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Gleanings For The Hungry

A Ministry of Youth With A Mission

August 2018

Gleanings in the Community



Working hard and serving others are part of life at Gleanings For The Hungry. Recently, we packed up some peaches, and pic-

tures, and went to Pasadena, CA to share the message of who we are and what we do, at the Christian Home Education Association (CHEA) conference. Long time friends and volunteers stopped by to chat, and soon they were telling passers-by their own experiences. There was a fun moment when two different long-time friends of Gleanings were at the booth and met for the first time.

We also loaded up everything needed to package dried soup mix and took it to a Vacation Bible School. First Presbyterian Church in Bakersfield, CA invited us last year; it went so well they REALLY wanted us to come back a second year. The kids are so cute, and the opportunity to share the simple message of serving Christ while serving others was too great to pass up.



Summer Staff



Peaches and nectarines have always been the main focus in the summer at Gleanings. But, did you know we also have a strong internship program during the summer? We call it our Summer Staff Internship. Young people 18 – 25 years old come to serve and are trained to manage, operate, and oversee Gleanings' entire fruit plant processing by forklifting, running the machinery, and directing and training the volunteers. We are discipling them, and the desire of our hearts is to see these young people transformed. Our hope is that they will fulfill their future commitments as humble, effective servant leaders. As you can see, this summer we have no shortage of summer staff. Many of these young people are serving for the second or third summer. When asked, "What was something you liked about the summer staff program?" Noah Choi, here for the second year, shared this: "The summer staff community is awesome because they are always welcoming and are always loving on each other. We share our burdens together and build each other up". Third year returnee, Aiden, answered, "God just keeps doing things for me, things that are not just for me, things that I can share." Whatever the reason you come, summer staff, we are grateful, and say thank God for you!



Noah



Aiden



Country Report from Zimbabwe



Pirates, smugglers, corrupt government officials, people desperate and dying while they wait for rescue...it sounds like the plot of a new action adventure movie. However, these are challenges we face as we ship food throughout the world to hopeless and needy people. The Bible says we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers of darkness. Our staff and volunteers gather around each shipment to pray for the food and those transporting it to be protected against pirates, smugglers, harm, and lost food. We pray for favor with government officials and custom inspectors in the shipping ports. And we pray the Holy Spirit will work through those sharing the food and touch those obtaining it, so they will understand and receive the knowledge and love of Jesus. The wonderful truth is that we are not without a Rescuer! As we pray and work, the Lord moves! Psalm 10:14 says:

“But You, God, see the trouble of the afflicted; you consider their grief and take it in hand. The victims commit themselves to You; You are the helper of the fatherless”

The Republic of Zimbabwe is a country in Southern Africa known for its dramatic landscape and diverse wildlife, including hippos, rhinos, and birdlife. It’s also a country whose people have gone through widespread social and economic instability, as well as war. This has produced a 95% unemployment rate, with general laborers earning 60 cents per month and nurses about 12 cents per month, less than the cost of a soda. This in turn creates an environment which puts men, women, and children at risk of being forced into slavery or kidnapped to become child soldiers. Economic refugees also flee to other countries, desperately seeking life. In the fall of 2016, we shipped a container to Maputo, Zimbabwe to be received and distributed to our partners WRNO. After the shipment arrived in Zimbabwe, the ministry struggled to get it out of customs. Staff and volunteers at Gleanings for the Hungry joined our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe in prayer. “The former president, in failing to follow through, left us in a terrible bind. Persevering prayer, along with support from several individuals in key positions has made this dream a reality.” First Lady A. Mnangagwa formed the Angel of Hope Foundation to insure successful delivery of relief items in the future. Her foundation provides duty free and zero fees for relief items shipped into Zimbabwe. This month we received a report from WRNO. The food has finally been released from customs and is on its way to WRNO, where it will be shared along with the love of Jesus. Thank you for your continued giving and praying for Zimbabwe, and for the ministry of Gleanings for the Hungry. Prayers were answered and God had victory!



“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” Matt 9:37-38

Director's Corner

Dear Friends,
August will be our last month of fruit production before we get back to producing soup full time. We are having a record amount of summer staff this summer and our leaders are doing a fantastic job serving and discipling these youth workers. It is amazing how Wally’s vision from 35 years ago still excites people, and what we can accomplish with volunteers who just want to work hard and serve. For Cindy and myself, we will take a sabbatical for three months; we believe God will meet us in a special way as we go away and have a break from our responsibilities here.

Thanks for your prayers for us and the ministry.

Fritz Meier