



STAFF SPOTLIGHT:



ROD AND COLLEEN LAWRENCE

In June, the Lawrences travelled to British Colombia to celebrate the union of their son, Kent Walter James, to his beautiful bride, Layne Lee Norman. The wedding ceremony was in the Kelowna area of BC on June 21, 2021, and there was a grand total of 13 people in attendance. Congratulations to the Lawrence family, and God bless the bride and groom!

While in Canada, Rod and Colleen also celebrated their 34th wedding anniversary on July 11th with a visit to Vancouver, BC.

Another spotlight for Colleen is that she completed an online TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) certification in September 2020, which she hopes to use in the future.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- DTS students and staff who just returned from outreach in Mexico: Joel, Rochelle, Shelly, Sarah, Chris, Al, Cheryl, Eliane, Liana, and Timea
- The safety and health of our volunteers and staff
- Peach and soup production
- The people who receive Gleanings food

*"Whoever dwells in the shelter
of the Most High will rest in the
shadow of the Almighty."*

Psalms 91:1

YOUTH PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

We asked Dylan Ferguson, youth pastor of **Willamette Community Church** in Albany Oregon: What was it like to be back at **Gleanings** after a year off? Were the challenges of getting here worth it?

"Oregon was the last state to re-open, but it wasn't hard at all to recruit for this trip. Kids were devastated when **Gleanings** was closed in 2020."

Dylan sent out a link to apply for this year's trip, and the sign-ups started rolling in. "It wasn't hard to recruit at all," Dylan said. The high school youth group at **Willamette Community Church** has about 30 kids who attend regularly, and most of them came on the trip. "Half of our group has been here before, and half are new."

Even though every person needed a negative Covid test in order to stay in the dorms, and the process was not completely smooth for Dylan, he found that it was all worth it once they arrived. "I'm so glad there was no fear," Dylan said. "I'm so glad the kids didn't have to wear masks. **Gleanings** handled everything responsibly, and we appreciate that."

However, Dylan was surprised by one thing when they drove through the gate: "Showing up and the field was empty—that was a first. To see it fill up [with trays of peaches]? Oh my goodness."

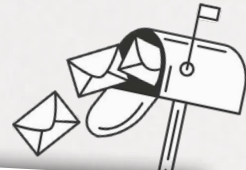
One of the returning students said something to Dylan that resonated with him: "I forgot how much joy I have when I'm on this property."

"**Gleanings** is a well-oiled machine," Dylan said. "You guys are really clear in communication. Chapel is great. Love Feast is what the kids look forward to. They know God is going to do something big; at the same time, it feels natural, not forced."

Dylan encourages other youth pastors who are thinking about bringing groups to **Gleanings** to go for it. "In our experience, not much has changed while here. Just the prep of getting here so we can serve without masks. The impact this has on the world is far greater than any fears that could crop up. Trust God with these things. He will direct, guide, and protect us."



DTS in Mexico



In June, our **Discipleship Training School** left for outreach in Mexico. This outreach is two months of hands-on missionary training, a practical application, and an extension of classroom training. The team consists of five students and three DTS leaders. Their unique talents and experiences enable them to contribute to the outreach in different ways. Sarah, with enthusiasm and a playful attitude, loves the kids. Chris is skilled in construction and enjoys sharing his deep understanding of the Gospel. Rochelle worked hard to learn Spanish and narrate skits for the team and enjoys cooking for others. Shelly is a communicator, a seamstress, and loves Jesus. Joel is a fount of enthusiasm in worship, sharing the Gospel, and playing with the kids. Leading the team are Eliane Erickson, our DTS Director, with her girls Liana and Timea, along with Al Gove and Cheryl Knight, two school leaders.

Here are a few highlights of their ministry in Mexico: The outreach began at **Village of Hope**, a community center and church serving migrant workers from the indigenous people of Oaxaca. Village of Hope provides meals, health classes, a chapel, daycare, and has a volunteer home-building program. Our students delivered food and toys to the families at the daycare and discovered that skits, bubbles, and balloons really drew in the children. They also helped with activities like worship services and a medical clinic.

Next, the team visited a youth detention center in Ensenada. When they arrived, there were a few hostile faces among the residents, ages 13-20+. Some residents voluntarily come for rehab, while others are incarcerated by court order. The team began with introductions and prayer, followed by each DTS student sharing their testimony. Joel offered a short sermon but was so overcome by the Holy Spirit that tears began to fall. At that moment, the walls in the residents' hearts came tumbling down. It is beautiful how the Lord touches people when we are faithful to share and be vulnerable. After that, they enjoyed pizza and conversation with the boys, then played volleyball. Before leaving, the team prayed over each person, giving them words of knowledge and Bible verses. The young men were willing to be vulnerable before God and the team. When they left, the boys hugged the team members, shook hands, and sent them off with big smiles.

We are so thankful for the sacrifice of our students and leaders to go and share with "the least of these". They are reaching out with the hands and heart of Jesus to the people of Mexico. We look forward to sharing more of their stories in the next newsletter.



Director's Corner

Dear Reader,

Summertime is youth time at **Gleanings**. We enjoy the energy and excitement of having teens working in our peach and soup plant.

I had the privilege of visiting our DTS outreach team south of Tijuana.

I loaded our RV with about 1,000 lbs. of **Gleanings** food to share. We joined **YWAM San Diego Baja** to reach out to needy people in the area. After morning devotions our team prayed for God's heart for the lost and asked that He would lead us to the people who are ready to hear the Good News. That afternoon we had the joy of praying with a young man who told us his wife is a Christian and he listens to her. Now that he invited Jesus into his heart, they will experience listening to God together. He was beaming, and testified he feels different inside. We are proud of the way all our DTS team is loving and serving the people in Mexico.

I hope you have a blessed August.

Fritz Meier