



FAREWELL ROD & COLLEEN LAWRENCE



For 17 years, Rod and Colleen Lawrence served the Lord faithfully at **Gleanings**. They impacted many friends, young and old, and contributed to the effort of feeding and nourishing millions of people around the world. Before moving to California, Rod owned a small business with heavy equipment. Colleen was an elementary school teacher in Canada. Rod had done his DTS in Kona in 1981, and the School of Biblical Counseling in 1982. Colleen and Rod did a DTS together in 1995. They heard about **Gleanings** because

the director at the time, Rick O'Dwyer, was from their hometown, Dawson Creek. *"Everything came together easily and quickly for us to come here,"* Colleen said. In 2005 the Lawrences joined our staff with their two children, Kent, who was nine, and Kaleigh, who was seven. Over the next decade and a half, Rod worked with the backpacker program, wood shop, auto shop, and construction. He also worked as peach production manager, soup production, warehouse, pouring concrete, and Summer Staff director. Colleen served on the leadership team, housing committee, purchasing, and wherever needed. In years past, she served as kitchen manager, housekeeping manager, office reception, hospitality, and DTS staff. Now, after 17 years here, they are moving back to Canada, specifically Ladner, in the Vancouver area of British Columbia, to live near Rod's brother. *"We are looking forward to being near family,"* Rod said. *"I have a plan to share the idea and training of the backpacker program at other YWAM bases."* Rod also has a

vision of opening a hot dog stand—what he calls business as missions. Colleen would like to teach English to speakers of other languages. *"I'd like to work with refugees and migrants,"* Colleen said. When asked what they learned while they were on staff at **Gleanings**, Colleen replied, *"God taught me how to love unconditionally and how to be unoffendable. I've learned the value of being transparent—that's where the healing is."*

Rod said, *"I've learned to be a father to everyone. God showed me how to love the backpackers as my own kids."*

Another thing God taught Rod, a special word of wisdom from Mr. Bamford, a friend of **Gleanings**: *"We were building trays. I went to his farm to pick up trays. Mr. Bamford was in his 90s. I said, 'Thank you for all you do.' He put his hand on my shoulder, looked into my eyes, and said, 'Whatever is done for Christ will last. All the glory belongs to the Lord. There is no room for me to receive praise.' That really stuck with me."*

Because of their kindness, hospitality, encouragement, and amazing hugs, Rod and Colleen leave a legacy at **Gleanings** that will last.

LEADERSHIP, EMPOWERMENT AND GROWTH FOR SUMMER PROGRAM



New summer leaders Britta Jones and Shmarah Kelsay bring youthful energy and fresh

perspective as they direct the summer program. Because these young women have served on Summer Staff Leadership and Empowerment Team in the past, they understand the goals and values of this ministry.

Britta, from Foresthill, CA, completed her DTS in 2019-2020 in Germany, with outreach in Egypt and Cyprus. Shmarah, from Sebastopol, CA, completed her DTS at **Gleanings** in 2017-2018, with outreach in Mexico, Greece,

and Israel. Now Britta and Shmarah are co-directing the Summer Staff program.

Skyler Atchison, Bryn Baker, and Emily Warrington are serving on the **2022 Empowerment Team**. The goal of the Empowerment Team is to help nurture leadership skills in the Summer Staff.

While you may recognize some Summer Staff from years past, we also have some new faces this year. Here is the team: Sierra Atchison, Nayara Camargos, Isaac Davenport, Jason Dotty, Kerrianna Driver, Houston Hicks, John Hurford, Caleb Katsubo, Grace Koster, Abigail Lane, Jacob Maestas, Ian Nash, Katie Ragains, Sarah Remboldt, Heather Rosenburg, Noah Semsen, and Lydia Shumate.





DTS OUTREACH COMMENCES IN BISHOP AND DENVER

The Discipleship Training School (DTS) outreach started mid-May. For the first two weeks, the team set up the dorms for our summer program, deep-cleaned vacant housing, and participated in local food outreach, taking the ice cream truck to offer sweet treats to our neighbors. On May 29, they loaded their van and headed to Bishop, CA where they served in the local church, preschool, and cultural center. “*The cultural center is an engaging establishment that demonstrates the rich history of the Paiute community, who refer to themselves as the Numu,*” student Joash Anaminyi wrote to us in an update. Next, they will drive to Denver, Colorado, where they will stay at the **YWAM** base and serve in their foster care ministry. Please continue to pray for the team. The outreach phase ends July 20, and the students graduate July 22.

COUNTRY REPORT: Gambia

Dear Andy and the *Gleanings for the Hungry Family*,

We returned from Gambia and are finally over jet lag. We really had an amazing time in Gambia. God has been at work, and He continues to change lives and impact the nation.

We arrived in Gambia before Easter, and Pastor Dan and Hope had planned four days of evangelism program at the school during the week before Easter. People came to hear the word of God, and their hearts and souls were fed—but they didn't expect to go home with boxes of food! It was a great surprise for them, and the smiles on their faces said it all. They loved the soup mix, and as the word went out, other people started to come and ask for food.

One man from a different village came with his motorcycle, and he was able to take four boxes of food. He went to his village and shared the soup with other people (one or two bags per family). He later came to ask for more, as people really felt blessed to receive the food.

We shared food with a few churches so they can use it as a tool to open doors for ministry and share the Gospel with their Muslim neighbors.

Most of the food is being used to feed the 300+ children at **Emmanuel Mission Center**, a school and feeding center, and the kids loved it!

We are so grateful to partner with **Gleanings** to touch the lives of people and provide food for their bodies and souls.

Looking forward to seeing more food being sent and distributed, as well as seeing the seeds of the Gospel message received in people's hearts.

Blessings,

Sol and Manuela Bah
Shared Blessings

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

Matthew 6:33



Director's Corner

Hello our dear **Gleanings'** friend,

It took more effort than other years to connect with our amazing fruit donors. After two years of covid challenges, we are finally back to running full production.

We have an incredible supply of around 150,000 pounds of fruit a day, thanks to local farmers and packing sheds. We are so grateful for the generosity of everyone involved in providing food for the hungry. We love the analogy of the scarred peach that was rejected and discarded, unfit to be sold in our supermarkets. But God uses the things that we can't and redeems them for His glory. The peach that was worthless to the farmer becomes the dried fruit to feed a person in dire need. By faith we know thousands of people will be fed through our program, and we delight in the fact that God uses servants like you and me to do it. May He receive all the glory and praise.

I hope you have a blessed summer.

Fritz Meier