



## Celebrating Ron and Shirley Wagner



It's worth looking back over the last 21 years and celebrating what God has done through Ron and Shirley Wagner, who were staff members from 1998 - 2008. They continue to volunteer year after year, building relationships with farmers, volunteers, and the **Gleanings** staff.

When Ron and Shirley first came in 1997, Wally Wenge had a vision: to get the surplus of raisins in California to the people overseas who needed it most desperately. "Wally knew there was much more food in the valley," Ron says. "He told me, 'Go and find raisins.' So that's what I did. The Lord opened up opportunities."

With Ron's experience in sales, he was a perfect fit for the job. He began meeting farmers and processors and brought in 230,000 pounds of raisins the first year. From 1998 - 2005, over 14 million pounds of raisins went out to the poor and needy. The Wagners also went to at least 12 conferences per year, in addition to food shows, recruiting volunteers and procuring more food products.

During their time on staff, they traveled to Moldova, Mongolia, and Armenia and saw how the food was literally saving lives of orphans, babies, and families. Working very closely with the organizations that are receiving our donated food, the Wagners saw how much of an impact this new network of farmers, packers, and volunteers was making across the world.

A verse that spoke to Ron is Ephesians 2:10: "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

"I want people to know that anyone can come and serve," Ron says. "Don't think, 'I'm not qualified.' The truth is that anybody can come and serve. There is always something that we can do. We have people who are highly skilled. We have people who aren't. Just come with a servant's heart and we will put you to work."

"We invite you to come and explore the depths of the riches here," Shirley says. "You are not just working. You are building relationships, growing, and serving—but that's just the surface. There are depths."

Thank you, Ron and Shirley Wagner, for over 21 years of serving God with **Gleanings for the Hungry**. The fruits of the Spirit pour out of your lives and your marriage. Your faithful, humble, and diligent work continues—a powerful legacy, all for the glory of Jesus Christ.

WELCOME TO OUR  
NEW STAFF FAMILY



Our new staff family is here because God in His sovereignty puts dreams in our hearts, and then fulfills those dreams. For security purposes, actual names and locations have been withheld. Because he was a minister and church planter, the family lived under constant threat of being arrested by the government. God put it on the heart of the husband and father (let's call him Mike), to go to America and earn money for his family. Ten years ago, Mike came to our Central Valley in California, and God led him to **Gleanings for the Hungry**. While Mike was here, he felt called to attend a YWAM DTS; he was obedient and went to Chico, CA. During DTS God told him to return home, instead of staying in the U.S. While back in his home country, he did another DTS with his wife; in his heart was a dream of coming back to **Gleanings**. After years of planning and preparation Mike was finally able to realize the dream God gave him of bringing his whole family to the United States, and back to **Gleanings For The Hungry**. Welcome to our new staff family from Central Asia!

**"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."** Ephesians 2:10

# Venezuela: God Is Making A Way



*“Behold what manner of love The Father has lavished upon us, that we should be called sons and daughters of God!” 1 John 3:1*

Lately, media attention has focused on Venezuela, portraying empty market shelves, no petrol, families with no food, and looting, and violence in response to the desperate economic situation. Children are dying of malnutrition and disease every day in Venezuela. At *Gleanings for the Hungry*, we’re continually amazed by God’s direction and provision. Although containers of food weren’t allowed into Venezuela, God provided another avenue. In December God spoke to Christian P. about giving his ‘five loaves and two fishes’ to God, to help his family and countrymen. Christian picked up food from *Gleanings*, took it to Los Angeles where he lives, and shipped it to his sister Julissa in Venezuela. She began distributing the boxes of soup mix to a small network of churches, orphanages, elderly homes, and a home for girls rescued from trafficking. After receiving the first load of food, Christian thanked the Lord, then realized he needed a way to continue supplying food to these desperate people.

“When I knew that we were going to get help from *Gleanings*, I rushed to get there - praying, ‘Please don’t let them change their mind. Please, Lord, we need that food.’ When I got there, we got plenty of food! While driving back and thanking the Lord for all the food, I said, ‘Well, Lord, now we need to find help to pay the shipping expenses. Please help us to send this food.’ When I got home and went to the bank to deposit the money *Gleanings* staff gave me, I was searching in my pockets and I had money in every pocket. With tears running down my face, I realized that our Lord heard all my prayers. He told me, ‘Didn’t I tell you that you must have faith? You now can see and bear testimony of what you can do with five loaves of bread and two fishes.’” Thus, *Five Loaves and Two Fishes for Venezuela* was born. Christian faithfully comes to *Gleanings* to get more food, despite working two jobs and driving three hours each way to pick it up.

Adrian, a 6-year-old boy, was suffering from severe malnutrition and a parasitic obstruction when his mother took him to the hospital. The hospital turned them away; the mother and children were homeless and had no resources. Christian writes, “At this moment, everyone involved became an instrument in God’s hand, a channel of His love.” A nurse at the hospital contacted an orphanage to which *Five Loaves and Two Fishes for Venezuela* provides food. They arranged shelter, food, and resources for the family and even helped little Adrian receive much-needed surgery. At first, they fed Adrian only liquid. Now he’s eating well and is regaining his strength.

Please continue to give thanks and pray with us for Christian and Julissa and *Five Loaves and Two Fishes for Venezuela* as they lavish the love of God on the people of Venezuela in their hour of need.



## Director’s Corner

Dear Friend,

As we move toward the end of spring soup season, I would like to express my gratitude to all of you who have come to serve with us. Lately, I have been affected by 1 Peter 1:8. “Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy.” I realize many of you have never physically been here at *Gleanings*. Your interest, prayers, and support speak of your faith in the fact that God is working through this ministry. As we navigate through the joys and challenges of serving here, we feel the power of God released from the unity and love of believers like you. For all of you we don’t have a personal relationship with, it is more challenging to express our gratitude. Nonetheless, we are aware of your faith expressed in love to pray and support us in our mission to feed the hungry physically and spiritually.

May the Lord fill you with an inexpressible and glorious joy!

*Fritz Meier*

