



News from the Gleaners

OntarioGleaners.org

Summer – June 2016

Ontario Christian Gleaners

1550 Morrison Rd,
Cambridge, ON
N1R 5S2
(519) 624-8245

www.OntarioGleaners.org

Shelley Stone
OCG Manager

manager@ontariogleaners.org

Charitable # 85923 0476 RR0001



Follow us on
Facebook
[/OntarioGleaners](https://www.facebook.com/OntarioGleaners)

Ecuador

Quininde is a town on the coastal plain of Ecuador and we began to work in this city and surrounding area in 2002. Fifty percent of the 135,000 people living in this area are Afro-Ecuadorian. Of all the ethnic groups in Ecuador, this is the poorest in every sense of the word. Traditional family structures are non-existent, and domestic violence, alcoholism, drug addiction, gang activity, prostitution and abuse are all too common. The area lacks industry and a high percentage of unemployment underlies all the challenges that this population faces. The majority of the population do not have access to good basic education nor the resources for higher learning. Dr. Yeny and her family, members of the Grace Reformed Church in Quito, have a special connection to this area as her husband has a palm tree plantation nearby, and so began our relationship with the people here.



Our first outreach ministries in this area were to gather women together in the different communities around Quininde and begin Bible studies and micro industry projects. The Lord graciously blessed these efforts and these communities have been able to improve their living conditions and above all their spiritual relationship with God. There was much poverty and need in the rural areas, but the plight of the women and children in the city of Quininde itself was far more desperate as these ladies do not have plots of land on which to grow their food. We started a women's group in three of the poorest and most dangerous neighbourhoods. As the Lord began to save the women they became very concerned for their children and so they began working with the children on Saturdays teaching them the Bible stories. It soon became evident that the children needed much more attention. There was a lot of malnutrition and health issues, many were not in school and others suffered from daily abuse. With the support of *Word and Deed Canada*, we were able to start child sponsorship projects in each of these three communities, and we now work with 350 children and their families.

The project enables us to ensure all the children are enrolled in school, helping them with the needs of their uniforms and school supplies. The children come to our program where we have a meal prepared for them followed by a Bible study, learning songs, and memorizing Bible verses. After this the teachers help the children, reinforcing their school lessons and making sure all their homework is done well. Dr. Yeny gives them regular medical check-ups and we take care of medical needs that arise. Twice each week we work with the parents and caregivers, teaching them

 (next page)



Important Dates:

Open House Tours:

@ 10:30am on
June 2nd & 7th
August 12th & 16th
(Join us for a 45 minute
guided tour)

Closures:

Civic Holiday
Monday August 1st
Labour Day
Monday September 5th

Summer Maintenance Closure:

The Gleaners will be closed on Friday July 1st for summer maintenance and will reopen on Monday July 11th



(from front page) the Bible and also other life skills.

Last fall, Dr. Yeny and I were visiting Ontario with Word and Deed and we stopped by the Gleaners. We were so amazed with the organization and also the selfless volunteers who make this wonderful ministry possible. We took some bags of the soup back to Ecuador and taught the cooks in our projects how to make the soup. At first the cooks were a little anxious. They had never seen dehydrated vegetables before. We made a pot together and everyone loved the result. When the cooks realized how easy and versatile this was, they were thrilled. Each makes their own version and no matter what version they make, the children simply love it. The temperature on the coast is very hot and vegetable gardens don't do well in that heat. As a result very few of the children receive vegetables and grains in their diets. With the soup, they receive

everything they lacked.

This past February, a work team from Wyoming, Ontario, came to help us with the ministry here. They brought 100 more bags of the Gleaners soup mix for us. What a blessing!

Three weeks ago Ecuador suffered a strong earthquake. Though there was no damage at our projects, the towns next to us were severely affected. Dr. Yeny went to help out with the medical needs during the first weeks of rescue and she took some bags of the soup mix along to share with the people who had lost everything. The people were so thankful. We are presently looking into ways to have more soup sent to Ecuador for our ministry. Please pray that the Lord would open the doors so that we can import the soup. In the meantime, we would like to thank you and all your volunteers for such a wonderful ministry. May God bless you richly as you bless so many others around the world.

