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Gleanings

October 2013

For The Hungry

A Ministry of Youth With A Mission

SUMMER SEASON 2013

"CAST YOUR BURDEN ON THE LORD, AND HE SHALL SUSTAIN YOU; HE SHALL NEVER PERMIT THE RIGHTEOUS TO BE MOVED OR SHAKEN."

-PSALM 55:22



As I prayed about how to start this last newsletter of the summer, God kept bringing up the words, "A Summer of Change." Looking back, I can see how He has brought change to *Gleanings* in different ways. Two separate weeks were taken off because of illness; to recover, sanitize, and seek God. We were disappointed to see two weeks of good fruit production lost, but God opened our eyes to our relationship with Him being more important than a week's worth of fruit. So we swallowed our pride and thanked God for the time given to praise and seek Him in the middle of a hectic season. Being consoled and strengthened, we were able to see more clearly the awakenings happening in the teams that came the following weeks; realizing once again that God makes time for the youth who come, and the peaches.

Our summer staff drew closer together and began seeking God together in their spare time. The freedoms they were given this summer were a blessing and healthy challenge. It allowed them the opportunity, as young adults, to take God as their own. They exceeded the expectations and hopes of the base staff this year. Out of the 28 summer staff here this summer, eight have already done a DTS (Discipleship Training School), while nine others plan to start one within the next year. They are spreading out to follow God's call on their lives. With some being harder than others, each of these changes came in waves, so we could see God's hands bless the hurting, open the eyes of the dim sighted, and bring courage to us all. Through simply serving, we saw God's majesty.

Staff in Need of Prayer for
finances and Immigration
Papers:

BRUCE FAMILY

JANSBERG FAMILY

LAWRENCE FAMILY

Please pray for
containers en route:

Bangladesh
Mexico
Cambodia
Native America (Arizona)
Peru/Armenia
South Africa x2
Guatemala
Zambia x2
Philippines



CUBA *The Texas Baptist Men, Cuba Vision Network* have been serving in Cuban ministries since 1999. They are designated by US Department of Commerce as eligible donors and hence exempt from license for many items that they ship to Cuba, including food items. They are approved by the Cuban government for these shipments of food, humanitarian goods, and disaster relief items. Their primary objective is to equip missionaries and pastors as they share the gospel. The house church movement in Cuba is exploding; there is a need for resources, including food.

The soup was distributed to orphans and children's ministries on the Isle of Youth. Additionally, the students at the main campus of the *Havana Baptist Theological Seminary*, as well as seven extension locations, are meeting the needs of over 700 students. *The Baptist Nursing Home*, located in the southeastern part of Havana, fed its residents, as well as elderly in their neighborhood. Soup was also taken to central Cuba to help many residents devastated by the floods during Hurricane Sandy. An estimated 100 infants, 2,000 children aged 2-18, 5,000 adults and 200 seniors were provided with nutritious food.

This was the first ever *Gleanings For The Hungry* soup container to be received in Cuba, and the response was outstanding. It is very versatile and is used in combination with other foods.

God is opening so many doors for *Feeding The Nations*, and because of partners like *Texas Baptist Men* and *Gleanings For The Hungry*, FTN can do so much more for the kingdom of God. A young pastor in a small sugarcane farming community in central Cuba expressed his gratitude for the soup and told how he was able to share with another pastor in a nearby community. He spoke of mothers in his community who have the sole responsibility of providing for their children, due to fatherless families. He is thankful for the caring and sharing shown this community.



No forklift or dock, but men who love Jesus find a way and are very happy to receive the vegetable soup!!



CAMBODIA

"All farmers are gamblers, maybe that is a vital component for "People of faith"? We are working hard to make FCOP self-sufficient through rice production. The problem is we are either facing drought or flood, with a few good months in the middle. Since our crop failure last year we've been living mostly off of the good will of several donors, including *Gleanings for the Hungry*. The kids are well fed and the products have saved us.

Certainly, this past year has been difficult but ultimately, we will be better off, as we develop safeguards against disaster. Right now we are thankful for our friends!"



Director's Corner

The 2013 summer fruit drying season has come and gone and we are preparing to host many of you, our dear friends and coworkers, this coming fall. There are many things I could mention that impacted me this summer, but there is nothing like working with like-minded people pursuing a common cause in unity. The love of Jesus, experienced in a community of believers, is amazing. His love being a reality in relationships brings growth. I believe this is the reason so many people enjoy the experience of working at *Gleanings*, doing a loving thing for people around the world. And at the same time we are excited about relating to God and others. As Christians, we have the wonderful opportunity of being family with all God's children. Let us commit to learning together what that means and enjoy the process of getting closer to each other and to God.

May the Lord bless all of you,

"...make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." Philp 2:2b-4

-Fritz Meier