen Nicaragua. Hans is visiting the site from December 11th through 15<sup>th</sup> to survey the site and make arrangements for supplies and accommodations for mission teams. Mission Team visits to begin construction are planned to begin in January and take place once a month for the next six months. If you would like to take part in one or more of these mission trips, please contact the MSF mission office at 352-523-2722 or email at [morningstarfishermen@earthlink.net](mailto:morningstarfishermen@earthlink.net). People with construction experience are particularly welcome.

## **MSF Receives Self-Reliance Award from the Harry Chapin Foundation**

In October, the Harry Chapin Foundation announced that Morning Star Fishermen won one of their 2006 Self-Reliance Awards for a project focused on teaching techniques in aquaculture and aquaponics to members of the migrant worker community in Pasco County. MSF will be training instructors who will in turn, share their knowledge of raising tilapia in households and form community organizations as well. This cooperative venture with Farm workers Self Help, Harry Chapin and MSF is a pilot project to illustrate how aquaculture can play in helping needy within the communities in our area. Morning Star Fishermen is

also donating a 600 gallon aquaponics system to Farm workers Self Help so that they can continue to train others at their own facilities in Dade City.

### **St. Andrews Awards MSF with Grant for Scholarships, Solar**

MSF received a grant for two full scholarships of international students. The scholarships will go to training members of needy communities in Africa and the Caribbean for three-month training courses. St. Andrews Lutheran Church of Mahtomedi, Minnesota also provided funds for as well for the conversion of part of our facility to sustainable solar power. We bless them for their generosity!

### **Solar Conversion Project Expands**

The Solar Conversion project, initially slated to convert part of our hatchery to a year round breeding system has grown, thanks also to the generosity of Bob Fugerer and his colleagues. These generous people, many who are experts in solar energy and energy efficient systems have offered to not only to help us with the conversion of the hatchery, but to also convert the MSF Dormitory to solar power, including hot water and electricity. We will keep you up to date as this exciting project moves forward.



From Old to New



### **Supporter Donates Tractor and Equipment to MSF**

In a surprise visit to MSF, John Sungberg a member of the Christ the King Lutheran Church in Evans, Georgia, donated a brand new tractor, bush hog and front-end loader to MSF. John is an engineer at John Deer. He personally restored and refurbished the equipment and donated it to MSF. Upon discovering this blessing Hans, who had used his van to pull start the old MSF 1951 Ford tractor (which has been used for the last 6 years) was beside himself with joy and has made the most of this new equipment. Thank you and God bless you, John!



### **Hope Christian Academy Visits Morning Star**

Hope Christian Academy, a Christian School based in Plant City, came to visit MSF this October. The group of students ranging from middle to junior high school age toured the facility and even took back some Tilapia to stock their school fishpond. We hope they enjoyed the school trip as much as we enjoyed having them.



### **St. Leo University Students Lend a Hand**

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, 30 plus students from St. Leo University, including the Basketball team and coaches, came out to Morning Star to lend a hand clearing out land and organizing the hatchery. Students also learned about Morning Stars mission and our involvement with the community. Thanks to everyone who came out to assist us, great job!



### **Pasco High Environmental Science Class Visits MSF**

On November 16<sup>th</sup>, Charlie Shark and the Pasco High Environmental Science Class came out to visit MSF for a tour and discussion of our mission, and our role to the environment and the community. The class toured the facility and several students offered to become volunteers and interns at MSF. The class will soon begin their own experiment in aquaculture using tilapia and donated burial vaults.

### **Cherrysnapper.com Donates New Brood Stock to MSF**

Mike Sipe, owner of Cherrysnapper.com, tilapia breeder and the man who originally taught Hans about tilapia, donated two breeding colonies of tilapia hybrids to MSF. These fish are the product of Mike's over 30 years of genetically breeding tilapia. These hybrids have several advantages over natural stock fish. These fish have a larger fillet than wild tilapia. They can grow to over two pounds in seven months. They also produce over 90% male, increasing growth rates and reducing the problem of breeding in the tanks. Over then next year MSF will be transitioning over to this type of fish and completely replacing the stock we now use. Thank you Mike and Jan.

### **Moses Ekhaton Visits Morning Star**

Moses Ekhaton, a long time supporter and friend of the mission visited MSF on November 30 to December 2 for a short training program before he visits Nigeria next month. Moses plans on working with MSF to build a commercial fish farm, using aquaculture and aquaponics to help his homeland, a nation of 140 million people become self sufficient by raising fish and vegetables.

## **Second Annual Rotary Day Comes to MSF**

November 18<sup>th</sup> saw the second annual Rotary Day at MSF; celebrated the Nicaragua Fish farm and training center project and the growing relationship between Rotary and MSF. District Governor Doug Palonder joined Pat McKee to cook the chicken and Tilapia, while tours and information about MSF and the Nicaragua project were shared with Rotarians from throughout the district. We want to thank everyone who attended and especially to ones who volunteered their time and money for future endeavors.

## **Idyllwild Church Lends a Hand**

December 9<sup>th</sup> members of the Idyllwild Baptist Church came to MSF to help remodel a trailer we will use to house visitors to MSF. Earl Chantlos, Bob Fugerer, Ray Cooper and Pete Morales came out to help. Thanks for all the help.

## **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Calypso Ball Just Around the Corner**

The Date is set; **April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007**, 7:00 PM at Lake Jovita Golf and Country Club for the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Calypso Ball. Dinner, Live and Silent Auctions, Live music and dancing will all be part of the evening. **Come and join us to make this the biggest and best Calypso Ball ever.** Volunteers are needed to get everything ready, so please give Sigrid a call at (727) 415-1118 and sign up now. Many hands make light work!



Thank you for all your help. May God Bless You,  
Hans and Sigrid Geissler, Founders

*Ephesians 2:10*

***Merry Christmas and a Prosperous 2007***

**Thank you for your faithful support and prayers. Together we achieved great things in 2006.**

**Looking forward to 2007, together we can accomplish even more.**

**Thanks again, blessings to you and your loved ones.  
Hans and Sigrid Geissler**