I've just returned from Africa, seeing FARM STEW’s impact first hand and expanding our reach. Here are some highlights!

• Launched a team in Zimbabwe,
• Launched a team reaching refugees from South Sudan,
• Further equipped the existing two Ugandan teams with knowledge, seeds and tools.
• Explored future possibilities in Africa.

Thank you for helping FARM STEW grow!

“Seeds” Growing in Zimbabwe

The first “seeds” of FARM STEW’s message were planted when I was in Zimbabwe two years ago. After identifying great need, FARM STEW sponsored an organic agriculture 3-day training, for 54 participants. We didn’t have the funds to hire staff, so we prayed the “seeds” fell on good soil.

Retired Pastor Richard Black took the training to heart! He transformed his home into a ministry of agriculture. He has also trained several orphanages so they can provide for the children in their care. He kept their gardens and our hope alive!

We’ve just launched a team of three FARM STEW trainers in Zimbabwe and already we are seeing great results of families who are transforming their lives.
One of my greatest joys on the trip was the day spent at the Mutema's Farm in Zimbabwe. Elder Mutema, who was also part of the 2016 training, is now serving as a FARM STEW volunteer. Since then, his family transformed their dusty, rural plot into a thriving oasis.

That’s essential because in Zimbabwe, more than 1 in 4 children are severely malnourished, and 76% of rural households live on less than US$1.25 per day.

In partnership with FARM STEW, the Mutema Family is using their vegetable garden as a ministry, inviting neighbors to come, learn, and share in the bounty of their harvest! All with water that he and his children carry over one kilometer. We hosted training there for 45 adults and many children. With a generous smile, he shared that he “just wants his neighbors to also learn to be self-sufficient. Then they will have extra that they will give to their neighbors.”

Elder Mutema encouraged the group saying, “In the past, we lacked the know-how. But now we...have got know-how with the land and everything. It is quite good for us, to have the health and to eat God’s way.”

We ended the wonderful day with all participants, including this church deaconess and mother, going home with hands-on know-how, seedlings to start their own vegetable garden, and the recipe of abundant life!

Together Pastor Black, Thoko (a woman) and Phillip, two skilled health and agricultural trainers make up the FARM STEW Zimbabwe team. They seek to develop FARM STEW Educators in at least 27 communities, scattered across a wide, extremely impoverished expanse.

They are leaders who love Jesus and love the work of FARM STEW.

Will you help to grow these leaders equipping them to transform their communities?
Launching A Team In Refugee Camps

The refugee crisis of South Sudan doesn't often make the evening news but the scale and scope are enormous. The humble country of Uganda is hosting a million of these refugees, who've fled from horrific violence. Mostly they rely on limited food aid and there are almost no fresh fruits and vegetables. Over half the refugees are children. Yet, they have small plots of land and a desire to learn. That's where we see hope!

Doreen, Joseph and Paul will be leading FARM STEW efforts in the camps and already they have mobilized many churches to participate. All three have extensive experience with Christian organizations and the men actually live with their families in the Bidibidi Camp, Uganda's largest, sheltering over 285,000 South Sudanese refugees.

In reading their job applications, it struck me, "Reason for leaving past job? WAR". What a tiny, simple word for such a horrible reality. This will be a good test for the power of FARM STEW and of God who is our leader. We'd like to add two skilled women to the team and will do so as soon as we feel confident that we have the necessary support. Please pray for them as they launch.

Impressions From the Field

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who bring glad tidings of good things" Isaiah 52:7. This is the FARM STEW team in action.

I was so blessed to be able to visit with both the team in Iganga and in Jinga, Uganda for a week and a half in early March. As a nutritionist I have conducted many cooking classes but none like the ones I witnessed in Uganda!

The whole village shows up, from elders to children, and participates at every step in the process. They are so eager to learn and very willing to put the concepts into practice. At every training session we had others come asking when the team could come train in their area. The team members are each dedicated to spreading this message of abundant life. Being with them was such a blessing to me. I am committed to sharing their story with as many people as I can so that they can have the support they need to carry out their work. Expect to hear more from me!

Sylvia Middaugh, RDN
A High Commission

Our team meet Dr. Alexander Dmitri, a Director General in the Ministry of Health in South Sudan. After hearing our presentation he proclaimed, “we need to praise God for FARM STEW because this will solve most of the problems in Africa.” Gulp! That’s a big assignment!

What really got Dr. Dmitri excited was our focus on ensuring that the knowledge and the skills of parents improve so they can meet the needs of their own children through accessible, local foods, sanitation, and enterprise.

Your prayers and gifts will advance the cause.

FARM STEW is growing gardens, leaders and hope. All of that takes something else... growing faithful supporters. In the next newsletter we plan to recognize donors for their contributions.

We invite you to consider your level of engagement for impact.

From the President’s Desk

I’m Joy, the founder of FARM STEW, public health nutritionist, master gardener, and a mom. It’s the mom in me that drives my passion for FARM STEW because no mother should face having nothing to feed her child.

FARM STEW equips mothers and fathers with the capacity to prevent hunger, disease and poverty in their family and community, offering a hopeful witness to the world.

May God bless you with abundant life!