- Fred and Arlene Jonkman

Missionaries working in Ecuador for the past 18 years
Sent out by Grace Free Reformed Church in Brantford, ON



Gleaners food served in the Ukraine by the Masters Foundation




RIDE FOR REFUGE

**Bike (or Walk!) For Refuge
Join the Gleaners Team!**

When: Saturday October 1, 2016

What: 5km walk
10km, 25km or 50km ride to raise funds for organizations supporting the displaced, vulnerable & exploited

Where: Hamilton, Kitchener, Elmira, Niagara, London...

Who: You! And anyone else from 1 - 101

How: Come Ride or Walk with us!
Create a team or join one of our existing teams

*Over \$8000 was raised to support the work of the Gleaners in 2015.
Help us create awareness and raise funds for the 2016!*

For more information visit OntarioGleaners.org
(What's Happening/Events), email gleanerspromo@gmail.com
or call 519-624-8245

Having seen extreme poverty and hunger in Haiti during numerous trips some years back, I was immediately drawn to the Gleaners when it opened its doors in 2008. To make use of surplus food to feed those who are not able to feed themselves not only makes sense, but to do this in the name of Christ and out of obedience to Him is very humbling and satisfying. In the early start up days of the Gleaners we relied on a few volunteers with a pickup truck and trailer to transport the produce to our facilities a few skids at the time. My truck and trailer came in handy ...

The growth and changes at the OCG have been absolutely amazing. God's hand of blessing has provided just the right staff and volunteers with just the right talents and insights needed to make things happen. One could write a book on all the incremental changes and improvements made to the facilities and processes used to produce the food.

In addition to doing hands on tasks, such as sweeping the floor, warehouse duties, driving the truck and running the dryer when needed, I have had the privilege to serve on the board for seven years, most of that time as chairman. Next month I rotate off the board, but will continue as a volunteer and a member of the Food Distribution Committee.

Serving with board members, men and women who are spiritually mature, committed to the ministry of feeding the hungry and working side by side with staff and volunteers on the floor is an absolute joy. Working with staff who show initiative and motivation far beyond their job description is inspiring.

As a board and staff we recognize the importance of having a vision for the future. For that reason we have met every three years or so, along with a few key volunteers, for a time of Strategic Planning. Out of these meetings, among other matters, grew a desire to inspire others to initiate a 'Gleaners ministry' in their area, raise the profile of "Gleaning and Drying" in general and to initiate an "Association of Food Dryers" in Canada and beyond.

As we learn more about the enormous wasting of food on our planet we believe that much more can and must be done to make use of surplus foods. We need to look beyond what we do locally. The knowledge and experience acquired by the eight 'food drying' ministries in Canada, as well as a few in the USA, needs to be made available to the rest of the world.

We ask for your continued support and prayer as together we strive to be obedient to our God. - Ed Gringhuis

Isaiah 58:10. "If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed then your light will rise in the darkness and your night will become like the noonday."



Ed Gringhuis



Fundraising Dinner

Full House!

Our guests enjoyed a delicious dinner and dessert buffet, beautiful & inspirational music by Jay and Mark Pluim and powerful & informative presentations by our guest speakers and videos. Over \$33,000 was raised to support the work of the Gleaners. We are truly thankful.



'Variety's the very spice of life...'

English poet William Cowper (1731–1800) in *The Task* (1785)

Dried Vegetable Mix produced by Ontario Christian Gleaners is a healthy base for not only soups, but for rice-based casseroles, wraps, and meatless dishes. We are so grateful to our donors and volunteers who make these meals possible.

While thousands of school children, refugees, widows, and orphans are nourished regularly with our vegetable products and dried fruit snacks, we can all appreciate the opportunity for choice and variety.

As a registered charity, we have been delighted to receive donations of **Granola, nuts, dried berries, protein-packed beans, and cereals** as a healthy addition to accompany our main products. These items have allowed the Relief and Development organizations to be creative in their food preparation as they seek to provide much needed nourishment to the poor.

These supplies have been gleaned from food companies and manufacturers that have discovered an inaccurate label, surplus product, or are going through a product change. These specialty foods have been a big blessing to both the donor and the recipient. We would welcome more donations and contacts for similar bulk items.

Call 519-624-8245 or manager@ontariogleaners.org



With Joy, Shelley Stone



Tour the Gleaners!



We provide 1 hour guided tours of the Gleaners. Book a bus and make a day trip or carpool and meet in the Gleaners parking lot.

Contact us @ gleanerspromo@gmail.com or 519.624.8245.

Offsite speaking engagements are also available.

