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# Gleanings For The Hungry

A Ministry of Youth With A Mission

June 2017

## Volunteers are Vital

If you've been around **Gleanings** for any length of time, whether physically or in spirit, you know we love our volunteers. Our volunteers work hard, giving of their time, growing spiritually, developing a heart for missions, and making a lasting impact on this world. To our 2,500+ yearly volunteers, we shout out a huge "THANK YOU!!"

You may wonder, "But who are your volunteers?" Well, thanks for asking! Our volunteers come from churches, youth groups, as families, as individuals, as homeschooled, as international travelers, and sometimes from right down the road! Just about anyone can be a Gleanings' volunteer, regardless of age or ability.

Our oldest volunteer, Russ Rigg, is 99 years old! Russ recently shared with us that his greatest joy is still being able to volunteer. Our youngest volunteers come with their families. Even though some of them can't see the top of the soup barrels yet, we find them a place in our ministry, enabling whole families to come and serve with us.

Volunteer Josie, a traveler from Madagascar, saw starvation daily while growing up. She wanted to give back and make sure even just one more person would have food. "I know what starvation looks like, and what abundance looks like. My work here might just be a drop in the bucket, but still, it's worth it."

The spectrum of volunteer stay ranges from one afternoon to several months. Our short-term volunteers stay a week or two, while our long-term volunteers (or "Mission Builders") stay up to three months. We also have some "Special Project Staff", who may stay as long as it takes to complete their project.

While volunteering here, you may find yourself producing soup (October through May), processing and drying fruit (June through September), serving in the kitchen, repairing fruit trays, working on construction projects or building maintenance, landscaping, sewing quilts, repairing cars, joining in our prayer ministry, and anything else we can think of for you to do.

Perhaps you have a special set of skills that could help us out? For instance, we recently had an accountant come and guide the staff through their taxes, and a family counselor who made herself available to chat with anyone in need of counsel. Truly, there is a place for you here.

Again, to all our volunteers near and far, short and long term, we say thank you.

**"God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people and continue to help them."**

**Hebrews 6:10**

\*To learn how to volunteer, please visit our website at [www.gleanings.org](http://www.gleanings.org).\*



# Country Report

## Ghana



Buduburam is a refugee camp near Accra, Ghana. It is home to over 42,000 individuals, mostly from Liberia and Sierra Leon, who fled the ravages of civil war in their home countries between the end of the 1980's, and early 2000's. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has had varied involvement in this camp from its establishment in 1990, but has largely pulled back support in recent years, encouraging the refugees to return to their now more settled countries of origin.

**Ministerial Development and Relief Program (MDRP)**, a partner ministry based out of Accra, brought a shipment of **Gleanings**' food to Camp Buduburam. This shipment of soup fed approximately 12,000 individuals, including orphans, the elderly, pregnant women, and school children. George Bannerman, of **MDRP**, was present in the refugee camp during distribution of the soup mix, and witnessed first-hand the impact this food had there. "One of their major problems in Buduburam is food. Food has become a dilemma, hundreds are dying of hunger each year. The present population is over 40,000. With this food, thousands will be fed."

"During first distribution, many of the refugees wept for joy that food had finally arrived at the camp. They thank God first, then the donors and the sponsors of the food. They prayed that the sponsors and the donors will be blessed by God so they will continue to ship food to the camp. Some of the food went to churches in the refugee camp where the needy members benefited by attending churches; it became a tool for many of the abandoned refugees to receive the word of God."

"Many of the refugees, especially the seniors and the children, were dying in large numbers for lack of food. With arrival of this shipment, thousands of seniors, and the children, were the first to receive packages of food. One husband and wife hadn't eaten for two days. They were very weak when we met them and thought of taking them to see a doctor, but with the dehydrated food their lives were saved. Extra food given to the family will keep them for a month or two."

Praise God! And thank you for your continued support of **Gleanings for the Hungry**, which in turn supports thousands of individuals globally, each day.



## Director's Corner

Hi there our Dear Reader,

While working on my motorcycle I always try to analyze the symptoms of a problem. I imagine where the strange noise is coming from to find out how to fix it or which part to replace. What I really need, more than a new part, is understanding how the machine works so I can eliminate trying one thing after another to finally (maybe) find the solution. Many of us are trying all kinds of things to attempt to please God, when what we really need is for Jesus to speak to us and lead us to the will of the Father in heaven. I find it so comforting to know the Way, to know the Door into the room of God's presence. His kingdom is right here, right now, and in Jesus we have the invitation to come to God any time. Jesus is so good. In Him there is everything we need. At **Gleanings**, we desire to seek God's perspective for our needs first and foremost. We don't want to go into this summer season only thinking of the physical aspect of the ministry, we are also dreaming of what God wants to do right here in our midst. Pray with us, that the defining part of **Gleanings** would be experiencing God and His Son Jesus right here in Dinuba. Have your way Jesus!

May the blessings of God overflow in your life,

*Fritz Meier*