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Gleanings for the Hungry

A Ministry of Youth With A Mission

MAY
2023



Words of Wisdom from Steve Witmer

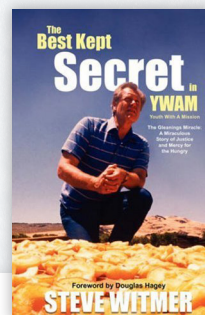
Former *Gleanings*' Staff members **Steve and Becky Witmer** currently split their time between their home in Surrey, BC and the Central Valley of California, where they serve at Radiant Church, Visalia. Steve was able to share at two different staff meetings in February and March.

"This message is for nobody in particular, and for everyone," Steve began. Using the parable of the unforgiving servant in Matthew 18:21-35, Steve walked our staff through the topic of forgiveness: what it is and what it is not. Steve reminded us that in the family of God, we are a people marked by radical forgiveness. Our focus in forgiving our fellow believers should be directed at looking at the cross and what God has done for us in Christ. Steve shared how God's heart for reconciliation means that he cares deeply about how Christians love each other. In Matthew 18:21, Peter asked "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Seven times?" Jesus replied, "Seventy times seven!" This demonstrates how God desires for his people to bless each other beyond measure. Steve assured the staff that it is also wise to establish boundaries in our personal lives and our ministry in order to protect against being mistreated by our brothers and sisters who may hurt us.

Steve also encouraged our staff to tell their stories of how they came to *Gleanings*. "What drew you here,

initially? What keeps you here? What has God done?" Amid welcoming new volunteers, making soup and sharing meals together, it can be easy to forget the wonder of God's love and creativity in calling each of us here to serve. We tell our stories to remember that God is so good!

While Becky is discipling young girls on the *Gleanings* base twice a week, Steve is currently working on an updated version of "The Best Kept Secret in YWAM." *The Gleanings Miracle: A Miraculous Story of Justice and Mercy for the Hungry*. Originally published in 2008, the book has five updated chapters that share how the ministry continues to expand. Look for an updated version of the book later this year.



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GLEANINGS FOR THE HUNGRY

SEPT 22ND 2023 - MARCH 8TH 2024



Love Your Neighbor - Sultana Food Outreach

Ever since 2020, **Gleanings** has committed Friday afternoons to bring food to our neighbors in Sultana. This idea originally started with government relief food boxes, which we distributed at the local elementary school. The outreach has now relocated to a larger parking lot due to a high volume of cars. Many recipients return each week, regardless of bad weather like sweltering heat or pouring rain. They are grateful for the food that is being offered.

“It’s fun to serve right here in the neighborhood,” said Joash Anaminyi, who is now a regular Friday outreach participant. **Gleanings** staff member Norma Gove especially enjoys the regular Friday afternoon outreach. Norma has come to know many people by name, especially those who are currently without homes. It is part of her call to minister to those who are hurting by showing them dignity and love.

“People are excited about what **Gleanings** is doing and want to partner with us,” Fritz said. He reached out to several local food distributors, including former staff member Dave Romero. These connections are always enjoyable. Because of the abundance of food that God has provided, **Gleanings** has distributed everything from soup mix and fresh cabbage to jars of ranch dip and boxes of donated chocolate. The **Gleanings** Ice Cream Truck brings a smile to faces young and old.

It’s more than food and the occasional ice cream cone, however. Friday outreach-goers are also able to give the best gift—prayer. “I haven’t had Spanish class for a long time, but I feel like I owe it to my neighbors to pray for them in their native language,” staff member Elisabeth Correll said. “This creates a bond as fellow brothers and sisters seeking the same God.” We are committed to our mission to feed the hungry both physically and spiritually, and Jesus is the bread of life.

With prayer beforehand and debriefing afterwards, the team tells of what God has done each Friday afternoon. All are invited to come out and join **GFTH** at the Sultana food outreach at 3 p.m. Spanish skills or not, all are welcome.



Director's Corner



In Matthew 13 Jesus tells the parable of the sower. The good soil produces a crop thirty, sixty, and one hundred times what was sown. As we looked at this parable in our Wednesday morning Bible study I was thinking that we experience this every single day we produce food here at Gleanings. With our own good effort we could probably feed a few hundred people every day. But, in the kingdom way, we experience God's provision, and we make a hundred thousand meals daily.

Fritz Meier