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Gleanings For The Hungry

August 2017

A Ministry of Youth With A Mission



Summer Staff 2017



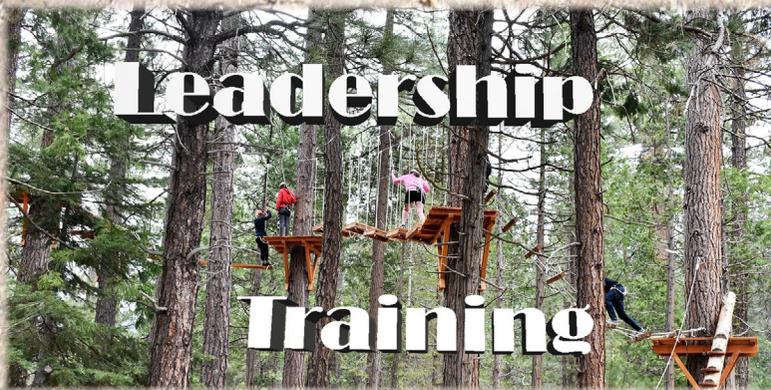
Bethany Waits & Philip Meier
Plant Managers

Summer Staff Reflections

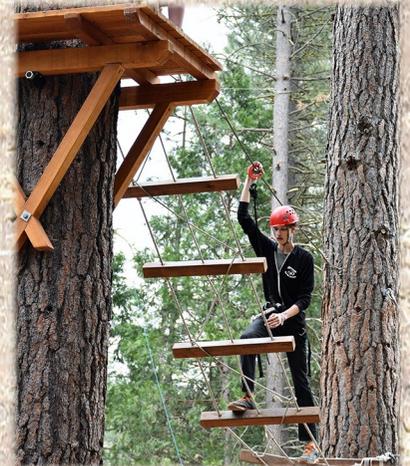
“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor” Ecclesiastes 4:9

Our summer staff have been trained in forklifting, pressure washing, and operations of the fruit plant. We have been reaching out to the weekly volunteers at a closer level. A new challenge we've been given this year, spurred on by our fearless leader, Andy Rotunno, is to purposely engage volunteers throughout the week, enabling them to grow in leadership along with us.

Our Summer Staff team has been restless to learn more about each other, and more about God's will in our lives. We understand each other better because we took a "Strengths Finder" test, and have drawn closer; we are communicating effectively with love, and playing to each other's strengths. God has been showing up for us this summer by bringing us closer together, while the plant has run almost flawlessly. The summer staff say, "Thank you; thank you for the prayers, for showing up, and for caring. We are here with arms open wide, ready to see you here!"



Summer Staff training week included a day at Hume Lake Christian Camp in the Kings Canyon National Park for team building. Summer Staff, as well as a few Gleanings' staff and kids, overcame challenges, and practiced working together and including each person as a vital part of the team. The favorite team building exercise



was certainly the High Adventure Ropes Course, a two-story high-ropes course in a group of tall trees. Our adventurers had to climb over, scoot along, scramble up, and zip down different obstacles, all while being tethered to wires, more than twenty feet above the forest floor! Well done summer team!



Israel & Syria



Dudley Goff with soup going to Israel

Pictured to the left is Dudley Goff, founder of **Israel Food Outreach (IFO)**, holding an Israeli flag in front of a container on its way to Syria (through Israel). Here's an excerpt from a recent report Mr. Goff sent to us: "Jerusalem Day, part of 'Jerusalem Week', takes place each year on the date when the Israel Defense Forces conquered the eastern part of the city, wresting it from Jordanian soldiers in 1967, ending nearly two decades of Jewish separation from the Old City and the Wailing Wall.

At the beginning of Jerusalem Week, we visited a group of Holocaust survivors, together with friends from the **Jerusalem Institute of Justice**. Food was served, gifts were distributed, and music was played. A man who was among the troops that stormed the Old City in 1967 shared the story of how it all happened. We spent some precious time talking to the guests.

Sadly, to the north of us in Syria, the people continue to suffer unimaginably. We have recently imported medical equipment from **Baylor Scott & White**, and soup mix from **Gleanings for the Hungry**. **Israeli Flying Aid** is using these to launch special medical centers to treat pregnant women and infants. Many of these women are rape victims of Syrian government (Assad's forces) troops. Many are in fear of Russian aerial bombings targeting hospitals. Pray for Syria!"

Mr. Goff forwarded this letter of thanks from Gal Lusky, CEO of **Israeli Flying Aid**:

"During the month of May, **The Joseph Project** [a partner ministry to **IFO**] made a great effort in transferring a million food portions from **Gleanings for the Hungry** through IFA to Syria, just before the Ramadan holiday. Such aid from Christians and Jews to reduce the suffering of Muslims in sieged areas in Syria shows them how much other communities around the world care, sympathize, and reach out to help...

Everyone hearing about what is happening with this cooperation, including in the Knesset (Israeli Parliament) and in the government ministries such as Welfare, Justice, and Defense, is very excited at the inter-religious collaboration. This is not to be overlooked; it is extraordinary! We are so thankful and ourselves excited, and we are calling on more aid and more partnerships!"

Praise God! Thank you for your ongoing support, which allows for such partnerships to continue through the work here at Gleanings for the Hungry. Please keep us, our ministry partners, and our brothers and sisters in Israel and Syria, in your prayers, always. May God bless you richly, friends!



Holocaust survivor given a quilt



Syrian muslim woman receives Gleanings soup

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

For us, Gleanings' staff, summer is always an exciting time with lots of energy and many young people. It is also a time when we need to be intentional to refuel and get filled up. We have been challenged in our staff meetings, by two different speakers, to keep on doing what we do, but to also check our motives. Sometimes the business of every day is in the way of connecting and serving Jesus, not just as a ministry, but in our personal lives and in our families. We don't want to get stressed while doing good deeds; I know God has a better plan for us than that. So, we are intentionally taking time to find things that bring us into the joy of the Lord. I know many of you are praying for us, and I am most grateful for YOU, our dear friend. Your care and love for us blesses us continuously!

Have a great summer,

Fritz Meier