

Meier's Memoirs



TRIP TO HAITI

This was my (Fritz) fourth January to lead a team serving at Mission of Grace in Haiti. Our goal is to serve and love on the people. The preparations were different this year since Haiti experienced a lot of unrest and rioting the month before we went. A container of food and supplies was arriving just before us and we were able to fix two solar systems that were not functional. Our team was busy teaching and playing with the school kids, spending time with the elderly and orphans, and leading church activities. We got out of Haiti just in time before more rioting started and the road to the airport was closed. The team after us had to fly to the airport in a helicopter to get home. Kim, the director, wrote me during the shut down explaining that the food we sent literally was saving lives, since people were not able to go to the market and get supplies. We praise God for His timing and protection.



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ALL GROWN UP

June 15th was a picture-perfect day in Oregon! We couldn't have ordered nicer weather for Philip and Annie's outdoor wedding. The backyard of Annie's grandfather created a lovely setting with lush vegetation and majestic trees for a day filled with love and joy for special young couple, family, and friends. I, Cindy, had wet eyes more than a few times, especially when Philip escorted me to my seat and during the mother/groom dance. Such a special day! There are so many wonderful memories of Philip's childhood and now he's all grown up and married. Sometimes you wonder, "How did this happen so quickly?" Philip and Annie spent their week-long honeymoon scampering around Disneyland and Magic Mountain. Then we were happy to have them with us for a day before they headed home to Washington and back to work. Both Philip and Annie are doing well at their jobs; each one recently received a promotion and they are excited about their future together. So, although our house is getting emptier, our family is growing, and we are thankful for Annie, our lovely new daughter-in-love.

Tiffany has certainly grown up into a beautiful, talented, and responsible young lady. Yes, we could be a bit biased, but it's true! In August we helped her move to Long Beach, which left us with an empty nest. (Hope we make it! ha ha) We had a proud parent moment when she



graduated Reedley College at the top of her class - Summa cum Laude with honors. Tiffany has completed her AA degree in Studio Art and continues her art education at California State University Long Beach. A few more proud parent moments were celebrated last semester. Tiffany received the Tiger Award for recognition as Outstanding Honor Student of the Year, presented her Honor Student' research project during the Honor's Symposium at Stanford University, and one of her paintings was chosen for a curated, Arts Alive in Agriculture contest. Seeing Tiffany's art, along with her fellow students, displayed at the Reedley Art Exhibit, was another fun event. It will be a joy to see what the future holds for her. We know God has good plans for all His children!





OUR MOMS

Changes occur with our aging moms, not just our kids. After Fritz's visit in Switzerland last summer, his mom's declining strength and loneliness brought about her decision to move to a senior care facility. Edith now enjoys fellowship with others her age and is much happier. She regained the will to live and became stronger; she once again attends church and takes daily walks. His mom requests a yearly visit, so Fritz will try to make it happen. Evelyn, Cindy's mom, gave us a scare right before Christmas. Unable to communicate clearly, Evelyn slurred her words and was unsteady. She ended up in the hospital overnight. Visits to a heart specialist ensued and he determined she has atrial fibrillation. Fortunately, she only had a mini stroke and her heart is now regulated with medication. We are thankful she regained her strength without any permanent damage and a major stroke was averted. Evelyn still lives at Gleanings in her park model home and is the mail lady for Gleanings. Mom often joins us for meals and games on the weekend. She always blesses us by caring for our two cats when we're away. Those smart cats love her. Watson has even shown up at her door once when their food bowl was empty!

THE JOY OF BEING GRANDPARENTS

If you have grandkids you know how incredible it is to love on them and play with them. In May, Grandma Cindy enjoyed a week in Washington playing with Sven and Dahli-Mae. Side-note: Dahli-Mae now will be referred to as Ruby, her middle name, because red is her favorite color. It was a first to spend Mother's Day with grandkids. Philip & Annie even drove up to tour a Bonsai Museum and be together. Sven loves time at Gleanings with us and it worked out wonderfully to bring him home after Philip's wedding. Our leisurely road trip along the coast was beautiful. We kept Sven for two weeks, which was so much fun. Fritz never spends so much time at the pool as when Sven is here. It took us a while to rest up again. We are not used to caring for young children, but love being grandparents. During our break in September we headed up to Washington to visit Philip & Annie, followed by a much needed quiet week with good friends on beautiful Puget Sound. We were even treated to an aerial view of Hood Canal and Stretch Island. Thanks Jim! Then it was off to see Cherise and Dillon, and of course play with the grandkids. Celebrating Sven's 8th birthday together was special. He is building Legos like crazy; Ruby loves story times and has the best laugh and smile ever.



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS AND NEEDS - from Fritz

We always enjoy welcoming ministry partners at Gleanings. This spring we had the privilege to meet a lady from Israel who goes into the most dangerous places and brings help to people in desperate need. We were able to send a container into Syria through her organization. Christian is a believer from Venezuela who lives in LA. He contacted us in December and we now have opportunity to send

many 200 pound packages straight into Venezuela to churches and family members who distribute the food to the needy. The feedback and the pictures Christian sends us are horrific about the situation in Venezuela. There are many more partners we get to work with from places like India, Swaziland, Philippines, and...

Our summer staff program is growing. We put more effort into each individual and developing their leadership skills. Former summer staff return to be leaders for the next year's program. I went with the summer staff leaders on a faith outreach to Mexico. We experienced God's provision in getting to Mexico. There are many churches at the border that help refugees from Central America; we brought food and prayed with them. Personally, we have lost a few supporters and would appreciate your prayers and consideration to become one of our monthly giving partners. Haiti is also very much on our hearts and we support a small Orphanage with 45 kids. The needs are overwhelming, but we have been able to build them a house and feed them for the last six years. If you would help us to support God's Plan Orphanage that would be amazing.

We pray you would experience God's blessings in countless ways this fall.

Thank you for your support with prayer and finances. AND, we'd enjoy hearing from you.

If you would like to invest in our work to feed the hungry both physically and spiritually, you can write a check to Gleanings For The Hungry, P.O. Box 309, Sultana, CA 93666 with an attached note indicating it's for us, the Meier family, or go to our web site @ www.gleanings.org and click on giving - staff support gallery - Fritz and Cindy Meier. (tax deductible)

Note: Gleanings' staff do not receive a salary and are responsible to raise their individual support.

Fritz and Cindy Meier, P.O. Box 309, Sultana, CA, 93666, (559) 741 5299, fritz_cindy@hotmail.com, www.gleanings.org

Prayer Requests:

- Colombia trip in October
- Cindy's health
- DTS in January
- Wisdom in leadership
- Finances
- Haiti trip in January