

July 3, 2017

Hello Everyone,

I've decided I don't like change very much - especially when it comes to family members and friends. We just returned home from visiting family and close friends in Canada for 10 days. Although it was wonderful to see everyone, the trip was difficult for me. My mom, who is 82 years old, has a health issue which is demanding immediate attention. Her kidneys are operating at 19%, which was a shock to me and my siblings! She is now getting the tests, information and care that we feel she should have received a few years ago. It's funny, but somehow I thought my parents would live forever..... Now, with the death of my father last year, and my mom's health this year, I am looking at life and death a little differently than I used to. As many of you know, it is hard to be so far away from family. It is comforting to know that God is especially close to the hurting and wounded. It broke my heart to say goodbye to my mom, knowing that she is feeling so overwhelmed and scared about the future. Prayers for her,(her name is Jean) would be greatly appreciated!

On a lighter note, our daughter Kaleigh will be returning home Thursday, after a three week visit to Europe. The first leg of her trip took her to Greece, where she participated in a study abroad program through Vanguard University. The focus was on refugees and anti-human trafficking. Since it is fairly reasonable to travel in Europe once you are there, she also visited friends in Macedonia and Brussels. One of these girls was a backpacker here at Gleanings, and married a local fellow she met through our son. Kaleigh has thoroughly enjoyed herself and continues to be so passionate about social justice issues! It will be interesting to see where God leads her!

Our son Kent, is in Kelowna, B.C. playing his last year of football in the Canadian Junior Football League. He continues to do iron work/rebar and is working at packing on those pounds he needs as a defensive lineman! We miss him, as we have only seen him for about three weeks in the past year!

Now to Gleanings!

We are currently in our 13th summer here at Gleanings! I love the smell of peaches, the noise of the machinery and the field full of fruit! We continue to be blessed with so many volunteers that come and give of their time to help make possible all the things that Gleanings does.

We(Rod and I), are especially thankful for the many international travelers/backpackers that stop by Gleanings to help get the food to the ones that need it so desperately! They are a delightful group of people, and you never know what God might do in their lives! Last week, a young woman visiting us from Hong Kong became a Christ Follower and was baptised by Francis Chan when she visited the San Francisco area! It is amazing how God is bringing the nations to us!!

We are hoping to visit Guatemala in the fall, where former staff members, Eric and Lisa Rivera, have pioneered a feeding program in rural areas of the country. Eric takes food to very poor, remote places all over Guatemala. Much of the food they share comes from Gleanings!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your love, friendship and support. We love Gleanings and look forward to what God has in store for us for the remainder of this year!

We pray that you would each be aware of God's presence and direction in your lives!

Love
Colleen and Rod Lawrence