


Erickson Family Update

June—September 2018

Eliane, Timea and Liana Erickson

YWAM Gleanings for the Hungry
Dinuba, CA



“For I will pour out water on the thirsty
land and streams on the dry ground.”

Isaiah 44:3a



Gleanings Summer Season 2018 has ended successfully and we are praising God for:

- All the fruit that was processed, dried, packaged and shipped to the needy around the world.
- The many volunteers who came to help and were touched by God’s love and His presence.
- The amazing group of Summer Staff and their leaders who did an outstanding job taking the Summer Staff program to a totally new level.
- The many lives changed, transformed and touched at Gleanings and around the world.

I feel deeply blessed to be a part of this ministry and I still love Gleanings like when I first joined in 2008.

This summer I wasn’t as involved in the summer program as last year. I was determined to do a better job at “refueling” than in past years and I chose to spend more time with my girls instead of hiring a nanny. I also took three weeks off in the middle of summer to spend time with my family in Switzerland. That was a big blessing and a special time of emotional rest and refreshment for me. The girls loved the

trip, and were able to bond more with their cousins, grandparents and other family members.

While in Switzerland I met up with Patti Kidd, the founder of “Backpacking ministry”, now called “International Volunteer Program”. This ministry started nine years ago here at Gleanings and it was my privilege to be part of the early stages and watch it grow to what it is today. I enjoyed showing Patti around Switzerland and we visited a YWAM base that has expressed interest in opening their doors to international travelers.

While at Gleanings I kept up the work in the office and also trained a new person to do donor services. She filled in while I was gone, and will continue to take some of the work load in this new season. In addition to helping in the office, I had the joy of meeting one-on-one with a summer staff girl and supporting her during her time here at Gleanings.



*Liana with aunt Maya,
cousin Dunja and aunt Tanja*





In July we celebrated **Liana's 5th birthday** with a royal princess party. We had "Cinderella" join us and many of Liana's friends came to celebrate.



GriefShare Ministry

In August, Susan Ross and I started leading/facilitating a GriefShare group at our church in Dinuba. After going through the course together with Sue the beginning of this year, it became my desire to bring it to our church. Four ladies joined the group and we have been meeting every Tuesday night for the last seven weeks. It has truly been a blessing to them and to us.

The course has also opened up new levels of grief for me personally. As I walk through these layers of grieving, I find more comfort in God and deeper healing. The Lord truly has been good to me. It has not been an easy journey and I still at times find myself in seasons of heaviness and heartache where different questions and "what ifs" occasionally pop up. However, it is not long before my heart finds joy again and a deep peace in trusting in Jesus Christ as the one who's held me, carried me, provided for me and loved me with an everlasting love.

September was a quiet month at Gleanings and many staff took time off. We stayed here and I tried to keep up with the work in the office, while also picking up some of the responsibilities from other office staff. I enjoyed the quiet in the neighborhood and the fact that we still had a few people left with whom to fellowship. A friend stayed with us for a week and was a big help and encouragement to me. She came during one of my busiest weeks when the girls and I were also fighting some sickness. I praise God for once again sending me the help I needed when I needed it most.



We were also blessed to have Grandma (my mother-in-law) and her husband Marcel visit us for two days. It was great to connect with them and take a short trip up to the Sequoias.

A new season has started

Gleanings fall season has started this week and I feel like God is bringing a new season in my life as well. The verse in Isaiah 44:3 has spoken to me and God has been refreshing me. I'm starting to feel more alive; I have more energy, new vision and focus, and the courage to let go. There's still a long way to go, and I continue to take one step at a time, celebrating the victories in between.

A heartfelt THANK YOU to each one of you who is praying for us, loving us, supporting us and encouraging us! May God in return bless you above and beyond, and may what you invest into our lives bear fruit to the glory of God and the blessing of many others who are in need.

I appreciate continued prayers for wisdom, clear guidance in future decisions, deeper closeness with God, GriefShare ministry, Gleanings ministry, protection and healthy balance in our lives. Thank you very much!