



## Celebrating 2020 DTS Students



As we continue to invest in leaders, we see the exciting transformations and growth that happens when we “seek first His kingdom and His righteousness” together. The Discipleship Training School (DTS) was cross-generational with students from 18 to 80. Here are some reflections from the students who recently graduated.

Kacey: “DTS meant the world to me. I found a new family. I feel like I belong in life and that I have a purpose running after God. I’ve learned so much about myself and about God that I want to keep learning more and more.”



Ashton: “The DTS has meant everything to me. It has opened my eyes to the world, and it opened my eyes to Christians around me. DTS has grown me not only spiritually but also relationally. I got out of my comfort zone and I have been honest. It has made me realize that all those past goals and dreams I had can come true. God can do anything He wants in our lives, and He can mend any heart.”

Caleb: “DTS was extremely informative, renewing, and overall amazing. It was a time of getting to know God better and hearing from Him. I got a new wonderful family from DTS, close relationships and strong bonds. I love God and I love **Gleanings.**”



Elisabeth: “The lecture phase of DTS was truly a gift. I learned many new insights about the character and nature of God and the power of His word. I pondered familiar truths again and allowed them to root down deeper in my heart. I’m so thankful for the amazing speakers. Each of their testimonies and messages gave glory to God and encouragement to us as disciples of Christ.”

Eric and Bev: “DTS was a revealing: how much God loves us and how much He desires to have an intimate relationship with us. Our experience at DTS helped grow our hearts to match God’s heart for missions.”



Holly: “The DTS has helped me grow closer to God. I learned quite a bit of information that I can use now, and later in my life while witnessing to others. I also learned how to overcome some of my fears of public speaking through doing DTS.

**“He has given us His Spirit within us so that we can have the assurance that He lives in us and that we live in Him.”** 1 John 4:13



# A Change of Pace

Community life as well as food production at **Gleanings** has changed a lot in the past weeks. The worldwide COVID-19 crisis has brought a slow-down to our lives and our ministries. While sheltering in place is challenging for everyone, it is particularly tricky for the **Gleanings** community. The Lord has provided many ways for us to continue working during these trying times.

As a food-producing organization, **Gleanings** is deemed essential by the government and will remain open during this time. We praise God that we are still shipping food. Recent shipments include Swaziland, South Africa, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Colombia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, El Salvador, Philippines, and Chad. We have also sent food to local organizations including **White Memorial Hospital, Radiant Church Tulare, Open Gate Ministries, and Resort Ministries.**

We rejoice at how God provided for us in advance. Our food-grade bagging machine was in place and going strong at the exact time we needed it. We can still produce about one million servings of soup per week. The quilt room is now the face-mask room. We will have masks to distribute to local medical agencies or other organizations that have a need for masks. Another timely provision was for **Gleanings** staff to begin using a team communication platform just before the crisis began. When we realized we could no longer meet like normal we were able to open it to everyone on base. This has enabled us to stay in touch and be on the same page as a community in new ways while not all meeting together.

Al Gove said it well: "We were born for this time." Without our volunteers, the base is quiet and empty. However, because of your prayers and God's provision, the pallets remain full. What a privilege to serve God! May your heart be full of the love of Jesus.



Mobile Snack Service



New House Rules



## Director's Corner

If you read our newsletter regularly you might recall last month's article describing our DTS going on outreach to Colombia and Peru. Unfortunately, we had to cancel plans for that trip as travel restrictions came into effect amid the COVID19 virus. At first, we considered a local outreach in California with relief efforts among the population needing help in this crisis. Then those plans were canceled after the shelter in place order came from authorities. We graduated the students without outreach, which is an unprecedented exception from the University of the Nations because of the COVID19 circumstances. Most students went home to be with family. At **Gleanings**, we switched gears and prepared for life in pandemic **Gleanings** style! We realized loving each other means staying six feet away to protect everyone from the spread of this disease. Measures were discussed and agreed on and we now focus on producing food with our automatic bagging machine. Community life is missed but we are doing our mission, feeding the world both physically and spiritually. Requests from many places flood in as various non-profit volunteer programs in churches and other organizations have shut down. We feel privileged we can produce more than a container a week with our equipment and very few people. GOD PREPARED US FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS.

I hope and pray you are healthy and encouraged in the Lord. I believe God is using this time to reveal Himself in very special ways to so many and we are praying for a great harvest of people coming into the kingdom.

Love to you all,

**Fritz Meier**