

Backpacker Experiences God at Gleanings

Young people, backpackers from around the world, have chosen to make *Gleanings* one of their destinations. **Ed Smart**, from the United Kingdom, penned his experience after serving at *Gleanings* last summer:

“I arrived at *Gleanings* the beginning of July, after 5 months of travelling Central America and Australasia. I found *Gleanings* on a help exchange website for backpackers, read what the work was for, and thought it would be a good way to spend my time in California. All I knew when I arrived was that I was going to be working with peaches. I swiftly found out that I was part of something extremely special. While the work itself was enjoyable, and for a very good cause; it was the community, and the atmosphere of unity that really made me fall in love with the dusty heat and the endless trays of peaches.

At first I felt a little out of place, not having a Christian background. However, before the end of the first day I felt welcome, and my apprehension was quickly put at ease by the kindness and generosity shown by the staff. The first week went by without a moment of boredom, and I found myself questioning my belief, more specifically lack of belief up until that point. I was surrounded by people who had been touched by God, who had done great things through their faith, and I could not help but be moved by their testimonies. All this compounded on top of the kindness shown me all around the world by Christian outreach, meant I began to believe. Then for the remaining two weeks I had, that belief grew, through the encouragement of the friends I had made, by seeing the young volunteers find peace, through the Lord, for the conflicts in their lives. After three weeks I reluctantly had to leave *Gleanings* and my new friends to return home and end my around the world trip. However, I took with me the lessons I learnt and the spirit I felt at *Gleanings*. I will take this with me wherever I go, in a hope that I may be able to show others what the people at *Gleanings* taught me.”



Ed Smart

Board of Directors Meeting



The Board of Directors for Gleanings
Back Row : Fritz Meier, Steve Witmer and Dale Harrison.
Front Row : Bill Cornell (who serves as CPA for Gleanings),
Peter Iliyn, Jim Biermann and Ruddy Ancheta

The *Gleanings Board of Directors* had their annual meeting in May. Two new members were appointed to the board.

We look forward, with great anticipation, to seeing how God will transform and speak to the young people who come to serve this summer. Over 1,000 young people be will volunteering to produce the fruit and our desire is that each one would know Jesus personally. Our summer verse, John 15:16, also speaks of bearing fruit.

Gearing Up for Summer



Preparing the fruit drying pallets

The *Gleanings For The Hungry* facility is a beehive of activity as final preparations are underway for the start of the fruit season.



Al Gove servicing the fruit processing plant



Sheldon Munro painting the courtyard

I chose you
and appointed you
to go and bear fruit
-fruit that will last.

John 15:16

Serving Our Native Communities

“*Operation 29:11* recently completed two of its most successful humanitarian relief trips and much of our success was directly attributable to the dedication and generosity of the *Gleanings for the Hungry* community.

Operation 29:11 is a faith-based, nonprofit organization that partners with churches, missions, and Christian schools serving Native American communities of the Southwest. Between January and April of this year, in association with our local partner *Wings of Faith Ministries*, we have delivered nearly 27,000 lbs. of supplies to our network of partners, who upon delivery reorganize the supplies for further distribution to nearly 60 locations across the Navajo and Fort Apache Indian Reservations.

Early last year we were approached re-



garding an area of severe need on the Navajo Indian Reservation that is known as the ‘former’ Bennett Freeze. This area is 1.5 million acres in size with a population of approximately 13,500 people. It is considered to be one of the poorest areas of the United States... and it is only 8 hours east of Los Angeles. Unemployment averages 95%; 10% of the homes have running water; 3% have electricity and 77% are considered uninhabitable by the U.S Bureau of Indian Affairs. Without the support of

Gleanings for the Hungry we would not have been able to provide the amount of nourishing food that we have, to this community.

One of the most popular items we distribute is provided by *Gleanings* : dehydrated peaches. *Linda Thompson, Director of NAOMI House* has shared that her children would rather have peaches than candy. Pastors have shared that when peaches are available they can comprise the main course in all three meals of the day... if there is enough food available for three meals. In addition to dehydrated peaches the formulated soup mix provided by *Gleanings* has served as a staple food source for many Native Americans, especially during the cold winter months. On behalf of the staff and volunteers of *Operation*



29:11 I would like to thank each and every person of the *Gleanings for the Hungry* community for your hard work and support as we strive to support our Native American community.”

“*Wings of Faith* also serve, by air, the Apache Indians located in White River, N.E. Arizona, near the New Mexico border, where *WOF* works closely with *Feed the Sheep Ministries*. They serve daily soup mix, trail mix, and what ever else is available to these needy people. Many of these people would have nothing if it weren’t for the help supplied by *Gleanings for the Hungry*. Comments from the missionaries have been overwhelming with joy and praise, telling us about the love for the food and the gospel that goes with each meal at the mission. Another location that *WOF* is



blessed to serve is Crown Point, New Mexico. Crown Point is a very desolate area with over 1000 Navajo families being fed with food from *Gleanings*, flown in regularly to a reservation airstrip located 37 miles N.E. of Gallop, New Mexico, by our aircraft. The people from this area have been particularly hard hit with health issues, and a lack of proper nutrition has been a contributing factor, Thank you *Gleanings* for your generous support.”

