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Gleanings

For The Hungry

A Ministry of Youth With A Mission

Sept 2018

Volunteer Interview

Brett Bymaster, The River Church Community, San Jose, CA

Brett Bymaster, a youth pastor from the Silicon Valley, brought 60 multi-ethnic youth to Gleanings this August. The group planned for this trip all year, and based their weekly lessons on the this mission. They studied the book of Zechariah, where the Israelites learn how to have an identity as the chosen people of God. They talked about God's prophecy to Abraham that his descendants would be a blessing to the nations.



Bymaster made sure the students could see the connection between the prophecies in the Bible and how they are coming true today through organizations like Gleanings. And now, they get to be a part of the big picture. "We get to bless the nations. Focusing on making good product for the poor is a godly thing," Bymaster said. "We had to reset the students' expectations for quality. We pushed them to work hard to produce a quality product for the poor."

Working hard was not the only way the students were challenged at Gleanings. "I didn't let them bring cell phones. They are working together, working hard, and staying focused." Bymaster finds joy in teaching the students what he calls the theology of work. "I grew up on a farm, so I learned to work," Bymaster said. "Kids just want to play. But work is critical on their way to adulthood. To have the experience of working hard and having the opportunity to fail, to make changes to do better—this is critical to their development."

Bymaster encourages other youth pastors to bring groups to Gleanings. "It s a wonderful opportunity to provide students a chance to work on the issues of poverty, global inequity, and waste. We'll talk about this trip for the rest of the year, and we will be back to serve at Gleanings in 2020."

Be strong and take heart,

all you who hope in the Lord. Psalm 31:24

On Sabbatical

As part of Youth With A Mission (YWAM), Gleanings embraces and has adopted the policy of taking a sabbatical once every seven years. Taking a sabbatical isn't something that is commonly seen in most jobs any more, but it does have its precedence in scripture. In Leviticus 25, there is a

commandment to stop all work in the fields on the seventh year. YWAM has taken a modern approach to this and recommends staff take a three-month cessation from work every seven years. Unfortunately for most of our staff that have been here long enough to be eligible for a sabbatical, this policy wasn't in place until right around the same time we went through a change in directors. This meant several people had to delay taking their sabbatical – and this included our directors Fritz and Cindy. We are happy to announce we were able to release our faithful directors to a long overdue sabbatical. We pray this truly is a time where they can cease all work-related activity and really connect with each other and our Heavenly Father; a time of refreshing and renewal.



Mission of Grace HAITI



It is always a blessing to be able to meet an urgent need in another country, such as in a disaster situation, or world crisis. But being able to move from survival mode, where there is a desperate need, to having a long-term impact in a community, by supporting ministries who have long-term vision and goals for the people they are ministering to, is truly gratifying. What began as a response to the earthquake in Haiti in 2010, quickly progressed to Gleanings' staff building a small children's home.

Our previous director's daughter, Kim O'Dwyer moved to Haiti to serve full-time, caring for Haitian orphans. Since then, Gleanings has continued to partner with Mission of Grace in Haiti, by sending work and ministry teams, providing soup mix, school furniture, computers, desks, and supporting individual orphans and the ministry financially. Currently, Mission of Grace includes:

- Children of Grace Orphanage-70 children,
- Grace Community School
- Women of Grace Teen Girls Home
- Grace Community Church
- Men of Grace- Housing older boys & young men
- Grace Medical Clinic
- Home of Grace Elder Care Ministry
- Grace Soup Kitchen- Feeding 200 people daily



Sixteen of the seventeen girls in the teen home are enrolled in school and perhaps there is no greater transformation than with these young ladies. While we've been part of this ministry, we have watched many of these girls grow up. One of the girls is in her fourth year of nursing, one is studying to prepare for medical school, and another, Betty, just graduated from high school and is looking into furthering her education in accounting. The girls love to serve in any way they can in the community and with the Mission of Grace. During the summer months, the girls take on larger roles with the children and throughout the mission. You will regularly find them helping and playing with the children, teaching Sunday School, or caring for the elderly in the Grace Elder Care Home. Ms. Lin writes, "They are a much appreciated group for the love and encouragement they show as they grow and mature in school and in Christ. By giving, by going and serving in Haiti, and by sharing one of our own, we have all become a piece of the puzzle that is

creating a perpetuating cycle of love, hope and growth as we continue to invest in the future of Haiti's precious children of God."

