

BACKPACKER MINISTRY

Patti Kidd says, "A Big Thank You" to the whole *Gleanings*' staff for loving backpackers." It all started in 2009 when Patti met two backpackers from Denmark in San Francisco and linked them up with Eliane Erickson at *Gleanings*. Rod Lawrence and other staff members reached out to the young men and soon the entire *Gleanings*' staff was behind the initiative, and 'Backpacker Ministry' was started. Patti, who lives in Florida, is an avid backpacker herself and does the recruiting and screening of applicants, but she says, "it was God who started the ministry and the real work is done by the people who are willing to love the backpackers. *Backpacking Ministry* is a team effort with everyone fulfilling different, but equally important roles, and I am forever indebted to Eliane, Rod and all of the *Gleanings*' staff for embracing and loving my backpacker friends." Backpackers come to *Gleanings* from all over the world and recently we had Chanelle Mallais from Canada, and Angelika Hoerner from Germany, stay with us. Chanelle was thrilled with all the new skills she learned and all the new things she got to try. "*Gleanings For The Hungry* was an amazing place for my first volunteering experience! I had the chance to learn a lot of new skills while I was there like cooking, quilting, forklifting and making trail mix. I found a place that feels like home, and a family at *Gleanings*. It was a life changing experience for me and I recommend this place to every backpacker." she said.



Angelika (back) and Chanelle

Thus says the LORD: "Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.
Jeremiah 6:16

Winter Staff

At *Gleanings* we have summer staff who help us run the fruit drying process during the summer months, and this winter we have a team of long term mission builders serving as our winter staff. These friends of the ministry have been coming to *Gleanings* for many years. As they direct the operations of the soup plant full time staff are able to oversee other areas of the ministry,



while leaving the soup plant in very capable hands. We are thankful for the enthusiasm and expertise with which our team of John and Pat knowing it is the provision of the VanderMeer, Evelyn Wiebe and Lord and the generosity of our Dan Barthold is getting the job done with the help of the short term volunteers!

In January the soup plant was set up for trail mix. Chris

Wilson and his son, Cody, came again this year with their equipment to chop dried fruit in preparation for the trail mix. We produced 27,029 lbs. of trail mix, filling a total of 116 barrels with half gallon bags.

Well done winter staff and volunteers!

2012 Numbers

During last

year *Gleanings* shipped 2,733,631 pounds of food (the equivalent of 68 containers) to 26 countries. The food was distributed by 43 partners on location. It is with deep gratitude that we publish these numbers, which we know is the provision of the Lord and the generosity of our donors that make this possible.



Chris and Cody Wilson chopping fruit for trail mix

Guatemala

"Greetings and blessings from Guatemala.

First of all, THANK YOU for all the soup mix, the green peas and lentils you all have been sending to Guatemala to different ministries. Your effort not only has been providing food for the poor but also for the spiritual need that every person has in their lives. Our purpose to deliver this food is to preach God's love through actions of compassion and love.

This year we had a very heavy raining season here in Guatemala, but in October a tropical storm came to our country and it rained almost continuously for 7 days. During this week many rivers overflowed causing great harm to people that live near the sea and rivers. We started hearing in the news about how the children and the people needed help so we decided to make a trip to 7 villages that are located in the Coast of Moyuta about 275 kms. from Guatemala City. We started our trip by faith because at that time we did not have a truck to transport the soup mix to these places, many bridges fell down and we needed boats to take the soup to the other side where the people were waiting for us, but the Lord is faithful and provided



Director's Corner

In Hebrews 5:2 the writer talks about the High Priest and how He exercises gentleness and forbearance toward the ignorant and erring. We all fall into these categories — erring and ignorant. How wonderful that the Lord made provision for us to be forgiven from our mistakes (erring). The Holy Spirit in us leads to the truth (opposite to ignorance). There are many situations in everyday life to apply humility and God's wisdom to the challenges we face, in order to see His solutions. I could list a bunch of issues we are facing at Gleanings, and we need more than just the right decisions; we are longing to honor God in the process. Your prayers, gifts, and service are part of God's answers to us and I thank you for your involvement and your influence into this ministry. You are a blessing to me.

By the way, we are looking for a utility vehicle for our grounds department. If you have one you would like to donate for God's service, give me a call. May the Lord bless you richly,

Fritz Meier