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Gleanings

For The Hungry

A Ministry of Youth With A Mission

December 2019



This Christmas, friends of Gleanings are sponsoring 55 girls in an orphanage in Venezuela, sending toys, socks, and underwear. We are excited to partner with these saints in Venezuela and do whatever we can to help. You can see updates on Instagram.

@CasaHogarMuchasManosBejuma



Meier



Gove



Janbergs



Lawrence



Munro



Erickson



Ragains



Rotunno



Viernes



Ross



Piepmeier

Merry Christmas



Mamatkulov

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be upon His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end.

Isaiah 9:6&7

A Journey To Columbia - Part One

A Focus on Venezuelan Refugees

A small team from *Gleanings* travelled to Colombia in October to build connections with Colombian ministries that are helping support Venezuelan refugees. With thousands of refugees pouring across the border from Venezuela into Colombia each day, the border town of Cúcuta is teeming with desperate people who have been traveling for weeks.

Why Do Venezuelans Want to Leave Venezuela? Since 2014 Venezuela has been experiencing a historic economic collapse. Reports show the inflation rate has been approximately 19,000% annually and will continue to worsen. The country's infrastructure is failing, causing regular blackouts and loss of running water. Most people struggle to afford basic food if it is even available in the local markets. The government has blocked U.S. humanitarian aid.

Life for the average Venezuelan is growing more and more hopeless each day. Signs of desperation are increasing: children suffer from malnutrition, the elderly and shut-ins are abandoned as families flee the country, newborn babies are left in hospitals with no running water or electricity, and sometimes mothers choose to leave their newborn baby in a dumpster or on the side of the road. Many have said, "We are dying here!" Though most Venezuelans prefer to remain in their home country, they make the heartbreaking decision to leave, hoping for a better opportunity for daily survival and a brighter future for their children.

The Refugee Journey Through Colombia - Agencies report more than four million people have left Venezuela. Some estimate more than two million of those have walked into Colombia. The number of people leaving Venezuela is so great that the Colombian government and humanitarian organizations are bewildered and frustrated but doing their best to help. The droves of thousands have earned the name "los caminantes," the walkers.

As refugees arrive in Colombia, many need food, medicine, shoes, and other aid. Samaritan's Purse, among many other ministries, set up support stations in Cúcuta, a Colombian border city and focal point for Venezuelans crossing the border. They provide an information packet, including a postcard with locations of safe shelters (shelter pictured below) along the walking route from Cúcuta. This route goes over the Colombian Andes mountains—it is the main way to get to other cities in Colombia. But this journey is very difficult and dangerous for people travelling for days on foot, as the climate changes drastically as they go up to 13,000 ft. elevation.

Families are pulling rolling suitcases with broken wheels while their children are wearing t-shirts, shorts, and flip-flops. Traveling in groups makes the trip safer. Fatigue, fear, and tension build, even as organizations try to help along the way. Many are hoping the next cities will offer more opportunity. Some talk of walking all the way to Peru and Ecuador where a family member or friend may have a job for them. Imagine walking with your family from Los Angeles to Houston, Texas. In our next newsletter, we will share more of what our staff team experienced in Columbia and about *Gleanings'* response to the Venezuelan refugee crisis.



Director's Corner



Happy December our dear Gleanings friends!

We are wrapping up this year with grateful hearts. Our fall season was focused on making soup with our new equipment. Many adjustments came with the experience of running more product every day. We learned a lot as we packaged soup with our bagging machine and did the hand bagging at the same time. I believe we are in a position where we will send more food than ever in 2020. At the same time more requests are coming in from ministries around the world, allowing us to provide life-giving food and a message of hope to thousands in need.

December is always an amazing month of financial provision. We are planning to build a new building for single staff this coming year. Would you consider an end of the year donation to get us started in our building fund?

Thanks for investing with us into a treasure that cannot be stolen! Our service, prayer, and money are building a reward in heaven that will be amazing into eternity.

May the Lord bless you abundantly,

Fritz Meier