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GLEANINGS FOR THE HUNGRY

A Ministry of Youth With A Mission

NOVEMBER
2023



WELCOME BRYN BAKER

LIFESTYLE OF COMPASSION

"I started coming to *Gleanings* when I was 12. After my first trip to *Gleanings*, I started to grow into a lifestyle of compassion. Coming here from a young age was a part of developing that lifestyle."

Bryn Baker, from Santa Cruz, California, joined full-time staff in September 2023 after ten years of serving as a volunteer in the peach plant and soup plant. She is our youngest staff member at just 22 years old.

"A lot of the key points in my faith journey happened here," Bryn said. "When I was 15, I saw everything happening at Love Feast. I was sitting there taking it all in and I was thinking, this

is real, this is factual. It won't go away. It is steadfast. God is steadfast. Two years later, I was baptized in the *Gleanings* pool on a Saturday morning. I was filled with joy at the end of a great week serving the Lord."

The next step for Bryn was to serve on Summer Staff, where she served on the Empowerment Team, worked in the peach plant as the production manager, and continued to develop the structure of the production team. After praying and looking at all the options on the YWAM website, Bryn decided to do her DTS in Romania in 2021-22 with outreach in Romania.

Bryn loves working with people, helping out with kids programs and youth programs, teaching a theater class, and serving at her church, Vintage Faith in Santa Cruz, where she worked as a barista in the church coffee shop.

In the summer, she came back to *Gleanings*. "Summer 2022 was really hard," Bryn said. "I was learning to set boundaries between work and rest. However, summer, 2023, God blew my expectations out of the water. The team was so incredible. So many people had the strength of responsibility. They had

intuition to know what to do to help. Being far enough from the crazy, hectic season gave me clarity on how to step back from work and set strong boundaries around work. I believe this was a way of God saying, Hey, it's time to join staff.

Bryn will continue to lead peach production in the summers and serve as assistant manager in the soup plant the rest of the year. Her favorite verse is Psalm 1:1-3, which says, "Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers."

Welcome Bryn!

Please go to gleanings.org/staff-support-gallery to support Bryn Baker as she devotes her entire life to serving the Lord and feeding the hungry.

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING SCHOOL - 2023



The DTS "*Called and Equipped*" began in September with special guest speakers Donna Jordan, who teaches Listening to God, and Joe Ferrante, who teaches The Father Heart of God. The group of students is young, enthusiastic, and passionate. Thank you for your prayers for this team that will go out into the nations to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

DTS STAFF: ELIANE ERICKSON,
BRITTA JONES, ERIC & BEV MCCALLUM,
STEPHANIE GOEI

STUDENTS: NIKS MALS, MADALYN GERIG, HANNAH PRINCE,
EMILY WARRINGTON, NATE HOPSON, KERRIANNA DRIVER, HARLEY HICKS,
REBEKAH & HARLEY SADLER (BABY JAMIE),
TAYLOR MATTHEWS (RILEY AND TYLER), TIM MACKAY

Visit with Canadian Partners



Ron Wagner (former *Gleanings* staff member, 1997-2007) invited Fritz Meier and I (Andy Rotunno) to fly up to Saskatchewan, Canada and visit the farmers who donate peas and lentils to the *Gleanings* soup mix production. Each of us went separately for ten days, Fritz in June and Andy in July. What a privilege to meet so many of our donating farmers face to face. As we drove around the beautiful golden province, I realized that we are not merely individuals working for charitable business connections, but we are communities collaborating together to save lives in the name of Jesus. What an encouragement it was to see how expansive the Body of Christ is, and how the Lord has brought us together from across the nations to bring the hope of Christ to so many.



First we visited Hutterite colony farms. These unique communities are so family-oriented, hard-working, hospitable, and generous. Their leaders agree to give truckloads of product to *Gleanings* each year. When we were there, they invited us into their homes for coffee or a farm fresh meal. They gave us extensive tours of kitchens, vast gardens, shops, and new construction sites. Once we were invited to stay overnight in the colony and spend the evening singing praise and worship together with families. It was such a blessed time, and we were so excited to invite them to come visit *Gleanings* one day.



We also visited one of our main grain processing partners, Simpson Seeds. We met with their administrative team and shared stories about the impact of the lentils. Jordan, the general manager, said that *Gleanings* is a perfect fit because we are aligned with the company's core values. Mr. Simpson shared that *Gleanings* is a missional extension of Simpson Seeds' vision, which is to "nourish the world." It was easy to see that Simpson Seeds is not just a business, but a community. They have processed millions of pounds of lentils on *Gleanings*' behalf.

Finally, we visited a small church in a tiny town, invited by good friends (and donating farmers) Kent and Darla Pierce. During the service, I shared about children whose lives were saved because of the *Gleanings* food—peas and lentils grown in their fields. They asked us to stay for an additional question-and-answer time. Farmers in the church promised to give truckload volumes to *Gleanings* no matter what the coming harvest looks like.



From the rural fields of Saskatchewan to the small town of Dinuba and the many remote nations of the world where *Gleanings* food is served on a daily basis, communities that love Jesus are committed to feed the needy of the world physically and spiritually. We are one in Christ.



Director's Corner

Dear Friend, *Gleanings* is a community of grace. We do not operate like a business, but like a family. Every staff member is called to this family, not primarily to work but to walk with Jesus and to know Him intimately. As we pursue Jesus, He is equipping and anointing us to do the work. There is so much purpose in following the call of God. It feels like a piece of heaven invading earth. We are nothing special, but Jesus sees value in using us, which is remarkable. He is building His kingdom. We are privileged and excited to co-labor with Him and send out millions of meals to the hungry. To God be the glory.

Thank you for being in alignment with our mission. We treasure the relationship with all of God's family!

Blessings,

Fritz Meier