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## Homesteader - September 28, 2015

### Farm Crisis in Future

The Nebraska Farm Crisis Council was established in 1984 to aide farmers and ranchers hit hard by the 1984 farm crisis. The Farm Crisis Council is still active today providing services to farmers, ranchers, and returning military veterans who settle in rural areas of Nebraska.

One of the many services provided is the Farm Crisis Hotline funded in part by donations from Nebraska churches and judicatories. Please give the following your prayerful attention and support.

National Farmers Union sent out a signal of alarm Monday as the group asked USDA officials to plan for increased loan and loan-guarantee applications, while also ensuring USDA's Certified Agricultural Mediation Program prepare for a bigger workload as well.

In a letter to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, NFU cited USDA's August net-farm income forecast, as well as feedback from its own leaders to note "evidence of increasing financial distress for producers." NFU had received reports of farmers having difficulties obtaining operating loans, as well as "spikes in 'Hotline' calls regarding financial stress and concerns of loan repayments following the 2015 harvest."

NFU notes the August farm-income forecast projected a 36% decline in net farm income with expenses projected to drop only 0.5%. That

### Outstanding Homesteader: Nominations Due by October 15

Please think of someone you know who has done a lot for Homestead Presbytery and nominate him or her for the Outstanding Homesteader award. The nomination form is on the Presbytery website. [Nomination](#).

### Rwandan International Peacemaker at First Presbyterian in Lincoln Sept. 27

On Sunday, September 27th from 5-7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church has an opportunity to hear from, and have a discussion with, an International Peacemaker from Rwanda. The Peacemaker is visiting Homestead Presbytery and will be speaking in First Presbyterian's Fellowship Hall that night. If you are able to attend, please bring soup or sandwiches or a salad to share with the participants. If you have questions, please contact Paul Smith at [psmith@lps.org](mailto:psmith@lps.org) or Steve Hastings at [shastings52@me.com](mailto:shastings52@me.com). From your Social Justice and Mission Outreach Committees.

### Partnership in Ministry

When hurricanes Frances and Jeanne hit Florida and peeled back the roof of Palmdale Presbyterian Church, the problems were just beginning for the congregation and its pastor, the Reverend Bill Anderson.

combination "is certain to cause significant financial distress, particularly among beginning and financially leveraged producers."

NFU recommended USDA's work with state mediation programs to ensure there is enough support to handle a larger workload of credit-related mediation services. The group also wants to support expansion of the issues eligible for mediation for family farmers. "Any type of dispute or disagreement exacerbates financial distress when cash flows are tight or non-existent."

For more information, contact Jerry D. Albright, Executive Director of Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska, at (402) 476-3391.

Not only did substitute space have to be found, but the church building was quickly overtaken by mold. When the insurer refused to pay, choking the church's cash flow, Bill was overwhelmed.

"Seminary doesn't tend to prepare you for this," he said. To his great relief, the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions awarded Bill a grant to attend a program for pastors facing crises. It made all the difference, he said, enabling him to better lead his congregation through what would be a 25-month displacement until the church was rebuilt. You can give to the Assistance Program [online](#) or call 800-773-7752.

### Blessing Opportunity *2 Corinthians 9:7-8*

GIVE...  
TO SYRIAN REFUGEES through the Peace & Global Witness Offering.

### Keep Thinking...

"I have found a desire within myself that no experience in this world can satisfy; the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world." -C.S. Lewis

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