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Gleanings for the Hungry

A Ministry of Youth With A Mission

JUNE 2023

Coming Soon! Discipleship Training School Called and Equipped

It's a great time to join DTS! **Gleanings** is now accepting applications for Discipleship Training School 2023, Called and Equipped.

"I sense that the Lord is bringing the DTS into alignment with the **Gleanings** mission, hand in hand, even more than before," Eliane Erickson said. "We see the DTS as the next step after Summer Staff, and a step into a life of missions. It's not about personal growth for the sake of growth alone, but to become a missionary. We want students who hunger for God and want to serve in missions, thrive in ministry, and be well equipped

wherever the Lord is sending them. Students can expect to gain a confidence in who they are and what God is calling them to. It's the Lord doing the equipping."

The theme verse for this school is 2 Peter 1: 3, which says, "*By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.*"

"There is a treasure we can unpack together," Eliane said. "In the Holy Spirit we have everything we need."

What is your next step of discipleship? Would you like to discover more of God's character and love? Maybe you know someone who loves missions and is looking for a way to grow closer to Jesus. Please invite them along.

Dates: September 22, 2023 to March 8, 2024

Cost: \$6,000-\$8,000 (Final amount depends on plane ticket prices and travel plans)

God is using this school to raise up more leaders and world changers! JOIN US!

2023 SUMMER THEME



We're excited for another summer of peaches at **Gleanings for the Hungry**!! The summer 2023 theme is "**Beloved**", with the supporting scripture coming from Romans 8:39: "Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Britta Jones is returning as the director of the summer program, having directed in 2022 and co-directed in 2019. This year's theme comes from a desire for young people to know their truest identity in Christ. "When you know you are loved, and that nothing can separate you from God's love, you operate out of that." The vision for the summer staff program is to see lives transformed by the love of God. "I've learned that our vision statement is impossible for me to fulfill on my own. I just have to make space for God to do the work." remarks Britta. **Gleanings for the Hungry** is excited to see what God has in store for the summer leaders and volunteers who will come through the gates in the next few months. Please be praying for our staff and leaders to be surrendered each day to God's leading and

His heart. "Teams work best when everyone is in unity serving one another. Only Jesus can make this vision happen," says Britta. Also, continue to pray for a bountiful harvest of peaches and for more forklifts for summer use. Like Peter when he stepped out on the water, we look forward to the many miracles that can happen when our eyes are on Christ. Bring on the peaches and turn up the heat—we're ready!

COUNTRY REPORT: ESWATINI

For the first time in 11 years, **Heart for Africa's Project Canaan** is taking a pause on receiving more babies. "We have 16 babies under the age of six months," Janine said. "All 16 babies have RSV. We have one nurse, and we need two more nurses."



It is difficult to explain the needs of the children in eSwatini. More than half of the population are orphan children whose parents died of AIDS or other diseases. Many times, a young sibling is left to care for other young siblings. Young girls are forced to do unthinkable things for food, and they become pregnant at age 12 or 13. These children abandon their babies.

Project Canaan opened 11 years ago in order to take in abandoned babies and raise them to adulthood. Today they have over 350 children who receive excellent care, education, and skill training. **Project Canaan**, which has grown to include a ranch with vegetables, chickens for eggs, and cows for milk, also provides over four hundred jobs for community members.

"The kids really enjoy the oats from **Gleanings**," Janine said. "They are a big hit! The beans are great because they are so easy to cook. We have a new kitchen manager who is working on recipes for Swazis to enjoy the soup mix. They don't understand the concept of soup, so they use it as a sauce on bread."

Outside of **Project Canaan**, the ministry continues in churches across the country. "Your soup mix and donations make it possible for 4,500 kids to get food from church. Do you know what that means to them? They are learning about Jesus because Jesus is feeding them. Because Jesus feeds them, they don't have to have sex for food. I'm banking on this food speaking louder than the words of any pastor," Janine said.



How does the soup mix impact lives in eSwatini? "Your food is ministering to their heart and soul. Helping their emotional and social well-being. It's protecting and preventing teenage pregnancy."

While the food is used for the children, staff, and local church ministries, **Heart for Africa** also delivers food to the entire country through welfare services. "We also support and provide food to welfare services, and they support the whole country," Janine said. "We can use as much food as could be sent. Half of the country is starving."



Specific prayer requests:

We need nurses.

We need a pastor.

We need to raise \$100,000 to finish building our primary school which will open January 2024.

Health of children. Good health for all of us.

Birth certificates. That they come through and that we can get funding for them. We need 233 of them, and they cost \$20 USD each.

Endurance.

To keep our eyes on Jesus.

If you feel led to help in any way, please go to <https://heartforafrica.org/project-canaan>. Thank you and God bless you!

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



"Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain." Ps. 127:1

Now we are transitioning from making soup to processing peaches and nectarines. Every year there is excitement on base as we prepare for our summer staff and summer teams to arrive and serve. As we visit fruit growers and equipment companies, we connect with various people in the farming industry. Everyone faces challenges. We have the opportunity to listen and pray with many of our friends who run businesses here. Gratefully, we are receiving much favor and we appreciate everyone who helps us to succeed in producing the dried fruit. At the same time, we pray for all our donors. May the Lord lead and guide them to successfully run their businesses, to employ their workers, and to be a blessing in our community.

Let's labor to the glory of God this summer and let's build His house!

Fritz Meier