



When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.

Matthew 2:10-11a

Merry Christmas

from Gleanings' Staff

GUATEMALA

Hope of Life International is an organization based in Guatemala, committed to feeding the hungry, aiding the sick, rescuing the dying, and providing homes for the deprived. By showing the love of God in this capacity, they have seen many lives saved physically and spiritually. *Gleanings for the Hungry* has partnered with *Hope of Life* in order to provide food for their ministry to Guatemala. The following are stories we received testifying how *Gleanings'* food made an impact.

Sofia, 12 years old, already understands what suffering is. She lives in extreme poverty with her family and dreams of having a profession when she grows up. At her young age she cares for her siblings so that her parents can find work and buy food for their family. When her parents return they give thanks to God for the day's provision and ask that He help them every day. Today Sofia and her family are thankful for the gift of soup that they have received and her parents tell us that there are many days they go home with their hands empty, but today is different. They have hope that there will be better days for their family.

Marta is a single mom who struggles to support her four children. Today she left home very early in order to find food for them; she is scared and broken-hearted because she has to leave them alone, otherwise there would be no food on the table. She is surprised and happy to find *Hope of Life* sharing the blessing of soup mix with all the families of her village. Marta sends her blessings to everyone at *Gleanings* for their gift. These are the words expressed by a single mom with much gratitude in her heart.

At 7 years old Carla Julissa has seen how her family suffers from the poverty she was born into. She has four younger brothers that she cares for after school, so that her mother can find work in the afternoon to support the family. There are many days when she doesn't find work after going door to door and Carla's father comes home from the fields with near to nothing to buy beans and tortillas for the family. Today they are blessed with a gift of soup full of much needed nutrients. They ask us to thank *Gleanings* for this blessing and know the value of the support. We thank God for all the people that are involved in making this gift a reality. Without *Gleanings'* support we could not reach them.

-Cheryl Vargas,
Hope of Life International



Director's Corner

Dear *Gleanings'* Friend,

I long to have God's perspective on the things I daily face in my life. Many circumstances that seem negative in the moment turn out to be a big blessing. Other things I desire and work toward bring little satisfaction! How can that be? It's related to my limited understanding of what the truth is regarding everything that comes my way.

A few weeks ago I hiked up Sawtooth Peak, a beautiful mountain in the Sequoia National Park. I figured it would be a great day in the mountains with a nice challenge of climbing to the peak of Sawtooth. It turned out to be a little more than I bargained for, which was a great lesson to teach me that I'm not in the shape I used to be. Maybe I should have read the reviews on the internet more carefully. Anyway, it was a beautiful trip, but physically draining. We were walking back in the dark with flashlights, as it took much longer than expected.

God has a way of challenging me to obedience in areas that are not my natural strength. When I excel in these faith moments it feels like I'm on the top of a mountain and He is using me for His glory. The perspective we have while being on a high place is awesome. I pray that you would have many memories of God moments for 2014 and that you can't wait for 2015, to experience how God is going to use you in the new year. Merry Christmas and a God filled 2015.

Fritz Meier