



LARRY AND ALICE SWAYZE

**FIRED UP** is a youth group that started as a home Bible study and grew to include so many families that they needed to buy a tent and meet outside their church. The acronym stands for Fellowship Inspiring Responsibility, Encouragement, and Discipleship, with Un-compromised Purity. The first time Larry and Alice Swayze brought a **FIRED UP** group to **Gleanings** was over 20 years ago. They came as a graduation trip for their oldest daughter. "She left saying, 'We need to come back every year!'" Alice said.

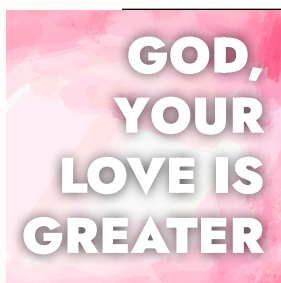
- **Gleanings** is affordable. We can take almost anyone because of the low cost.
- We can bring a lot of people. We've brought groups of up to 95 people.
- **Gleanings** has an international feel. There are always people from other nations.
- It's more about knowing Jesus than how much work gets done. Work is always tied to loving people.
- Our ministry is family oriented, and **Gleanings** is always supportive of us bringing families.
- We put a high priority on parents being involved and they always feel valued at **Gleanings**.

"I have led many short-term mission trips in other countries," Larry said. "I know how beneficial they are to people's spiritual growth. **Gleanings** is giving us the same benefits."

The staff have become family to us! At the gate, the group stops and prays about what they need to leave there—any worries, problems back home, burdens. "It helps that the dumpster bins are right there," Larry said. "The group arrives with an expectation that God is going to do something really cool." One of the cool things they do bring in the gate is the English country dancing night, which is highlight of the summer for **Gleanings** staff kids.

**Fired Up's** goal is to train young people to become strong leaders with high standards for work ethic, marriage, family, and faith. "People have such low expectations of teenagers," Larry said. "But the kids will rise to really important things if you expect it from them and give them the opportunity."

Thank you **FIRED UP** for your faithful partnership with **Gleanings** for over 20 years!



To accompany our summer theme of "Beloved," we placed a large wooden board, painted white, in the dining hall with an invitation to declare the truth about God's love. Each week we invite volunteers to write in black permanent marker to fill in the blank: God, your love is greater than \_\_\_\_.

Romans 8:38-39 says, "**For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 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.**" With this theme verse, we give the volunteers an opportunity to respond. The big board is a place to declare something from their own life that cannot separate them from the love of God. Some of the responses are:

God, your love is greater than death.  
God, your love is greater than addictions.  
God, your love is greater than cancer.  
God, your love is greater than my broken heart.

What would you write? We invite you to declare the truth of God's love for you, even if you cannot be here in person. You are His beloved in Christ Jesus.

## A DOZEN SEATS WAITING TO BE FILLED

Spots are available for the next Discipleship Training School (DTS) at **Gleanings** for the Hungry. Spread the word! The school will commence with a welcome dinner for new students on September 22, 2023.

The DTS staff are praying and preparing for each student God calls to this school. Outreach will include two months overseas in either South America or Africa. It's an exciting time to be transformed by the love of God! Let's spread the love of Jesus—and feed the hungry!

Curious but not sure you are ready to apply? Simply fill out the interest form at [gleanings.org](http://gleanings.org). There is no time to waste—it is time to live for the kingdom of God.



# FIRST NATIONS - George Torres

## Country Report



In May, at the last Love Feast of the spring season, we heard about **Gleanings'** food being given to the Tohono O'odham First Nations in Arizona. George Torres, a longtime friend of **Gleanings for the Hungry** lives in nearby Squaw Valley (now Yokuts Valley). George has brought **Gleanings'** food to the small town of Why, Arizona to bless the Tohono O'odham Reservation. He initially came across this often-forgotten people group when making trips across the country for work, traveling on interstate 10. A mechanic and chaplain by trade, George doesn't travel without carrying Bibles. After buying some Bibles at a thrift store in Arizona, George discovered a flyer enclosed, advertising the ministry of Mr. Carroll Hughes. Carroll and Jan Hughes served for twenty years on the Tohono O'odham Reservation, 35 miles west of Tucson. George contacted Carroll and asked, "How can I help?" Carroll was retired at the time, but his heart was still for the Tohono O'odham people. Carroll stated that food was a grave need, and an inroad to sharing Christ.

This led George to approach Fritz Meier and ask how much food **Gleanings** would be willing to donate. On the first trip to Why, George took 8,000 lbs. of food. On his last visit, in the fall of 2022, he brought 11,500 lbs. of food from

**Gleanings** and other organizations. After unloading his truck at the reservation and nearby community center, one man remarked, "We haven't seen this much food in the 20 years that I've been here."



There are both Catholic and Presbyterian churches in Why, Arizona, but the social issues of the Tohono people are often overwhelming. Alcohol addiction, depression and unemployment are common for many. George shared the great news that in the last few decades, Wycliffe Bible Translators have been able to translate the Bible into the language of the Tohono O'odham people. "In their language, there is no word for 'love,' but we are working to explain that to them."

Let's continue to pray for the Tohono O'odham nation, that through the love of people like George, Carroll and the local church, God's love would permeate hearts that are hopeless and are longing for Jesus.

## Directors Corner



While we were producing our dried fruit at full speed, I had the privilege to travel to Saskatchewan. Most of the peas and lentils for our soup mix come from farmers and Hutterite colonies in this area. The **Gleanings** supply chain starts with the farmer who puts the seed in the ground and grows a crop, from which he donates to us. A trucker gives his service to pick up the product from the farm. He delivers it to a processing plant where the raw product is cleaned, and the peas are split for free. Then a large trucking company brings the clean product to **Gleanings** at a very reduced rate. My goal was to visit with farmers, to share of the opportunity to join God's work in feeding the poor. Most of my visits were with Hutterite colonies. The Hutterites live in very close communities, share everything together, and have a strong faith. I had many beautiful conversations with these amazing people. Please pray with me for rain that will enable these farmers to have a good harvest so they can give out of a full storehouse.

May the blessing of the Lord be with us all as we serve Him faithfully.  
To Him be the glory,

*Fritz Meier*