

RETURNING TO GLEANINGS

Several teams that come to serve at *Gleanings* during the fruit season have been coming here for many years. Some groups have been coming since 1987, bringing new faces and youth to the peach fields. As teams began coming from all around North America, anywhere from Nebraska to Canada, we began asking the leaders, "Why do you return to Gleanings?". Dave Langston from Lacey, Wa said, "Our students like the trip to Gleanings, to reconnect and refocus themselves with God. Through service and hard work, they are able to do something tangible for others: equipping missionaries with life giving food. Our youth find it rewarding work." A time to reconnect with God, old friends and to make new ones. Groups come in as young as junior high aged and as old as college aged students. One of the leaders, Pastor Luke Ham from California, said of his junior high group, "We return every summer because our youth feel transformed and revitalized in their faith over the course of our week serving here."



"AND WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE OF YOU? TO ACT JUSTLY AND TO LOVE MERCY AND TO WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD." MICAH 6:8

It has been said that Gleanings is a place of rest and peace for people to re cooperate spiritually and be encouraged and filled again by God's Holy Spirit. Gleanings inspires people to live a life of service and example. Steve Witmer from Bible Fellowship in Surrey, Canada shared, "We have recognized that if we want to disciple a congregation to be "missions minded", then we need to provide significant and meaningful opportunities for individuals to experience practical ministry service. Preaching may help inform what people think and believe, but practical service influences what they will do. The culture of our congregation has been shaped by regular short term mission's trips, especially to Gleanings for the Hungry! When God captures a person's heart with the tangible needs of a hurting and hungry world, they are forever transformed and their participation in the life of our congregation is accelerated!" And with each team that comes, we pray that God's will be done.



WE ARE STILL ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING SCHOOL STARTING AT THE END OF THIS MONTH. MORE INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM OUR WEBSITE OR BY CONTACTING THE OFFICE.

CONTAINER MINISTRY

The Container Ministry is a registered Non-Profit Organization and Public Benefit Organization. It operates out of Durban South Africa, under the auspices of *Grace Family Church*. *Container Ministry* receives containers of donated goods, mostly from overseas, and distributes to missionaries and/or Christian agencies, who in turn distribute directly to needy communities in their area of ministry.

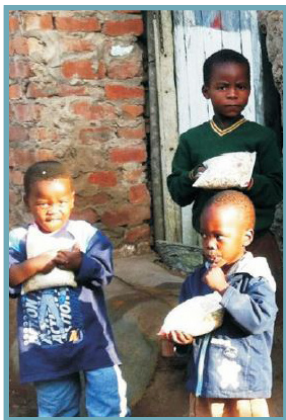
The Container Ministry was founded in 1991 when two visiting US missionaries, Dr. M. Gaglardi and Dr. J. Cooper, and two local businessmen, Doug Andre and Dudley Thompson, heeded the call to give spiritual and material aid to the poor and destitute of South Africa.

To this day *Container Ministry*, currently managed by co-founder Dudley Thompson, annually receives an average of 360 tons of supplies and food. These goods are distributed to 162 mission partners who in turn give the food items, clothing, toys, sewing machines, bicycles, medical equipment, school supplies, etc., to the underprivileged, orphans, prison ministries, physically handicapped, sick and unemployed throughout Kwazulu Natal.

Since the early days to date it is estimated that through the generosity of the donors and the work of *Container Ministry* and partners, over five million people have been reached with aid and the Gospel.

“Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress.”

-James 1:27



“Dear *Gleanings for the Hungry*,

No words could ever adequately express our heartfelt gratitude for the soup mix and dried fruit you send us.

Communicating constantly as we do with our 162 mission partners our hearts are greatly touched with their pain in trying to meet impossible needs in terms of basic nurture and sustenance. What a joy it is to know that a container of food is on its way and we can plan an allocation for at least some of the 156 missionaries. (to make it worthwhile fetching over great distance, we need to give each missionary around four hundred kilograms of stock.)

At our *Container Ministry* Conference we asked our missionaries to give us an approximate number of the people they serve and this stood at 90,000 men, women and children. This is broken up into approximately 16,000 infants, 32,000 children, 26,000 adults and 16,000 aged.

Another survey showed that 25% of our missionaries are part of fully constituted, organized institutions, 25% are fairly organized situations and 50% are in remote areas far from towns. Along the way people have told me that some of these remote, small ministries are unsustainable and I say, “Yes, that one has been ‘unsustainable’ for 20 years!”

It’s wonderful to hear from these missionaries how new churches are begun, and how people are coming to Christ, all around the fact that they are seen to be loving the people by meeting at least some of their needs.

I was in an area of our province called “Valley of a Thousand Hills”, which has many very poor people living on steep, remote hillsides, when an old woman, bent over a walking stick, approached me slowly up a steep gradient. I asked her in Zulu language how she was and she replied she was feeling very unwell. I then asked how many children she was caring for and she replied “nine”.... nine children with parents dead from Aids, being cared for by this dear, dear old lady. Thank you *Gleanings* for putting food in our hands to give her! We love you!

Dudley Thompson Director – *The Container Ministry*

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Gleanings For The Hungry

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Director's Corner

Dear Friend,

Writing the Director's Corner drives me crazy. There is so much to say, so many ideas to ponder, so much to communicate, and so little space. And who am I to give you my five cents worth of understanding anyway, when you have a wealth of knowledge and experience for me to learn from. So, we spend our days looking for ways to express and live out our faith within the time and relationships we've been given. It's a joyful life we have been granted. Joy is in our lives, not because of our successes like winning a sports event or getting a promotion; no, joyfulness because Jesus found us and His joy causes us to experience pleasure as we serve Him. Jesus, the carpenter from 2000 years ago, loving us in September, 2013 and ruining our definition of normal, because now anything is possible when we walk with Him. Every day is an expression of His grace and a gift to you and me. I love my life and I love my Jesus. Jesus is even more real to us today than He was to the disciples over 2000 years ago, because He lives in us. May you be blessed with an outpouring of Jesus' joy over you and may you bless someone else with your joy today.

We send you our love and best wishes in the name of the entire Gleanings' staff.

Fritz Meier.