



GREETINGS FROM THE GRIFFINS

www.perfectpeaceministriesinc.com
perfectpeaceministriesinc@gmail.com

Rabbits & more Rabbits

Last September & October, at the end of our camp host season, we felt a strong urging of the Holy Spirit that our time hosting was coming to an end. In fact we hoped to find a ministry to serve with while we were doing our winter SOWER projects. Each project found us moving on and realizing that we had not found the ministry for us. At one point Bill was having a discussion with a retired missionary and was asked "Is this what you see yourself doing and are you feeling fulfilled in your service to the Lord?" Bills answer to both questions was "no". But when asked what he wanted to do, he could not come up with an adequate answer. This troubled Bill a lot and he, along with Cindy, started asking the Lord for a clear direction that He wanted them to take. After many weeks of prayer, the answer seemed so obvious to us. Rabbits.

When we lived in Arizona, before entering full-time ministry, we raised rabbits. We raised rabbits on a very large scale. We maintained 1000 rabbits and sold 200-300 per week. You could say we were rabbit ranchers. Needless to say we learned a lot about rabbits. When the Lord called us to ministry in 2002 we felt we could take our knowledge of rabbits to Africa and teach people how to raise their own meat for little to no cost. Rabbits are a great source of meat because people can harvest just what they need at the time. One doe and a buck can produce more meat with less waste and for less money per year than a cow, and use less land to produce that meat.

Over the years we have experimented with different ways of housing rabbits. The typical type of rabbit hutch is individual wire cages suspended in the air. Although this is successful we have found it is not the best way to raise a lot of rabbits with minimal cost and effort. We feel we have come up with the best solution; colony breeding. We build a structure that has several divided rooms. Each room holds 10 does and one buck. Additional rooms hold the babies until they are old enough to butcher. The waste is composted and used on the garden that grows the rabbit's food. We built a colony house in Zambia and were able to produce hundreds of rabbits.



We took what we learned in Zambia and started a rabbit operation in Belize. There was two significant differences between Zambia and Belize, HEAT & HUMIDITY. We needed to come up with a way for the rabbits to stay cool in the tropical heat of Belize. We also realized there was a lot of trouble with the typical nest box. Which is usually a metal or wooden box that sits on the ground. The does would not respect each others box and therefore we ended up with multiple does using the same box and causing the death of younger babies. To fix these two problems we came up with buried nest boxes. This solution worked great. The does could escape the heat into the cool den, and others would respect her territory. Simply put we capitalized on the rabbits natural desire to tunnel. It was a win win.



In moving forward we are contacting existing ministries in Africa to find one we can partner with. We have proposed to several missionaries serving in different countries there, our desire to build a working model at their mission base. What we would like to do is raise all of the funds necessary to build a multi-room rabbit house, acquire the breeding stock, and start the operation. We would also design and build a garden to help sustain the rabbit colony. We would do all of this while we are training the base staff so that when we complete the project they can successfully continue it. We expect all of this to take up to two years in country. With the completion of one successful colony we would like to identify another location that is ideal for a second project.....and so on.

There are many facets of this idea that we have to consider as we move forward. First, we have to know it is the direction the Lord is leading us. Second, we need to know which ministry He is leading us to partner with. Third, We need to raise a considerable amount of support to complete the project. Right now we are in phase one, deciding if this is the will of the Lord. So, we are asking you to pray with us for the Lord to give us a clear understanding that this is His will, and not just our own desires. We feel that if the Lord reveals this to be His will, the other aspects of this idea will fall into place. We know it is our desire to return to Africa and providing a reliable source of meat to hungry orphans is a worthy goal. But for it to be a complete success it needs to be the desire of the Lord.

Thank you again for your prayers, and we welcome any questions or comments you might have.

Or can be sent through PayPal on our website.
www.perfectpeaceministriesinc.com
 There are no administrative costs associated with this ministry. Therefore 100% of all donations go directly to us and the work we are doing.