TENTATIVE PROGRAM (con’t)

THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2011 (CON’T)

4:00PM (con’t)   - Faith and Spiritual Communities and Solidarity Struggles over Land;
- Other Small Group Topics
6:00          DINNER
Evening: CELEBRATION IN Wewoka
HIGHLIGHTS EVOKED FROM SESSIONS

FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2011 SHAWNEE

“FOOD SOVEREIGNTY AND AGRICULTURE DAY”

7:30 BREAKFAST
8:00 THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION
9:00 MORNING PLENARY - AMI
- Land Grabs in North America
Representative of Communities Impacted by:
- Katrina;
- De-industrialization and economic collapse in Detroit;
- African American Farmers in U.S. and among Oklahoma Communities

SMALL GROUPS (from Thursday)
OTHER BREAKOUT GROUP TOPICS:
- Agrarian Reform as concept and platform for struggle in global south and north, countryside and in city;
- Leadership Development for the Next Generation of Land Liberators and Food Sovereignty Activists;
- Land as comprehensive common good of nature that includes water, biodiversity, energy and ecology/culture;
- Stemming land loss for African American farmers;
- Urban Land Struggles-strategies involving food policy councils and movement-building urban and rural.
- Other

12:30PM LUNCH
1:30pm Further Rural Coalition Programming
2:00PM AMI Board and Staff Meeting Begins
(Other AMI Participants continue with concurrent sessions)
6:00 PM DINNER IN SHAWNEE
Evening: FREE TIME

SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 2011 SHAWNEE

9:00 BOARD MEETING CONTINUES
1200 LUNCH
2:00 AFTERNOON PLENARY SESSION
SHARING OUR STRATEGIES
Evening: Closing Ceremony and Celebration

SUNDAY JUNE 26, 2011-DEPART

PARTICIPANTS
The Annual Study Session is one of the activities of the Consciousness-Raising, Witness and Advocacy Program of Agricultural Missions. It is designed for members of the Board and their guests, denominational and community-based partners and other appropriate individuals and organizations.

BOARD MEETING
The Business Meeting is scheduled to begin Friday afternoon, June 24, 2011. Board meeting concludes Saturday afternoon June 25 where Board joins plenary and ceremony evening events. Board members should arrange departure travel for Sunday, June 26, 2011.

The Board meeting is open but only members and proxies are eligible to vote.
COMBATING HUNGER THROUGH LAND ACCESS AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

Agricultural Missions, Inc (AMI), will be conducting our annual 2011 study session with the Rural Coalition’s 2011 Call to Assembly – NATIONAL RURAL GATHERING: Land, Water, Energy and Food.

AMI will focus on Land and Food Sovereignty in the context of the global food crisis and “land grabs” where corporations and nation states are buying or taking out 99-year leases on vast tracts of land for the purpose of producing food and bio-energy to be shipped back to their countries of origin. The end result is less farmland available to local farmers in countries where the impact of the food crisis is most severe.

Hosting this event is the Oklahoma Black Historical Research Project in Shawnee, and first morning’s event hosted by the Seminole leaders and community of Wewoka. Resource persons from grassroots partner organizations in Cameroun, Brazil, Honduras, Michigan, Louisiana and other U.S. will be addressing the entire assembly.

Please join us in Oklahoma for this historic gathering of the PEOPLE OF THE LAND ---- farm workers, small farmers and ranchers, and tribal communities from the U.S. and beyond -- standing together at the crossroads of past and future in the midst of transformation and change.

GOALS

1. To deepen understanding of the important role that Land Access, Tenancy and Rights plays in the production and availability of food at the local level and beyond;
2. To strengthen our coalitions and member organizations and seek common actions in the areas of policy and advocacy that address the food crisis and related issues;
3. To understand the dynamics and mechanisms of the current food crisis and its impact on the “land grab” phenomenon;
4. To combat hunger structurally by supporting education, advocacy and movement-building;
5. To strengthen the ties between our organizations and faith communities with efforts toward addressing the food crisis through the building of a food sovereignty movement.

LOCATION SHAWNEE / WEWOKA, OK

COST

Member Registration Fee: $250 per person before May 20th for Agricultural Missions or Rural Coalition members. Includes all meals, local transportation, conference meeting rooms and materials. After May 20th regular registration fee is $300. Non-Member Registration Fee: $300 per person before May 20th, regular registration fee after May 20th is $350.

Hotels (see insert) Per night per room:
Range from $50-$99 per night per room, plus hotel deposit of $25 (double) $50 (single). Please add the deposit amount to conference fee above and send to AMI to reserve the room.

