

Gleanings' Staff Serving The Nations

Gleanings For The Hungry full time staff take the opportunity to go on outreach whenever the occasion presents itself to serve in nations across the world.

Uganda In December Eric Rivera, Procurement and Distribution coordinator, had the opportunity to visit Africa. Eric says : "In December 2012 I was able to go on a short term trip to **Uganda** with *Warm Blankets Orphan Care*. I was invited to go and see the work they were supporting there. I did not know what to expect as I had never been to Africa before. This was also a different type of trip for me as usually I go with food as the focus of the trip. Although I did take some soup mix with me that was secondary. We visited several children's homes and loved on many beautiful kids. Many were infected with HIV/ Aids. We were able to baptize about 80 children in Lake Victoria. That was an experience of a lifetime! I saw so much need. As in any Third World Nation the scenes are all too common. People struggling just to survive. Our definition of surviving and theirs are completely different. For many of them it is literally surviving from one day to the next. The biggest need I saw was for clean water. What people were drinking and what they had to go through to get it was unbelievable. Most of us can not comprehend such conditions. But to them that is just everyday life. Uganda is a beautiful country with beautiful people. All created in God's image. Any time I travel I am drawn to the children. They are so precious and vulnerable. When you look into their eyes you see beyond their color or nationality. I thank GOD for allowing me to go, and for allowing me to be a part of the ministry at *Gleanings*, so that we can help those who can't help themselves."



All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you. psalm 22:27



The Team - Back L-R : John, Hayden, Cindy and Fritz
Front L-R : Lori, Hannah, Philip, Tiffany, Mary Lou, Dan and Andrzej

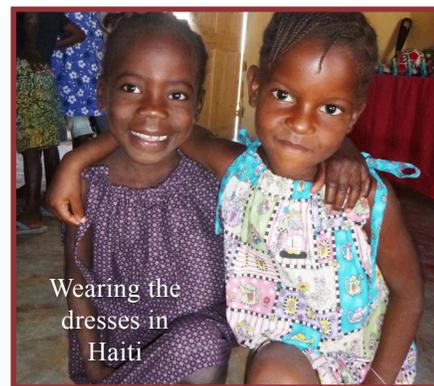
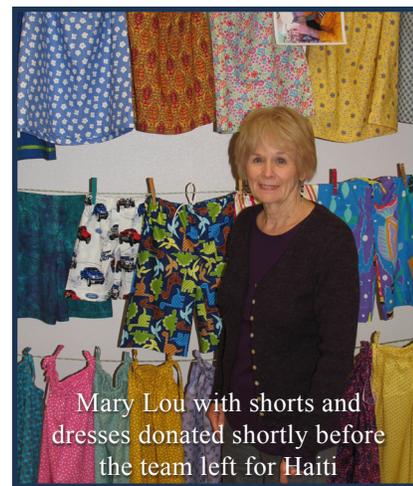
honored and humbled to have been involved in improving the lives of these children and enabling their caretakers to give them a more successful future and hope. The ten day trip was heartbreaking, yet simultaneously filled with joy. We'll share some of the journey. Madame LaFleur, her caregivers, and her 35 children saw God's character become more evident as their standard of living was drastically improved in one day.

Haiti

At the end of January 2013 a container was shipped from

Gleanings to Haiti with food, beds and mattresses and solar equipment. In March a team of six *Gleanings*' staff and five volunteers flew out to follow up on the shipment.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matt. 19:14. What a great privilege to see children in Haiti coming to Jesus and learning of the kingdom of God as we visited several orphanages on our recent trip. Two of these homes, *Children of Grace* and Madame LaFleur's *God's Plan Orphanage*, were built by Gleanings' teams and regularly receive our food. Our team was both



A solar system was installed, (three were donated) giving them light and power for the first time; the well, which had been broken for nine months, was



Cindy feeds tiny Maurice

repaired, replenishing what had been a scarcity of water; bunk beds were constructed, allowing a good night's rest; a new outhouse (with flushing toilets) and shower room was constructed, giving them dignity; the old outhouse was almost overflowing. Joy and excitement filled the air that



Water gushes from the fixed well

Friday afternoon. Then on Saturday the children filled the atmosphere with songs of praise and quoting of scriptures. Our hearts are filled with joy to see them thanking and loving God. At this same children's home Cindy held Maurice, a very malnourished and weak baby who was abandoned in a cardboard box. He had just returned from a week in the hospital and it appears he will survive.

Returning to *Children of Grace* was a joyful reunion, and it was very rewarding to know the children are thriving. Our team of eleven enjoyed loving on these 33 children and watching them enjoy our trail mix, dried fruit and soup. Numerous improvements were accomplished: solar system installed, "Baby House" painted, ceiling fans installed, furniture cleaned and moved in, bunk beds constructed.

Together, we all make a difference as we go, give and pray. *Thank you!*



Installing solar panels on the 'Baby House' roof



Bunk beds set up at God's Plan Orphanage



"And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward." Matt. 10:42



Installing a solar light

September 30, 2013 is the starting date for the next DTS here at *Gleanings*. Grow closer to God through 12 weeks of life-changing teaching and a eight week outreach. Experience first-hand the blessing of distributing *Gleanings* food and sharing the love of Christ with the poor and needy. Applications can be obtained from our website or contact Cindy Meier, DTS Director, by email or phone. The Discipleship Training School is a multi-generational school and open to anyone who has graduated from high school.

Director's Corner

Dear friends and Gleanings' Supporters,

My heart is full of gratefulness and appreciation for a God and a ministry where we see good fruit all the time. Our work is not in vain and the food we send out saves lives. Haiti is a great example of this. I love spending time with the people there. It is precious for me to see the kids eating soup mix for lunch, and snacking on our trail mix and dried peaches during the day. Many people barely survive, and the provision of food is making a big difference. Being able to help with two solar systems and working on finishing the new baby house for Mission of Grace was an amazing way to bless them even more, by meeting some of the needs of the ministry. Doing God's will brings such a peace and joy; we get blessed ourselves as we bless others and give our lives away for others.

May you experience God's joy in your life today.

Fritz Meier