

The Worm Project

Combating World Hunger Through Parasite Removal

Newsletter

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Reflections On A Miraculous Day

The Worm Project's Fifth Annual Banquet - *By Diana Gehman, Board Member*

"For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them." - Matthew 18:20

The day of The Worm Project's fifth annual banquet on Friday, September 21, actually began at noon at the Franconia Mennonite Conference Center. It was there that our Divine Coordinator brought together most of our partners from across the USA. Leaders of large organizations like Food for the Hungry, Vitamin Angels, Hope for Haiti and smaller organizations like MAMA, Refuge International, WOW Now, Planting Peace, and Healthy Women, Healthy Liberia came to coordinate efforts and share ideas to combat intestinal worms with Claude Good and other members of The Worm Project.

Though some of us had never met before, as each partner arrived the atmosphere bloomed into one of a long anticipated joyous family reunion. With everyone sharing the same purpose and passion, that of telling the Good News of Christ by serving the dying, malnourished, and impoverished children around the world, the forum developed into an incredible symphony. Each partner shared their unique ministry program, insights, obstacles, and blessings, which were then woven together in a spirit of collaboration, networking, inspiration, and encouragement.

It is with tremendous thankfulness that we look forward to how God will bless our song of His love on that day. The gift of the Holy Spirit was truly present with us as we continued on to the banquet that evening. Within the prior two days, reservations poured in that filled the dining hall to capacity with people who also shared our passion!



Worm Project partners and board at banquet

After a delicious third world meal of beans and rice, Fred Cole quizzed our intestinal parasite knowledge and the Hoover family and friends treated us to a humorous approach to "deworming." The remainder of the evening was spent with our partners telling their heartfelt and inspiring stories of being the voice, hands, and feet of Christ for children around the world. Claude Good, founder of The Worm Project gave a surprise announcement that an anonymous donor would match all donations that evening up to \$10,000. God answered our prayers and approximately \$18,000 was donated for a total of \$28,000. At 1.4 cents per tablet, **\$28,000 will purchase 2 million deworming tablets!** But our work is not over with this banquet. In fact, we are even more compelled to act with an unprecedented boldness and outrageous faith. God hears the cries of his children and so do we. Thank you and blessings to each of you for joining us in whatever manner God has placed on your heart to take on this task of meeting the needs of these unheard children!

Letters From Our Partners: WOW NOW

Fellow Worm Warrior Sid Gholson is a close friend and adviser to The Worm Project founder, Claude Good. After a career at Georgia Pacific as a procurement person that took him all over the world, Sid uses this experience to help develop new strategies for deworming projects. Sid and wife Crystal decided to use part of their retirement funds

to deworm children in orphanages around the world. Now they have expanded their ministry beyond orphanages and have reached more than 26 countries with deworming projects. They call their ministry, "WOW NOW" or "WIPE OUT WORMS NOW" a name suggested by their ten-year-old granddaughter.

Case Study: Debipur Child Development Center, Bangladesh

Prosanto Barmon is a child of Debipur CDC in Bangladesh. He is studying in class six and is 13 years old. He has an older sister. His father is a farmer and his mother is a housewife. Neither of them have much education.

Most of the village people used to have no idea about worm infections. It is a chronic process and Prosanto's health was gradually getting worse. His parents were worried about his health. They could not figure out why Prosanto was getting sicker and sicker.

The size of his belly was increasing. He didn't have enough energy for studying and for other activities.



Health worker is testing worms infections of Prosanto

At that time, a health worker came to check the CDC children's health. He found out that Prosanto was affected by worms. Immediately, the health worker met with his parents and told them about worms and about this infection. The parents told the health worker that Prosanto didn't really want to eat anymore and had very little energy for his daily activities. Immediately, the health worker gave Prosanto a

de-worming tablet. He also gave some to his family and told them when to take the next dose. Then the health worker told the parents that the children need to take de-worming tablets twice a year. The health worker also gave some general advice; for example when the children go to the toilet they need to wear sandals/shoes and wash their hands with soap or ash after using the toilet. That way they can keep the worms' eggs away.

After the treatment, Prosanto gradually became cured from the worm infection. Now, Prosanto is living very well with good health and is able to do his regular activities.



Prosanto and his parents



Keeping worms away by washing



Claude's Story - Part 3:

The Worm Project Goes Global

This story is continued from the Summer 2012 newsletter....Claude's Story - Part 2: The Worm Project Goes Global

By Anna Ralph

Over the next decade, a number of remarkable developments furthered the Project's work. As the Project grew, Claude continued in his role in a volunteer capacity and funded overhead expenses through his own efforts to "live simply," freeing all donations to be used to purchase and ship worm tablets. A cycle developed: donors were moved by this cost-efficient way to address world hunger and increased their giving; pharmaceutical distributors were impressed by the Project's effective distribution channels and trustworthiness, and reduced the cost of the medications; more tablets were distributed; donors were even more inspired to give; cost per tablet was further reduced; more people were reached. The Worm Project, along with its partners—including Vitamin

Angels and Food for the Hungry—is now able to procure the tablets for 1.4 cents apiece. Thanks to the efforts of these partners, significant de-worming efforts have been carried out in countries such as Nicaragua, Peru, Liberia, and Burundi. Food for the Hungry is distributing 8.2 million tablets in Burundi, 1 million of which was donated by The Worm Project.

The Worm Project is also influencing the corporate world. Directly inspired by the Project's work, Johnson and Johnson decided to manufacture 100 million worm tablets annually and to distribute them for free, primarily through the World Health Organization.

How does a small non-profit, using only volunteers, manage to impact 30 million people each year? The enormity of the Worm Project's accomplishments is clearly disproportionate to the size of the structure that undergirds it. To

understand the structure, though, one must first understand Claude Good.

Throughout most of The Worm Project's existence, Claude Good has been synonymous with it, devoting himself heart and soul to the cause. Now at age 83, he is a quiet, unassuming man. Although health issues are slowing him down a bit, he continues to work tirelessly. For years he has lived very simply so that he would have the funds needed to cover any Project overhead expenses, thereby allowing 100% of donations to purchase worm tablets. He espouses a philosophy that the "malnourished" in wealthy countries—economically advantaged people whose unwise food choices keep them in a perpetual state of obesity and poor health—could and should forego a few unnecessary pleasures to provide for those who are malnourished in third world countries.

Tax-deductible
donations can be made
by check or through
our website.
PayPal option is
available at
www.wormproject.org
(click on the "Donate"
button)



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Project in your will or estate plans**

Checks should be made
payable to "The Worm
Project" and sent to:

The Worm Project
Franconia Mennonite
Conference Center
569 Yoder Rd.
Harleysville, PA 19438

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Jim Yothers

Contact Us

The Worm Project

Franconia Mennonite

Conference Center

569 Yoder Rd.

Harleysville, PA 19438

Website: www.wormproject.org

E-mail: info@wormproject.org

Phone: (267) 932-6050 Ext. 136

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569 Yoder Rd.

Harleysville, PA 19438