

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

July 2026

SUMMER STAFF DIRECTOR



Sebastian Flores considers it an honor and privilege to serve as Summer Staff Director this dried fruit season while Andy Rotunno is on sabbatical. For over eleven years Sebastian's family has been volunteering here and several of his siblings have also been a part of the Summer Staff program. Sebastian's heart is for each Summer Leader to know Christ deeper. *"The work, the peaches, the connections-- that's all important, but the most important thing is that each leader would leave **Gleanings** changed, knowing Jesus more."* Preparation for his role included weeks of training, studying spreadsheets, phone calls, and a lot of prayer. *"I love seeking the Lord for small things and big things. Launch Week was an incredible time of bonding as a team. It was an opportunity for me to share my heart with our leaders. I look forward to seeing all God does through them as they become vulnerable and overcome challenges this summer."* Please continue to pray for Sebastian and each Summer Leader as they grow in their walk with the Lord. A meaningful passage of scripture for him is from John: *"I am the true vine, and my father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You already are clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you."* (John 15: 1-4)

Thank you for serving the Lord so well at Gleanings, Sebastian!

NEW QUILT ROOM COMPLETED

Our new quilt room building passed inspection and was ready to be occupied on May 21. For years, staff member Norma Gove and many others have desired to see the quilt room in a permanent location. Every May we had to pack up the entire quilt room, put all supplies in storage, and transform that space into a dorm. This will no longer be the case. Our quilt room can now be used year-round. We are grateful for the many volunteers who have labored for hours, weeks, and months to make the building both functional and beautiful. A special thank you to staff members Al Gove and Emerson Batson who designed, planned, and built to turn this dream into a reality. On average, about 900 quilts are stitched every year. May the quilting ministry continue to flourish and lead many more people to know Jesus as they wrap themselves in these blankets of love.



Evelyn Ruth Wiebe

March 5, 1937 - May 11, 2026

If you volunteered with us between 2003 and 2020 you knew Evelyn as an energetic, hard-working, conscientious woman who joyfully interacted with everyone. She served at the soup plant and quilt room, then in her later years became **Gleanings'** mail lady. Cindy's mom Evelyn began to volunteer when Fritz and Cindy Meier, our current directors, joined **Gleanings'** staff. *"Working at **Gleanings** changed my life, gave me purpose and my own ministry."* In 2013 she moved into her park model home on base. Dementia slowly took away Evelyn's ability to work, but she continued to enjoy living in **Gleanings** community under Fritz and Cindy's care until December 2023. We miss Evelyn but rejoice that she has graduated to her eternal home with Jesus. If you would like to join us for Evelyn's memorial service on July 18 contact Cindy at cindy@gleanings.org. In lieu of flowers, donations can be given in her memory to **Gleanings For The Hungry** or **God's Plan Orphanage**, a ministry in Haiti, through **Gleanings**.

CUBA FOOD REPORT



"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." - Colossians 3:17

God is at work through the mission of **Gleanings For The Hungry** in the country of Cuba. In May, **Jesse Correll** visited several churches across the island of Cuba with **Gleanings'** partner, **Mission Esperanza**. As a team, they were able to strengthen relationships with pastors and churches who receive **Gleanings'** soup mix.

Church Growth Despite Economic Challenges

Despite economic challenges and government control, the church in Cuba is growing. Praise God! In Guanajay, pastors transport soup to neighbors in buckets, calling each person by name as the food is handed out. "When the translator started to talk about **Gleanings** soup mix, the mood changed in the room. The faces of the people were sincere with joy and excitement. They know how this soup mix has made an impact," said Jesse. Against all odds, churches are growing in this region. Multiple reports were given that new churches have sprung up, and existing

churches are receiving new members. When the government can't provide enough, the church is providing hope through soup.

Feeding Physically and Spiritually

Each of the churches visited by **Mission Esperanza** has a feeding ministry, feeding 80-200 people several times a week. "The soup feeding ministry is not just physically nourishing, but also spiritually nourishing," said Pastor Alexander from a region called La Fe.

It's difficult for elderly people to wait in line to collect their government food rations. Many Cuban "ancionos" (seniors) fall through the cracks. One woman received food after multiple days of having nothing to eat. She had a vision of people coming with "manna from heaven." Then it happened. Pastor Arturo said people have begun to receive the words of the gospel, because they feel like the church is living out the gospel, instead of it being simply words.



Meeting Needs in Cuba

The heart of **Gleanings** is to live out the gospel in word and deed, as well. There are abundant ways to partner with churches in Cuba. As feeding programs expand, the gospel message is being introduced in new areas where it was previously unavailable. **Gleanings** is looking into future possibilities of connecting quilt room products and peaches to Cuba, in addition to soup mix. Thank you for praying that God would continue to meet the needs of the people of Cuba, physically and spiritually.

Director's Corner



Another summer fruit season is in full swing. Once again, we stand in awe of God's goodness and faithful provision. Just a few months ago we gathered around a whiteboard carefully listing every position and need required for a successful season. Time after time the Lord has answered those prayers—providing exactly what we need.

Today, we are grateful to have a dedicated team of **Summer Staff and Mission Builders** who are serving faithfully and supporting the work here. Their willingness to give their time and energy makes it possible for us to continue producing fruit that will be shipped around the world. Our prayer this season is not only to increase the volume of fruit we send out, but also to see lives impacted. We ask that every volunteer would experience the joy of being a conduit of God's blessing to the nations.

We also pray that our pool would be used for more than just refreshment after a long day's work—that it would become a place of spiritual obedience where many choose to take the step of baptism as they serve here.

May the Lord guide and bless each one of you this summer.

Fritz Meier