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GLEANINGS FOR THE HUNGRY

A Ministry of Youth With A Mission

OCTOBER
2023

SUMMER 2023 WRAP-UP

From June to August 2023, **Gleanings** processed over five million pounds of peaches and nectarines, producing over 197,000 pounds of nutritious food for hungry people around the world. This translates to about 792,000 servings of dried fruit given in Jesus' name. In addition, a small team of volunteers produced over 1,784,450 servings of soup mix in less than three months.

Wow! A big thank you goes out to the generous farmers and packing houses who donated peaches and nectarines this summer! Thank you to the faithful youth groups, churches, supporters, donors, and truck drivers. Thank you to our Summer Staff, full-time staff, Mission Builders, backpackers, and local volunteers. Thank you to our ministry partners, cooks, missionaries, teachers, guest speakers, church leaders. Thank you YWAM family. It's a joy to serve God together.

Most of our dried peaches will go to Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Philippines, Cuba, Ukraine, and Mexico. And for the first time, these peaches will go to eSwatini. We trust that this food will bring glory to the name of Jesus.

A NOTE FROM SUMMER STAFF DIRECTOR BRITTA JONES

What an amazing season it has been! We've witnessed the remarkable growth and impact of our Summer Staff team as they embraced their identity as God's BELOVED and began to mirror His character. By firmly anchoring themselves in this truth, the Summer Staff discovered new-found confidence, purpose, and a profound sense of belonging. They realized that their worth stems not from their actions but from their identity in Christ. Their dedication and passion touched countless lives with God's love. Whether it was through

SUMMER NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

5,286,645	POUNDS OF FRESH FRUIT
197,965	POUNDS OF DRIED FRUIT
791,860	SERVINGS OF DRIED FRUIT
1,784,454	SERVINGS OF SOUP MIX
1,100+	VOLUNTEERS
41	TEAMS FROM 9 STATES AND 2 COUNTRIES
29	MISSION BUILDERS
7	BACKPACKERS FROM 5 COUNTRIES
22	SUMMER STAFF
24	YEAR-AROUND STAFF

leading devotionals, organizing outreach events, or leading in the peach plant, they demonstrated the transformative power of God's love. Each day presented an opportunity for them to embody the fruit of the Spirit and draw closer to Christ. For some, this season is just the beginning of the journey. It marks the start of a lifelong pursuit to grow more like Christ and reflect God's character in everything they do.

NEW WAREHOUSE AT GLEANINGS

We've officially broken ground on our second **Gleanings** warehouse, and it couldn't come at a better time! As the Lord continues to bless **Gleanings** with ingredients and truckloads of food, the incoming and outgoing product is becoming too much to store. The new warehouse will double the size of the current space, extending it onto the end of the existing warehouse. Its size will enable **Gleanings** to have an increased flexibility for product movement, allow for more time to store loads with detailed shipping requirements, and expand our ministry opportunities both locally and internationally. "We want to be good stewards of what we've been given," said Director, Fritz Meier.

While we await building permits, excavators were able to dig a hole this August for the concrete footings of the warehouse floor. Staff member, Al Gove, is leading the project through coordination with local companies. **Gleanings** will be purchasing steel members through **Borga Steel** in Selma to construct the 100x120-foot frame. In faith, we are seeking the Lord to provide the funding for the rest of this project.

We joyfully invite you to participate in building a second warehouse, as we praise God for the abundance of food product He has sent to **Gleanings**. We trust Him to see it through. The projected completion of the new warehouse is early 2024. Feel free to make donations towards the new warehouse at www.gleanings.org.



"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

~2 Corinthians 9:8

Colombia Movements of Grace

"We have a dream to make our own soup mix right here in Colombia!" It was October 2019 in a small upstairs office in Bogota, Colombia. Fritz Meier and Andy Rotunno sat listening to **Julian Camargo** share a vision for the future. "Yes, we want to import containers of **Gleanings** soup mix to minister to Venezuelan migrant families, as well as the needy people of Colombia," Julian continued. "We also believe that we, the Colombian church, can work together to rescue wasted food in Colombia and make a healthy soup mix here, to help us share the love of Christ."



The small team traveled around the country meeting dedicated missionaries and suffering migrant families. At the time, in the wake of so much need and so many challenges, the dream of a Colombian soup mix seemed impossible. Two years later, in fall 2021, Julian and his wife Doris came to **Gleanings** for two months to see how everything worked. A very resourceful, high-achieving couple with many gifts and talents, they took what they learned here, went back to their home country, and got to work, networking and establishing their own product, which they called **Mezcla de Sopa**.

"I met on video calls with the team from Colombia, Movements Of Grace," Andy said. "They were serious about the project and wanted to know

everything. On the call, project leader Juliana Castillo asked many questions. How does **Gleanings** do it? What's your recipe? Where do you get the ingredients? How do you package the soup? Would **Gleanings** allow us to use this knowledge to create our own product? Yes, of course, we bless you. The soup mix is God's idea, not ours," Andy said. "The most important thing you need to know about the **Gleanings**' way of producing food is that we walk by faith, trust God for everything we need, and commit to send the food with the gospel!" to which they replied, "Amen."

A few years later the dream was fulfilled. On June 22, 2023, **Gleanings** received word that the first batch of Colombian **Mezcla de Sopa** (soup mix) was complete!



Continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Colombia and Venezuela. Pray for the faithful churches and missionaries who are serving the poor and persevering with the God-given dreams they have to minister the love of Christ to people in great need.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Dear Newsletter Reader,

Our staff enjoyed a well-deserved break after the summer season. Now we are back at work for our fall soup season. Our DTS (Discipleship Training School) started on September 22nd. We believe the Lord will do a miraculous work in the students' lives according to His divine plan for each one. There is a lot of excitement among our staff as we have a several new staff who have joined us and a few more in the process of coming. Our fall theme is "called". We will explore the meaning of God inviting us into His redeeming work to reconcile us and the world with Himself. We are excited to grow in Him and to share our personal testimony of how we heard Jesus call us by name and how He brought us to Gleanings. Every staff has a God story to share of how they ended up here!

Thanks for your love and support. May the Lord bless you.

Fritz Meier

