



IN MEMORY: RUSS RIGG

Russell Webster Rigg, best known around here for being our eldest volunteer, was peacefully ushered into the presence of his Lord and Savior on December 15, 2021. He was 103 years old. *"There is peace in the midst of tears knowing he is with the Savior he loved,"* his wife Carole said. *"Although there are tears due to missing his daily presence, there is hope and peace within because of the salvation our Lord Jesus gave us through His death and resurrection."*

Russ and his wife Carole were married for 35 years. About twelve years ago, Russ and Carole came for the first time to visit **Gleanings for the Hungry**. They found the trip through an advertisement in a Christian magazine. After that, the couple came to serve at **Gleanings** at least two weeks each year, where the kitchen was Russ' favorite workplace.

In addition to serving at **Gleanings**, he and Carole served faithfully in the Sunday school program at their church, caring for the 4-year-olds, where he was affectionately known as "Mr. Play-Dough Man." When one of the children asked why he had so little hair, he answered, *"The Lord thought my head was so pretty, he didn't think I needed much hair."*

Russ was filled with the joy of the Lord, and he was always quick to give Jesus credit for the longevity of his life. Proverbs 3:5-6, Russ' life verse, says, *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."*

Born in 1918 into a God-honoring family, Russ had a steady Christian upbringing, and he submitted his life to Jesus at a young age. The Lord protected him through his military service in World War II. At his 100th birthday celebration, Russ said, *"The Lord has been with me through the many difficulties which entered my life. He doesn't promise a smooth, easy trip. But he does promise in his word, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'"*

Russ will be remembered for his even temperament, knowledge, easy-going view of life, and friendly smile from ear to ear. This man was rich in the things that mattered most in life. We praise God for allowing us to know and serve alongside His faithful servant Russ Rigg.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT: RACHEL HILL

Rachel Hill serves in the bookings department at **Gleanings**, where she uses her skills in communication and design. In addition, she has a God-given ministry to come alongside widows and widowers. Rachel lost her husband, Kevin, in 2013 on Christmas Eve. She has been raising their two children alone. She is very aware of the grief, loneliness, and questions that come from losing a spouse, and she has a heart-longing to help others who feel the same loss.

"It's my largest ministry right now," Rachel said. *"It's been an interesting role reversal as I care for my dad now that he is a widower."* Over the holidays, Rachel and her dad, Michael, were in the very difficult season of losing Besty, Rachel's mom, who passed away on December 1, 2021. Betsy accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior a few short months before her passing.

When you have support from the Body of Christ, it makes a big difference. Asking for help is essential. The path of a widow or widower is never easy. It will always be painful. But with Christ, we have renewed strength. His yoke is easy and his burden is light.

our
summer
season

starts in 3 months

we need you!

apply for our summer staff program

gleanings.org/summerstaff

book a summer group

gleanings.org/summer

Come and make a difference in the lives of hungry people all over the world

VOLUNTEER GETS EMOTIONAL AS HE RETURNS TO GLEANINGS AFTER TWO YEARS

*"It's great to be back," Paul Leo said during Monday morning chapel, as he began to get teary-eyed. "I am very emotional. My wife and I have gotten so attached to **Gleanings** and what they do. We've gotten close to a lot of staff members here, and we support them, because they are like family," he said. "Every time I come here, my family gets bigger."*

Paul's first trip to **Gleanings** was nine years ago. Paul and his wife found **Gleanings** when they researched mission trips online and made a connection with **Young Enough to Serve (Y.E.S.)**. This organization brought opportunities for Paul, in his retirement, to serve God and people in places he thought he'd never go: Mexico, Haiti, and Dinuba.

"My whole adult life I have been committed to serve my community, to serve people," Paul said. He served in the marines for four years, including a year in south Vietnam, then in law enforcement for 28 years, and finally in an organization that does life-skill training for people who have cerebral palsy. Now he serves in his church and short-term missions.

"I'll serve people until I retire totally," Paul said. "That is, until God calls me home."



FOOD REPORT GUATEMALA

Gleanings for the Hungry Partners with Convoy of Hope to bring food to Guatemala

Hundreds of pastors in Guatemala receive the **Gleanings** soup mix and distribute it to families within the church and local community. We are thankful to receive messages like these:

Hello, I am the pastor of the church in one of the **Convoy of Hope** program centers in Guatemala. I am a witness to how the product has changed lives and has helped the health of children in my community. For example, Jose was malnourished, his mother is alone because her husband abandoned her along with their children. She does her best to support her children, but her life situation is precarious. But thanks to God and the intervention of you, now he gets the food and loves the soup. Now his cheeks have color, and his eyes are brighter.

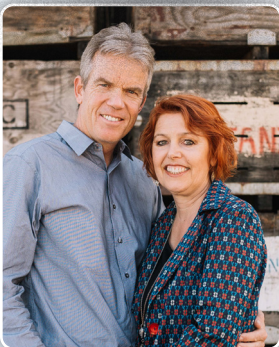
Zaidy is a very smiling and cheerful girl. She says that when she grows up, she wants to be a nurse. Her parents are farmers in a remote village [in Guatemala] and earn very little money each day. She has many siblings and that makes the food they normally eat poor in vitamins and nutrients. Thank God, now she receives the food from **Gleanings**, and since she has not returned to school due to the pandemic, now she receives her food from you and they prepare it at home. That has been a reason for not only Zaidy but also her entire family to be more nourished.

All glory goes to Jesus Christ, our Savior. Thank you so very much for your partnership to help Jose, Zaidy, and many others. We thank God for the privilege and honor of giving our time, resources, and food to help these precious children and their families.

Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ in Guatemala.



Director's Corner



"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." Luke 14:27

I distinctly remember watching a YouTube video in December about the omicron virus spreading in England and the prediction that the U.S. would experience the affects about three weeks later. With peace in my heart, I was ready for more teams to cancel if this prediction came true. Then we got hit with omicron in our **Gleanings** community and most of us got sick. Some had mild symptoms, but some of us struggled to return to full health for a few weeks. We experienced God's peace in the storm. The whole time we met outside at 1 pm to worship Jesus in our situation. We are grateful everyone has recovered. The beginning of February teams started coming again.

We have many weeks open to volunteer this coming summer. If you are looking for a great experience for your youth group to serve, this could be it! Check out our website or call us with any questions. May the Lord bless you and give you His peace.

Fritz Meier