

Trail Mix Smarts

In 2012, the trail mix season was revolutionized when Chris Wilson, from CES/Foodlogistik, USA, came to volunteer with a commercial cutting machine in tow. The dry fruit that had previously taken weeks to cut using scissors was diced in a single weekend. Every year since then, Chris has returned. This time around, he brought in a newer cross-dicing machine and we were able to accomplish the fruit-cutting task in one day.

This year, we have new staff managing the soup plant where the trail mix is packaged. After operating the old equipment and discovering its cumbersome nature, they arranged a new setup with more hands bagging and fewer hands involved in the actual mixing. The ingredients consisted of almonds, raisins, dried apples, freeze-dried pineapple, peaches, nectarines, and plums. This was the first experience with the trail mix for almost everyone involved. Nevertheless, they pushed out the product with top notch efficiency.



SUMMER STAFF 2015

Looking for
something new
this summer?

We're looking for dedicated young people with a heart ready to serve! Fruit season runs May 31st to September 4th.

Ages: turning 18 this year to 25

Cost: \$100 a month

We ask for a minimum commitment of 4 weeks.

Please apply by the end of March.

A TIME TO SERVE. AN OPPORTUNITY TO GROW.

Consider it pure joy,
my brothers, whenever you
face trials of many kinds,
because you know that the
testing of your faith
develops perseverance.

James 1:2-3

Soup Plant Developments

Towards the end of January, a new bagging system was introduced to the soup plant. In the past, we used zip-locking sandwich bags, which we then packed into barrels labeled with details including the ingredients and expiration dates. In order to prevent potential complications getting our food into countries with more stringent requirements, we switched over to using custom ordered heat-sealing bags, with the necessary information printed onto them directly. After a slow start to work out the quirks, we now have the system working at full efficiency, with the potential of surpassing the old production rate.



Samaritans International of Nicaragua

Malacatoya

Along Rio Malacatoya, in the tropical forest of Nicaragua, is a village of the same name. After a drought, heavy rain came and flooded the village. With nowhere else to go, families continued living in their flooded homes. The water also introduced several ailments, including intestinal problems and dengue fever; several people were injured from hidden debris in the water. *Samaritans International of Nicaragua* came to visit, bringing food acquired from *Gleanings*. Most of the villagers greeting them were single moms with their children. Later, when the heaviest of the rain moved in, the villagers were relocated to a refuge center.



Pochocuape

Five days a week, *Samaritans International of Nicaragua* runs a feeding center at their compound in Pochocuape. Here, they feed 80 children who have been abandoned by parents who are without jobs or receive minimal income.



Atlantic Coast

God opened a new door for *Samaritans International* in the last year to reach the indigenous people groups on the Atlantic Coast. This includes the Miskitos, Sumos, and Ramas. They believe in their own warlock god, Chaman, and consider him their spiritual leader. Although they typically rely on agriculture, severe drought killed their crops, leaving them with no provision. Without anything to feed their children, they called this season 'Children Tears'. The gift of soup has paved the way for *Samaritans International* to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His love.



Dear Gleanings' friends,

I'm here in Kenya headed into our sixth week of outreach. The long awaited release of our two containers in Mombasa came yesterday. We desire to help many poor families with food and have been purchasing a lot of rice, beans, corn flour, and other staples that are so needed here. Especially out in the countryside, many children we encounter eat only one meal per day. You should see their happy faces after scoring some needed goods. They carry their treasures home proudly. Some of the things we see are so foreign to our world that it is disturbing. Many orphanages struggle to survive, but the Lord is faithful to help those who help these little ones. Our hearts are touched to be sharing food with these children who have suffered much. We are looking forward to giving Gleanings soup' and dried fruit, with the presentation of the Gospel, to those we encounter these last two weeks in Kenya. I'm so grateful for each one of you, our Gleanings' friends and families, who make the work possible - supplying needed nutrition for many!

May the Lord bless you,

Fritz Meier

Director's Corner

English as a Second Language

Gleanings is offering an English as a Second Language course instead of the Discipleship Training School from Sept. 21st to Dec. 11th. More information to follow.