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Gleanings

For The Hungry

A Ministry of Youth With A Mission

June 2019



Meet Summer Leader Britta Jones

One of our goals is to champion young people and raise up young Christian leaders. We are so blessed to have Britta Jones volunteering all summer to help direct the Summer Staff Internship Program. She is a fine example of a young volunteer who came here with her church for just a few days, caught Gleanings' vision, and decided to jump in as a summer staff leader.

Q: How did you hear about Gleanings?

A: I was really feeling like God had given me a desire to do missions or to help out in some way. The next weekend while I was at church they announced a "home mission," so I signed up without really knowing where we were going or what we would be doing. I ended up at Gleanings!

Q: When did you first come? How often do you come?

A: My first visit was during soup season in spring of 2017. I worked in the soup plant and also raked rocks out of the soil for the solar field. After that first trip, despite the sunburn, I wanted to come back in August as a summer staffer, and I am so glad that I did. I ended up coming back again in 2018, and now in 2019.

Q: Tell us about the work you did with Gleanings last year.

A: This past year I was able to serve on the summer staff leadership team. One of the main things I did last summer was our 'Ice Cream Times', which is basically a fun, non-scary way to say weekly evaluations. I think these evaluations are a huge part of what makes the summer staff program so special. The growth that happens personally and for the team through this simple tool is amazing. Having someone to be there to regularly affirm, challenge, and invest in you is a game-changer for mindset, purpose, and motivation.

Q: How has Gleanings benefited your spiritual growth?

A: A huge part of what has benefited my spiritual growth is seeing how the community at Gleanings lives out what God designed the Christian community to look like. The inclusiveness that exists at Gleanings is so special—and of course, the goal of the community is to grow together towards Christ-likeness.

Q: What advice do you have for young people considering serving at Gleanings?

A: My initial reaction is to say, Just jump in and come! But I think the most important thing is to seek God first. Be constantly looking for what God wants to tell you and teach you, and you will be blown away with how God uses that. "Commit your work to the LORD, and then your plans will succeed" Proverbs 16:3. God wants us to partner with Him in our work.

Saying Farewell

Long-time staff member Christopher Ralston, who served our ministry with distinction for four and a half years, has moved on. Christopher started coming with his church youth group every year as a teenager. In 2007 he graduated high school, came for a week and ended up staying to join the summer staff. During that summer he signed up for Gleanings' fall DTS. After completing DTS, he served another five summers as a summer staff, and in January of 2015 came on staff full time. Christopher has worked in various capacities throughout the years, most recently taking up the mantle of procurement and distribution. Christopher, who is ever ready to share a cup of coffee, will be sorely missed in our community. We pray God's rich blessings in all his future endeavors and thank him for his faithful service!



Convoy of Hope: Philippines



HOPE
HAS A
NAME



MEET LOUISE.

Louise's life was greatly improved after enrolling in *Convoy of Hope's* Children's Feeding initiative in the Philippines.

Convoy Of Hope (COH) is truly a ministry with the same heartbeat as *Gleanings For The Hungry*. *COH* is a first responder when disaster strikes here in the USA, and they also work in 11 different countries around the world. Recently *COH* gave us a ministry update from the Philippines, here is what it said:

"Louise's* life has been filled with difficulty. Her mother is sick with suspected Tuberculosis and her younger brother recently died of unknown causes. Her father is a farmer and does his best to provide for their family, but they are dependent on the cyclical nature of farming and only have food when crops are in season. That instability means Louise has to stay home to take care of her sick mother and two younger siblings while her father works. When she was able to go to school, Louise didn't have the energy needed to sustain her throughout the day.

However, since *Convoy of Hope* partnered with her school to provide regular meals, Louise's life has changed. Because her parents know she'll get a hot lunch if she goes to school, Louise has almost perfect attendance. Louise believes the food she eats at school helps her be more productive and enables her to study better. Not only is she no longer on the brink of starvation ... she's now in the running for class valedictorian and hopes to be an engineer one day.

The proper, regular nutrition Louise receives is making the difference in her life. Thank you for your steadfast support and the lasting impact you're helping *Convoy* make in the lives of hundreds of thousands of children. We couldn't do it without you!" We echo *Convoy's* last statement - *We couldn't do it without you!*

*Name Changed



Director's Corner

Dear Friends,

Gleanings is growing, but not without stretching! Changes are happening in many areas; it's a time of great joy, but also of frustration with new systems. The call to care and feed the needy in the Bible is very motivating for us. Many different foods are being wasted and we are now able to be more flexible with dumping, repackaging, and labeling nutritious shelf-stable products. At the same time, we continue to make our soup mix, but we are open for other products as well. This is all possible now, thanks to adding our new bagging machine. It's been a great winter/spring season and we did prepare many tons of soup, dried fruits, and nuts.

And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." Luke 3:11

A special thank you to all of you who regularly pray for us. We are blessed and privileged to have your partnership.

May the Lord bless you all,

Fritz Meier

