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**GLEANINGS  
FOR  
THE HUNGRY**  
a ministry of youth with a mission

20  
24  
OCTOBER



## UGLY FRUIT CO. INSPIRED BY GLEANINGS

Ben Moore, founder of *Ugly Fruit Co.*, started his company in Farmersville after visiting *Gleanings for the Hungry*. “Andy gave me a tour of *Gleanings* in 2019, which was very formative in my early

ideation of what *Ugly* could be,” Ben said. “My original idea was to put the wasted fruit to use, preserve it, and use it for disaster relief. The more I learned about *Gleanings*, though, the more I realized that my idea was already being done right here in our backyard, which was awesome. I realized I could still have a meaningful impact by working to address a different market in need and help provide healthy dried stone fruits in supermarkets across the US. Andy was very open with me about the challenges *Gleanings* experiences, like capital and manpower, so I realized then that I could have a parallel impact in the for-profit side of business by gathering investment to build out processing infrastructure that could support the drive to prevent food waste at our local farms.

I’m a farmer myself, and I really believe in the good that comes from producing food for people of all types across the world. With that said, *Gleanings* takes that concept to such a special level. The fruit is initially useless and unwanted, but with the hard work and love invested by the staff and volunteers, the lowliest piece of fruit ends up in the hands of people who need it most. It’s the present-day version of Jesus feeding the crowd with a loaf of bread and a fish. He made something special out of almost nothing.

If you’ve ever spent a minute with the staff at *Gleanings*, you know that they will brighten your day immediately. That was the most meaningful part of the recent visit from Andy, Jesse, Bryn, and Andrew in June. They really made my day and reminded me of how great life is when you share it with pure-hearted people. It’s easy to get caught up in the day-to-day slog of work, but I was really reenergized by how excited the team was to see our facility for the first time. It was nice to share some ideas and processes that might be helpful to the team. We have a lot of modern tech and shiny equipment in our facility, but I really wanted to remind the *Gleanings* team that they are doing something truly special. An old peach pitter and a new one do the same work when you treat the fruit with love. *Gleanings* and *Ugly* are walking down parallel roads in life, and someday I know our paths will intersect in a very meaningful way.”



## LIVING BY THE SPIRIT

Our fall theme at *Gleanings for the Hungry* is Led by the

Holy Spirit. Galatians 5:25 says, “Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives.” This is also the theme for the Discipleship Training School that begins on September 22. We look forward to welcoming new students and volunteers to serve God and learn more about following the Holy Spirit in every area of their lives.

Throughout the fall, we will be studying the Gospel of John as a community and will hear testimonies from our staff about the Holy Spirit’s work in each person’s life. Come join us as we follow the Holy Spirit and feed the hungry people of the world both physically and spiritually.

## DONATED PEACHES DRIED FRUIT FOR THE HUNGRY

4,412 // Bins of peaches and nectarines processed

4,412,000 // Pounds of fresh fruit processed

255,081 // Pounds of dried fruit produced

1,020,324 // Servings of dried fruit produced

“. . . The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” ~1 Samuel 16:7

# COUNTRY REPORT: GUATEMALA HOPE OF THE NATIONS

*"In his name the nations will put their hope."*

Part II

Matthew 12:21



In this issue, we will take a closer look at a day in the life of missionaries in Guatemala as seen through the eyes of *Gleanings* staff members Andy and Chelsea Rotunno . . .



God surprised us (Andy and Chelsea) with a trip to Guatemala in July. We were so excited to stay with our friends Eric and Lisa of *Hope of the Nations* and meet the people who receive *Gleanings* soup mix. It was an honor to meet Billy, the driver for *Hope of the Nations*, who goes six days a week to deliver food to people in remote places. Three of these communities are Savana Grande, Las Llaves, and San Juan Mixtan.

JULY 10 // In Savana Grande, we helped make *Gleanings* soup mix for the local community. It was very hot in that tiny kitchen. Andy was excited to stir a big pot of soup over an open fire, like we had seen in photos from our ministry partners. While the soup cooked, the women taught me how to grind the soup mix into a flour to make it into a

sweet drink called "atol." Imagine that! The soup mix as a delicious breakfast drink, like Mexican hot chocolate.

JULY 11 // The next day, in Las Llaves, we handed out food and prayed with everyone who would join us. With Billy translating, Andy explained the ministry of *Gleanings*, saying, "There are people who love you and send this food for you. This food is given to you in the name of Jesus." Their eyes were wide and filled with wonder as they said, "Please tell them, 'Thank you so much!' and 'Please keep sending more!'"

JULY 12 // The final day of our trip, we visited people who live in a cemetery. Billy taught them how to cook soup mix. Andy showed them how to use a bit of a dry shrub instead of plastic as kindling for the fire. "We ran out of food this morning," the mother said. "We had nothing left!" God's timing is perfect.



The whole time we had an overwhelming feeling that these people were the celebrities of *Gleanings*. How could they ever understand that? God's love for them is the reason we

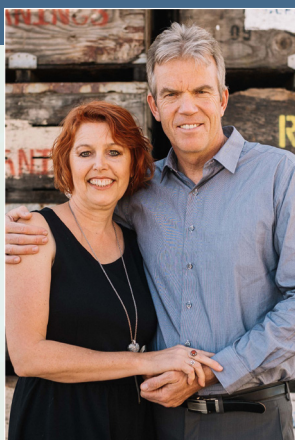
do what we do. The past eight years of our lives — giving up our jobs, moving our family, training young leaders, hosting volunteers, attending food and agriculture shows, networking



with farmers in Canada, organizing the shipping of containers across the country and overseas — for this very purpose, this very moment: to see them lighting a fire underneath a pot of water and learning about the love of Jesus. If we tried to explain it, they would not believe it. And for us, well, we can hardly believe it either. It doesn't make sense in this world. It only makes sense in the Kingdom of God.

Through the love of Christ, Eric and Lisa are building relationships with the people they serve. They are consistently showing up, learning the needs of the individuals, and helping whenever they can. We are so pleased to have wonderful ministry partners like *Hope of the Nations Guatemala*.

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER



*"Once your life was full of sin's darkness, but now you have the very light of our Lord shining through you because of your union with him. Your mission is to live as children flooded with his revelation-light!" ~Ephesians 5:8*

It's very clear that we cannot live in the light and in the darkness at the same time. Living in the light means living in Jesus, being imitators of Him. It's fun to write about all the highlights and accomplishments we achieve, but a lot of growth happens in the raw places of our lives where we wrestle with our inability to be perfect for God and people. *Gleanings* is a great place to serve in a community of imperfect people that love God and each other. It's like a greenhouse to grow closer to God and make amazing friends. I hope you can make it this fall and join us in one of our workplaces to bless a hurting world.

Blessings to all of you.

*Fritz Meier*