

P.O. Box 309
Sultana, CA 93666
Phone (559) 591-5009
Fax (559) 591-5036
info@gleanings.org
www.gleanings.org



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



**ANOTHER WONDERFUL YEAR TO SERVE THE LORD!
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



MISSION BUILDER SPOTLIGHT:
KENT AND DARLA PIERCE

“**God’s Supply Chain Miracle**” is the phrase we use to describe how everyone in our supply chain is giving generously to make **Gleanings** a successful ministry. It begins with the farmer, his fields and crops, and then goes to processors who clean the grains, trucking companies who haul the product, the supporters who give time, money and resources to **Gleanings**, the volunteers who pack the product, the donors who pay for overseas shipping, and the missionaries who receive, cook, and distribute the food. It is accomplished in faith and devotion to Jesus all along the supply chain, miracle after miracle of generosity and obedience.

Kent and Darla Pierce are farmers from Saskatchewan, Canada who have participated in multiple links of the supply chain miracle: they grow peas and lentils and devote a portion of their crops to **Gleanings**, give their time and talent here once a year, and go on mission trips to distribute food.

On Growing — Half of the Pierce’s Farm is durum, a pasta wheat that makes semolina flour. One fourth of their land is canola seed, and the other fourth is a rotation of pulses: peas, lentils, or chickpeas, sometimes rotating in flax, soybeans, or sunflowers. “We crop 3,700 acres of dry land,” Kent said. “We rely on rain alone. You could make more money doing other things, but you are a farmer because you love it. You love being your own boss and making your own decisions.”

On Giving — “I just think, ‘To whom much is given, much is expected,’” Kent said. “In the farming community, I can be an example. I want to contribute to something greater than just buying more stuff. Something bigger than my own life.” Darla added, “We have more than we need. God taught us the importance of tithing, and from that we learned more and more about generosity. He has made that evident in our lives. The more we get, the more we are excited to be able to give. God is going to give you more so that you can be more generous. We have been really blessed, and that is what makes us want to go to places like Haiti and see the peas and lentils go to people who really need it.”

On Going — “Coming to **Gleanings** is a season we have each year, a season of serving,” Darla said. “We

look forward to it. It’s definitely a highlight of our year. Kent is always thinking about that part, looking at his peas as we seed them, watching them grow, and anticipating the harvest. We think about how part of it is going to feed the hungry.”

“I enjoy being around people who just give everything,” Kent said. “When I hang around people like that, generous people, I enjoy it. That’s what it’s like to be at Gleanings. The staff have given up careers and financial security to serve the Lord. And it’s normal to have miracles every day here.”

Kent and Darla went to **Mission of Grace** in Haiti in 2015, and Kent went again with his son in 2018. “Our goal all along was to go from growing the crop to handing it out,” Kent said. “Serving, going, hands on. When we were in Haiti, we got to see a glimpse of the difference the food makes.”

God’s Abundance — We are so thankful for Kent, Darla, their family, and all the farmers who give so generously from the work of their hands. We are so thankful for the volunteers who love to serve the Lord, and who treat us like family. And we are so thankful for those who go with the food to share the love of Christ. As the **Gleanings** motto states, it is God’s abundance that fulfills our need.

Gleanings for the Hungry

**2024 Wrap-Up
Numbers At a Glance**



Total Number of
Countries

18



Total Pounds of
Food Shipped

2,443,885



Total Servings of
Food Produced

13,836,599



*The gospel is bearing
fruit and growing
throughout the whole
world - just as it has
been doing among you
since the day you heard
it and truly understood
God’s grace.*

— Colossians 1:6

COUNTRY REPORT: ESWATINI



Heart for Africa, a US and Canada-based non-profit, has four pillars on which their mission keeps focus: Hunger, Orphans, Poverty, Education, and the acronym spells out the word HOPE. **Heart for Africa's Project Canaan** started after Janine Maxwell saw first-hand the children living in the dumps in Africa. She and her husband, Ian, closed their successful marketing business in Canada and moved to Eswatini. By faith, they bought property and built a ranch where they have a home for abandoned children, a school for the education initiative, and gardens for vegetables, hen-houses for eggs, and a dairy for milk—all to care for the now 428 kids, the 485 employees and their families, and people in the surrounding communities.

Hope Lives Here — We are honored to be mentioned in Janine Maxwell's book *Hope Lives Here* as an answer to prayer for food in 2020 when other sources of food came to a halt. Janine writes, "Where would we get food when the children needed it more than ever? Voila! The Lord provided more food! Our volunteer nurse, Rebekah, told us about an organization called **Gleanings for the**

Hungry in California and she reached out to them to see if they could help. Within a few weeks, they had a 40-foot container of dried beans and dried soup mix (filled with pasta, rice, and dried vegetables [and pulses] of all kinds on a shipping container to Eswatini, with another one on route only three months later."

Giving Food in the Name of Jesus — Mike, who works for **Heart for Africa**, just returned from a visit to **Project Canaan**, which is still home to founders Ian and Janine and their 428 adopted children. When Mike was there, his group visited a go-go (grandmother) in the community who was caring for her own three grandchildren as well as six other children who had no families. Mike said, "When we put the food at her feet, she started crying. She said, 'Jesu, Jesu, Jesu!' She was thanking God for the answered prayer for the food."

Gleanings Food in Eswatini — "Our partnership with **Gleanings** is immense because it really starts with food," Mike said. "We can go so much further than our gates when we have food from organizations like **Gleanings**. Our drivers visit

30 churches around the country delivering food packs, which include soup mix. The dried fruit goes to the kids at **Project Canaan**. It's a great snack, and they add it to porridge for a peaches-and-cream oatmeal, which is really nutritious for babies. They especially love the oats, beans, soup mix, and dried fruit."

Prayer Requests — **The Project Canaan** community is grieving after the deaths of several loved ones. Please pray for everyone who is affected. Please also pray for the pastors who are distributing food to their communities. One pastor requests prayer for the teenagers: that they will abstain from drugs and alcohol and find pleasure in Christ alone. Please also pray for the **Gleanings** container that shipped to Eswatini this month.

Experience Eswatini — Heart for Africa is actively recruiting people to join the "Experience Eswatini" program in 2025. Participants will be able to do homestead visits, church feeding visits, and Vacation Bible School for kids. If you are interested or would like more information, please visit heartforafrica.org.

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. — Colossians 1:13-14

Director's Corner



A very happy new year to all our dear **Gleanings** partners. Our Discipleship Training School (DTS) is heading out to Peru in the beginning of January for their outreach. We consider it a privilege to disciple the students who come to our Gleanings DTS. At the same time, we are continually challenged to live as disciples ourselves. Our authority comes from a lifestyle that practices what we teach. Joel chapter 2 talks about the last days and how God will pour out His spirit on all men and women. I don't know how close we are to the last days, but I think God is empowering us with His spirit for the special work of the end time because He wants to bring in a harvest of souls before He returns. Let's be expectant in 2025! Let's not get distracted by the world and what it has to offer. Jesus is coming back, and we will be like the brides with the extra oil in their lamps ready for His return. May you be blessed in 2025 with opportunities to share God's love in your place of influence.

Fritz Meier