

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

2025
FEBRUARY

BLESSINGS OF HOPE

OUR PARTNER MINISTRY
FEEDING THE HUNGRY AND SHARING
THE LOVE OF GOD

Blessings of Hope is a nonprofit organization in Leola, Pennsylvania that partners with *Gleanings* to send surplus food to hungry people. A sign on their wall states: "Food is our tool. Helping people experience God is our goal."

Gleanings first connected with *Blessings of Hope* in 2023. "We had so many truckloads of pasta donated all at once," Warehouse Manager Jesse Correll said. "Sometimes we are offered more than we need. We love to share those excess donations with other food ministries." Andy Rotunno, director of distribution, reached out to *Blessings of Hope*, and they eagerly accepted several truckloads of pasta. Taking the 1,000-pound boxes of noodles, volunteers at Blessings repackaged it into smaller bags to give out to ministry partners.

Jesse and Elisabeth Correll visited *Blessings of Hope* in January 2025. While touring the facility, they learned that an estimated 80 billion pounds of food is wasted in the United States per year. *Blessings* accepts surplus food from supermarkets, farmers and distribution centers who would otherwise throw the excess food away. "A lot of food banks can't accept food in bulk," said founder, Aaron Fisher. "We use volunteers to help package food into smaller quantities that churches can handle."

Blessings of Hope is now working with *Barnabas Aid*, (another *Gleanings*' Partner) to dehydrate fresh vegetables and create a nine-ingredient soup mix. Through trial and error, employees



at *Blessings* have been learning how to dehydrate zucchini, peppers, sweet potatoes, kale, and more. Some of this soup mix has gone to Cuba, Haiti, and Guatemala---places where people are desperate for food.

The similarities between *Gleanings* and *Blessings* are many. Both *Gleanings*' founder, Wally Wenge, and *Blessings*' Founder, Aaron Fisher, saw a need and saw food waste. They innovated to redirect the goods to hungry people. This is the heart of Jesus, calling His disciples to meet the needs of our brothers and sisters in a variety of ways. "If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?" James 2:14-16. Thank you, *Blessings of Hope*, for sharing our vision: sharing the love of God through the gift of food.

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." ~ Galatians 6:9

DTS LEAVES FOR OUTREACH TO PERU AND NICARAGUA



The *Gleanings* DTS team arrived safely in Peru in early January. They are excited to serve the Lord, share the gospel, and experience faith in a new way. Team members *Benjamin*, *Emerson*, *Emily*, and *Roy*, along with staff members *Bev*, *Eric*, and *Stephanie*, will join *YWAM Ica* for a month of ministry in Peru. This will include VBS, home visits, speaking engagements, soup mix distribution, and practical help with projects at the YWAM base. The shipment of soup mix arrived just in time for the team to be able to access the pallets designated for outreach. After their month in Peru, the team will travel to Nicaragua to reach out to people in desperate need of food and the hope of Jesus.

"This is such a high-quality group," DTS Director Eliane Erickson said. "They are amazing, and passionate about the work of the Lord. It will be exciting to see how they develop their giftings of leadership on outreach. They will get to put into practice what they learned in the lecture phase of the DTS. I know they will be a blessing wherever they go."

Thank you for joining us in prayer for the safety and effectiveness of our beloved team. May they experience many blessings and miracles as they serve the Lord overseas.

COUNTRY REPORT

UNITED STATES / NORTH CAROLINA

Update from the recent shipment of 230 quilts to North Carolina.

According to *Viki*, who is part of the supply distribution team at her church in the Asheville area of North Carolina, the communities hit the hardest by the hurricane disaster were the low-income Hispanic communities. Relocation options were limited. For the elderly, disabled, and handicapped people, it was not an option to move 2-3 hours away to temporary apartments in Tennessee. People who stayed in the Asheville area are either living in tents or small structures the size of sheds.

“I took the quilts to the area most impacted, the Asheville region, to families who fully lost their homes,” *Viki* said. “I gave them to the elderly, handicapped, widows, all low-income people who lost everything.”

Her church team learned of the need for blankets when they began their relief efforts. “Our church brought meals, washbasins for dishes, drinking water. When we came to the doors, some people were already crying. When they opened the door, it was complete darkness inside. They had no water and no power. They had no shower because the showers were outside in the cold with no privacy. They asked us for blankets. No blankets were available because the store shelves were empty of blankets—they had all been purchased by relief organizations. That was when we started asking for donations of blankets, and *Gleanings* responded.”

Meanwhile, *Norma, Nancy, and all the quilt room volunteers* at *Gleanings* were busy producing as many as 40 quilts per week for the upcoming shipment. Soon they had 230 large and small quilts packed and ready to ship across the



country. All *Gleanings* needed was to find a good price on shipping. We wanted to find a shipping company that would join us in the spirit of generosity. Andy reached out to a faithful partner that had helped us in the past, Oak Harbor Freight Lines, and they charged only \$350 to deliver the quilts door-to-door, which is only a third of the market price.

“It was amazing timing,” *Viki* said. “The shipment of blankets from *Gleanings* arrived right before Christmas. The first thing we did was take those blankets to the people who had requested them. The kids who received the small quilts were so happy. We also brought them to elderly and disabled residents in the low-income housing facility. They asked where did these come from? My daughter told them how Jesus sent the quilts--all the way from California!”

A MAN REAPS WHAT HE SOWS

Our new year started with a time of staff devotions, prayer, and reflection, meditating on Galatians 6:7-11 and asking God to speak to our spirits about the seeds we will plant in 2025. For some of us, there will be seeds of faith, forgiveness, passion. For others, there will be seeds of reading the Bible, selflessness, reaching out to loved ones we haven't heard from in a while. What seeds will you plant in 2025? We pray that you will not grow weary in doing good but instead you will experience the joy of the harvest at the proper time.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Dear Gleanings Friends and Volunteers,

Coming into this new year, we have been contemplating scriptures about sowing seeds and harvesting. Sometimes we think with the end in mind having certain expectations of how things will turn out. Well, when we look at it that way, we will have to sow specific seeds to get the right harvest. One of our desires as a community is to be people of radical faith in Jesus, and to be unwavering in His call to serve the poor and needy. To grow in this radical faith, we need to trust Jesus, to pray, and to listen to Him. Every day is a beautiful day to walk with Him and to trust Him. We are looking forward to growing in trust and we hope you will join us this spring right here at Gleanings.

May the Lord bless you.

Fritz Meier