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Gleanings

For The **Hungry**
A Ministry of Youth With A Mission

January 2020

2019 Appreciation Dinner

The *Gleanings For The Hungry* community came together for the annual Appreciation Banquet in November. The banquet is one small way to say thank you to the large network of friends and ministry partners in Dinuba and the surrounding area who help the ministry in practical ways. For example, the local dairies and ranches that donate milk and meat, and the gentleman who works in pest control. Each person who does their part to help keep the ministry healthy is so important. We celebrated with a special dinner, dessert, and short videos from ministry partners.

This year's guest speaker was Christian Pinero from *5 Loaves & 2 Fishes*. Christian shared the story of how he started sending food into Venezuela to help his family members, only to find out that the need in Venezuela was so great that he had to do something more. Christian's ministry has grown, and we are honored to partner with him in his efforts to send soup mix and other donated food items to orphanages, elderly homes, and churches in Venezuela.

Fritz and Andy, who recently returned from a short-term mission trip to Colombia, gave an update on the Venezuelan refugee crisis in Colombia (see back page), and introduced the ministries who most recently partnered with *Gleanings* to receive the soup mix.

When we come together, we see the hand of God providing in huge ways. We appreciate you.



Directors Cindy & Fritz Meier



Volunteers Pete & Fran serving



Christian Pinero & Dan Barthold

I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ. —Philemon 1:6

Farewell to Roger Ambauen

Gleanings staff member, Roger Ambauen has moved back to his homeland, Switzerland. From 2017-2019, Roger served in many ways, from cooking meals and baking bread in the kitchen to trucking loads of peaches and campus improvement projects. Roger has served at *Gleanings* twice, having previously been on staff from 2000-2003.

"The Lord provided beyond my imagination," Roger said. "I enjoyed working with the different volunteers, getting to know all kinds of people. The Christian environment had many influences on me and my spiritual growth." The greatest gift he received from God during his season at *Gleanings* was the inner healing he experienced after his divorce. "Divorce cannot be the answer, but it is not the end of all things. Forgiveness brings healing, going forward and dealing with it with wisdom."

The local church was also very important for Roger's personal and spiritual growth while he was at *Gleanings*. "I also learned how important it was to have a community outside of the base," Roger said. He will miss his church family, and of course, he will be dearly missed. We thank God for Roger and pray God's blessings for him in this new season.



A Journey To Columbia - Part Two

A Focus on Venezuelan Refugees

Last October Sean Lawrence of **Giving Children Hope** met up with Fritz Meier, Andy Rotunno, and Andy's daughter Eliana in Cúcuta, Colombia to witness firsthand the migrants and their desperate journey. They hired a translator and rented a shuttle to assist some families on their migrant travels over the Andes mountains. It was a 6-hour drive, and a dangerous one too, with just two lanes, mountain roads, heavy traffic, and people on foot walking along the shoulder of the road at night in the fog. All along the way, people are calling on the Lord for help and mercy. Our team was able to give several families, 18 people in all, a safe and peaceful ride to the **Samaritan's Purse** refugee shelter at the top of the mountain in the town of Berlin. They also were able to pay for a few other groups to secure a bus ticket to the next major stop.

Throughout the trip, our team saw an extreme need, but also the positive impact of organizations like **Samaritan's Purse, The Red Cross, YWAM, OXFAM, and Hope for Venezuela**. These ministries and others are helping along the road. Hundreds of Colombian churches and other ministries are serving the Venezuelan migrants in a further attempt to meet their deeper needs of belonging, value, loving community, faith, and hope. The body of Christ is working to create a safe network, but there is an overwhelming need at this time.

What About Those Who Cannot Leave Venezuela? In Venezuela, the missionaries, volunteers, and church workers are doing everything they can to feed the hundreds of people in need in their communities. They are tempted to leave the country themselves; but instead, they stay and help with the crisis they cannot ignore. They ask for prayer for strength of heart. They are so thankful for **Gleanings'** partnership, sending food and doing work for the Lord.

Sending Food to Venezuela - You may be familiar with **Gleanings'** partner **5 Loaves & 2 Fishes** miracle. Christian is sending **Gleanings** food, box by box, to his sister and trusted friends in Venezuela in order to help his people. We are blessed to receive many photos of the soup mix (lovingly called Sopita de Dios, or Soup of God) as it is cooked and distributed by many organizations in Venezuela. They thank God and frequently send messages of thanks to **Gleanings** for sending soup mix, peaches, and other products.

Sending Food to Colombia - We are happy to report we will be sending a container to a new ministry partner in Colombia, **Pueblo De Dios Pueblo De Todos**, which will help many Christian ministries serve Venezuelan refugees. All glory and credit go to our Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ.



Director's Corner

Dear Friend,

What makes a place like **Gleanings** work? It is the people who are excited to be a part of the mission. We do not look at the ministry needs as something we have control over, but we are amazed at how God provides in His way. I believe the faith of our staff and volunteers brings a dependence on God and releases a presence of His Spirit here at **Gleanings** that is almost tangible. On a Friday morning a teenage boy gave a testimony about how he enjoyed cleaning bathrooms all week and said he wants to help more at home with the cleaning! God's presence is not just a good feeling at a service; God's love compels us to service, to acts of kindness. When we encounter God's love it looks like something. **Gleanings** is a ministry with people of God who have been touched by His love and want to pass on blessings to others. Why don't you join us in this new year? Give us a call or fill out a booking request on our website and we will have a great time serving together.

May the Lord bless you as only He can.

Fritz Meier

