

Meier's Memoirs

December 2016

Greetings Friends:

Challenges and accomplishments, joys and sorrows, family and life at Gleanings, have comprised our year. Sorry it's taken so long to write, but ministry and life is quite demanding of our time and energy. So, here's a look into our happenings.

Fritz's journey to Haiti (details below) was followed by Tiffany's graduation from Discipleship Training School in February. Philip accepted the challenge to take the California High School Proficiency Exam in March. Switzerland vacation was greatly needed and enjoyed in April and May. Tiffany and Philip, our adventurers, wanted to see new countries, so we set off on a road trip; in Italy we visited Verona and Venice, Salzburg in Austria, then through Germany. What a special family time! While in Venice, Philip received news of his accomplishment - exam passed; he's delighted to have his high school diploma in hand. Unfortunately, sorrow followed; Randy Erickson, staff member, passed away. We returned from Switzerland to encounter much grief, process Randy's death with staff, then help coordinate and attend the memorial service. What a rollercoaster of emotions. Soon after Philip was jumping for joy when given a motorcycle; Cindy was challenged to pray and trust God more. It wasn't long til Fritz felt riding motorcycles would be a wonderful father and son bonding activity; he received a motorcycle too. Philip also has a dirt bike and has gotten quite good at wheelies. Oh dear, please pray with Cindy for their safety. They enjoy the fun, peace, and beauty of riding the mountain roads near us, and the challenge of maintaining the bikes. Summer fruit drying season was crazily busy; our entire family served together. Tiffany was Gleanings' lovely receptionist every morning; Philip joined summer staff. It was like he was walking in his dad's shoes. Philip trained summer staff to forklift and helped manage plant operations. Yannick, our nephew from Switzerland, also came; he was an answer to prayer for a truck driver, picking up the donated fruit. A shortage of staff forced extra duties on Cindy, like writing Gleanings' newsletter and doing housekeeping for volunteer housing. Thankfully, God brought new staff this fall to lighten the load. What a joy to have Cherise, our oldest daughter, and grandkids, Elijah Sven, and Dahli-Mae spend three weeks with us during the summer; her husband was deployed for four months. Through it all God has been faithful.



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HAITI OUTREACH and BEYOND

I, Fritz, led a team to Haiti for ten days in January. Trouble began quickly; a cancelled flight from Florida to Haiti. God faithfully provided a church to sleep in and a different flight. Our group of 20 worked in the clinic, orphanage, and school; I helped install a solar system for a new elderly home. The whole system was donated from a California company then shipped to Haiti, along with building materials, food, and furniture. For me, the hardest day was

dividing furniture and food between three ministries. All three amazing ministries could use everything we'd shipped, but we only had a little bit for each! It was one of these moments; everyone explained why they needed something and I was challenged to decide who'd receive what. On the bright side, everyone had more than before! I hadn't been at Mission of Grace for 2 1/2 years; it was a joy to see all the progress - new buildings, new staff, and many aspects of ministry. Carries, the village we visited five years ago, has been changed by the Mission; the villagers are very grateful for all the help. Along with growth came more structure. At times I felt like a rebel, sneaking out at night to visit old friends in the village, which is now against the rules. I barely remembered many friends, including a young man who told me I'd funded his hernia surgery; he's now doing well. That was fun; reliving some of those moments and seeing the fruit of our labor. We also visited Madam Lafleur, where we built a house for orphans near Port Au Prince, and played with the kids. We flew the day after delayed elections, praying for peace on the roads since crazy things can happen in times of turmoil. Everyone arrived home safely, having experienced a wonderful adventure of helping people in Jesus' Name. Hurricane Mathew recently ravaged the south; Gleanings has already shipped two containers to Haiti in response. In addition,

food has been send though Convoy of Hope. We're thankful everyone at our two orphanages is safe. Another trip to Haiti is being organized for Jan. 20-31 of next year; Cindy looks forward to going. Interested in coming along too? Please contact us for more details. Space is limited and is on a first come first served basis.

TIFFANY'S OUTREACH

"How was your outreach?" a friend asked when I returned from my Discipleship Training School. "Nothing went as according to plan," was the only way I could describe it.

Our outreach team, consisting of five members, had the mission of delivering a donated fishing



yacht from Texas to its new home at YWAM Ships Panama. Immediately upon arriving in Texas our plans changed, due to the boat not being ready to set sail. Miraculously, we found a place to stay, connecting to our host family and locals during impromptu street ministry. A drunk and belligerent homeless man visibly sobered as we told him about God's love for him. Later, we ministered to weary seniors at a retirement center. "Who brought you here?" an atheist asked, tears streaming down her face, as she experienced God's love. "No one brought us; God led us," we clarified.

The boat was soon prepared to voyage, however, our captain, after delaying, decided not to take us. Our team modified the plan, traveling by plane to Costa Rica and Panama. We stayed only a few days in Costa Rica, accompanying a children's ministry in one neighborhood. In Panama, our capabilities were limited by meager transportation, so we frequently evangelized on the streets of nearby, well populated islands. We taught an interested woman and her son how to study the Bible, and shared the gospel with many. Throughout our journey, God led us; He healed and delivered many people. Though our plans failed, our outreach was not a failure. *Tiffany*

WHAT COMES NEXT?

Seems quite an accomplishment that our children have completed homeschooling; and, what a joy to see them following God. Tiffany plans to attend college to focus on graphic design and further her artistic talents. She was recently hired to create a logo for a volunteer. Philip wants to attend a Discipleship Training School next year, but first will look for a job to help fund DTS. Donations are welcome if you'd like to help Philip do his DTS. After a two year break, plans are to have a Discipleship Training School next year. DTS is always challenging, but extremely rewarding, as lives are transformed. Of course, the truckloads of food will continue to roll out of Gleanings. Please pray for God's direction and wisdom. Thanks & blessings.



Thank you for your support with prayer and finances. AND, we'd enjoy hearing from you.

If you would like to invest in our work to feed the hungry both physically and spiritually, you can write a check to Gleanings For The Hungry, P.O. Box 309, Sultana, CA 93666 with an attached note indicating it's for us, the Meier family, or go to our web site @ www.gleanings.org and click on How to Help/Donate/Financial/Staff Support/Meier. (tax deductible)

Note: Gleanings' staff do not receive a salary and are responsible to raise their individual support.

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