



From Volunteer to New Career

Last April, Jill Welker decided she wanted to serve at **Gleanings** long term during the 2020 lull in her career as a post-production coordinator for a television show. “I thought about how I could be useful in this time,” Jill said. “I had a rare opportunity of not being at work, and I wanted to use that opportunity to grow.” During the six months she stayed at **Gleanings**, she worked in the soup plant, hand bagging or machine bagging. She participated in chapel each morning, which included weekly video calls with ministry partners in Haiti, eSwatini, Mexico, Cambodia, and more. “We saw the end of the assembly line,” Jill said, “the food going out to the poor—that was my boost for working fast in the soup plant, to produce as many bags of soup as we could.”

After one of those video calls with ministry partner **Convoy of Hope**, Jill got up from the table and when she came back, there was a surprise waiting for her that would change the direction of her career. “We prayed and had a snack, and when I came back to my seat, a job application for **Convoy of Hope** was sitting on my Bible. The position was for someone independent who had the exact film and editing skills that I have.” She applied, interviewed, and got the job. The same day **Convoy of Hope** offered her the position, Jill received a phone call with an offer for her dream job in Los Angeles. After a few days of prayer, Jill knew in her heart which job she would accept. “I will be a filmmaker for **Convoy of Hope** to document how they handle disaster relief,” Jill said. She will move to Missouri in January 2021 to start her new job.



Why We Do What We Do

In November we set aside two days for a staff development workshop promoting unity and direction. Chris Faila, a pastor and Discipleship Training School teacher from Morro Bay, CA, helped us uncover our “why” and put it into words. We know what we do, and we know how we do it. But what is the “why” behind our organization? Why were we drawn to volunteer at **Gleanings** initially, and most importantly—why do we stay?

We thought of real-life examples that encapsulate our mission: specific people who have come through our doors and felt the peace of God; people whose lives were transformed during their time here; people who changed career paths after they spent time with Jesus at **Gleanings**. These stories of transformation drive us to do what we do. Yes, we send out food. That is “what” we do. Yes, we have a process to get the food sent out. That is “how” we do it. But why? Our statement for why we do what we do is this:

Through the love of God we welcome, empower, love, and feed the hungry so that everyone we touch experiences family, faith, and freedom in Christ.

We are so very blessed to serve, love, and feed the hungry both physically and spiritually so they will have eternal freedom in Christ. The workshop was an important part of our year-end activity, as we celebrated stories and memories that represent what we cherish in our hearts about God’s love in the midst of our ministry. Did you experience family, faith, and freedom in Christ while at **Gleanings for the Hungry**? Tell us your story. Send an email to media@gleanings.org and let us know your experience.

**THERE IS
STILL TIME**
to join us for
Discipleship
Training
School

New dates:
Feb 28, 2021 -
July 31, 2021

DTS theme:
Transformation

Apply online
or email
dts@gleanings.org

COUNTRY REPORT - HAITI



As we begin a New Year, we have a huge blessing to share with you! Months ago, *Mission of Grace* in Haiti asked Fritz Meier if *Gleanings for the Hungry* could send them soup, which they have been using in all their ministries for years. They use it in their soup kitchen, school, orphanage and elderly home, and distribute it to many other people and ministries. Fritz responded and the container was soon on its way.

A few weeks later, *Mission Of Grace* noticed they were low on soup and asked Fritz when the container would arrive. "Due to COVID, it was detained for a little while and so we had just run out of soup and he got the call that the container had arrived and we could go pick it up. Isn't that just like God? His perfect timing. Thank you so much *Gleanings for the Hungry* for not only sending us soup but rice, flour, sugar, peanut butter and so much more."



In a short period of time, they went from being out of food to doing a large food distribution. Kim O'Dwyer from *Mission of Grace* wrote, "We just did a community distribution on Sunday and served over 100 people who were desperate for food. We gave soup, peanut butter and rice to each person. And we have been able to give to other orphanages, serve it at the school 5 days a week to over 200 students, and at our orphanage and elderly home 3 days per week. It's been such a huge blessing."



Thank you for your prayers and generous support of *Gleanings for the Hungry*. 'Whoever sows generously will also reap generously.' 2 Corinthians 9:6 God has helped *Mission of Grace* and provided for the people of Haiti through your love and giving. May the Lord bless you and those you love. May He work through you to be a blessing to others in this coming year, as we continue to partner together to bring the Good News of our Savior to all the world.



Director's Corner

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.

Hebrews 13:2

Dear Friend,

Welcome to 2021. What will this year be like? The effects of COVID in 2020 were mind-boggling. Our lives and freedoms have drastically changed since the pandemic. It is difficult to grasp the reasoning behind all these rules for different scenarios. It is like living in the fog now. But not so in our spiritual life. God's word is clear, and He is not confused. We are called to be kingdom citizens. What a relief it is to trust in Him and not in this world. God loves us and He has a great plan for our lives. This will never change! We are determined to fulfill our calling personally and as a mission to serve the hungry with physical and spiritual food. "Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom; She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy." Ezekiel 16:49

Gleanings will continue, with your help, to care for the needy and walk in obedience. Going into this coming year, we pray for God's power to be displayed through our acts of service and devotion. We fight evil with food, we stand in the army of God with thousands of believers like you, and we lay down our own will so God's will may be done as in heaven so on earth.

We love you all and pray the Lord's blessing over you.

Fritz Meier