Oklahoma City Airport Shuttle: $20 (round trip)

TRAVEL

You are responsible for arranging your air travel. Plan to arrive at Oklahoma City Airport between noon or 2:00pm on Wednesday, June 22 and depart Sunday June 26. See insert for assistance in flight information.

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2011 SHAWNEE

NOON - 5:00 PM ARRIVAL/REGISTRATION
6:00 PM DINNER
EVENING: WELCOME/INTRODUCTION
  Opening Ceremony
  Introductory Session of Themes
  Building our 500 yr timeline of our histories
  Exhibitions on our history of agriculture

THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2011 WEWOKA – STUDY SESSION (AMI)

7:30 AM BREAKFAST
8:00 THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION
9:00 MORNING PLENARY SESSION
  - Welcome from Black Seminole leaders
  - Recounting their history surrounding land, expropriation and genocidal treatment, the loss of land allotments in more recent times and their struggles with both land and water rights;
  - Visit Seminole Indian Museum
  - Street Activities in Wewoka.
12:30 LUNCH
1:30 AFTERNOON PLENARY SESSION
  International Land Struggles from Latin America to Africa (90 minutes w/Q and A)
  - Intro on current land grab phenomenon;
  - Representatives of Honduran, Cameroun, Haitian and Brazilian communities will present the realities of “LAND GRABS”
4:00PM SMALL GROUP BREAKOUT SESSIONS
  - Land Grabs in the Global South;
  - Social Movement Strategies for Radical Land Reform;
  - Land and Resource Extraction’
  - Lessons of Successful Strategies for Survival and Recovery following Land Expropriations;

- over -
Send this form to the Rural Coalition c/o Julia at Julia@ruralco.org or fax to 202 393 1816 and email a copy to drivera475@hotmail.com so AMI can work on roommate selection. You can also register online at http://www.regonline.com/nationalruralgathering

Hotel Options: Rural Coalition has reserved roomed blocks at each of the hotels noted- these are all a few steps of each other near the Metro Tech Center in Shawnee where the study session and meetings are to be held. These hotel rooms are available on a first come, first serve basis. Please fill out the form and choose your preference.

Name__________________________________ Organization____________________________
Address:_______________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
Tel.: __________________________ Fax: ___________________ Email:_________________________

Conference Dates you will need a hotel room: (June 22-26, 2011)
_____June 22 (arriving after noon); _____June 23; _____ June 24; _____ June 25
Optional, if you are arriving early _____June 21; or staying longer _____ June 26
Total # of nights: _______

Choose hotel and price range, as below: (all the hotels are near the meeting venue), Provide first choice and second choice, please, marking 1 or 2.

America's Best Value: $50 per night per room _____
Motel 6: $50 per night per room _____
Super 8: $70 per night per room _____
Days Inn: $75 per night per room _____
La Quinta Inn and Suites $99 per night per room _____

I am a scholarship applicant. ($25 per room/per night.) _____

Single occupancy (you want a private room) _____
Double occupancy (name your roommate) _________________ or AMI will choose ___

Day Pass(es) $75/per day _____June 22; _____June 23; _____June 24; _____June 25.

Deadline for Hotel: June 1, 2011.
Travel Arrangements

You are responsible to make your own travel arrangements and book your own tickets, to arrive by midday or early afternoon in Oklahoma City Airport, on Wed June 22, for departure the day of Sunday June 26. If you would like a travel agent to handle this, Rural Coalition has recommended Jerry Feldman of Casto Travel who has worked for many years with Rural Coalition and is prepared to handle participants' flight arrangements for this event for his regular fee. He will be aware of travel routes, discounts and other details for this meeting. If your ticket is booked through him, we will get direct updates of any travel difficulties or changes in your flight schedule. For more information, contact him at jerry.feldman@casto.com.

Name: ___________________________________________________________

Day/Date of Arrival to Oklahoma City Airport: _________________________

Airline Name:______________________ Arrival time: _____________________

Day/Date of Departure from Oklahoma City Airport:: ______________________

Departure time: ____________________

_____ I will not need the airport shuttle.

Transportation Options

Group shuttle from the airport in OK City to Shawnee on June 22 and June 26 is optional; each one-way fare costs $10, paid in advance. Please provide your flight information above to assure we know when to pick you up!

Scholarship Process

Agricultural Missions is committed to having the greatest and most representative participation possible, given current fund raising efforts. Our scholarship application process is on a first come, first serve basis and scholarships will be awarded as funds become available. Please check back with Stephen Bartlett sbartlett@ag-missions.org to apply. (Scholarship form attached) We look forward to your participation in this year’s Assembly.