



# News from the Gleaners

[OntarioGleaners.org](http://OntarioGleaners.org)

Winter – December 2016

## Ontario Christian Gleaners

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

[www.OntarioGleaners.org](http://www.OntarioGleaners.org)

**Shelley Stone**  
OCG Manager

[manager@ontariogleaners.org](mailto:manager@ontariogleaners.org)

Charitable # 85923 0476 RR0001



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## Zambia – Beautiful Feet Ministries

When one thinks of Zambia, an image of Victoria Falls on the mighty Zambezi River comes to mind. This river, however, is at risk of drying up as are many other rivers in Zambia. After three years of drought, many rivers are gone leaving behind sun-baked, cracked mud and an odd muddy water hole. Last year I saw over 100 hippos in one small depression of muddy water. This year, they could be dead.



Beautiful Feet Ministries has been working in Zambia with Pastors and churches, hospitals and orphanages for the past three years. In 2013, we discovered that many of the rural pastors did not have complete Bibles or study Bibles. Returning a year later with study Bibles, I realized the need for food too.

Zambia has had over 50 years of peace - one of the few countries to gain independence from the Commonwealth without war. In recent years, Zambia, along with other African nations, has been hit hard by AIDS, with thousands of children being orphaned, having watched their parents die. Then came the drought. Zambia has seasonal rains. They plant crops and harvest in concert with these seasons. But the rains, that they depend on, have stopped. Along with that, the hydropower production has dropped, resulting in electrical black outs or brown outs.

The drought caused a shift in Zambia's position from an exporter of corn, to an importer of corn. This has raised the price of corn and has left the rural farmers in a food shortage. While corn is very low in protein, it serves as their staple food. Peas, beans and grain supply their protein, as very few people have meat to supplement their diets.

I heard about the Ontario Christian Gleaners' ministry at a presentation at our church. After receiving more information, an application was completed for Beautiful Feet to receive dehydrated soup mix for Zambia. The people of Zambia normally do not eat soup, so we have had to find a way to serve this protein-rich product. They rehydrate the soup mix into a very thick vegetable stew and serve it with their "nshima", a corn meal, boiled dough that is rolled in the hand and then scooped in the cooked vegetable mix.

*Continued* ➔

### Important Dates:

#### Open House Tours:

@ 10:30am on  
December 8<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>  
January 13<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>  
February 7<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>  
(Join us for a 45 minute  
guided tour)

#### Closures:

Family Day – Monday  
February 20<sup>th</sup>

#### Christmas Shutdown:

Saturday December 24<sup>th</sup> –  
Sunday January 8<sup>th</sup>  
We will reopen on  
Monday January 9<sup>th</sup>

#### Fundraising Dinner

Friday April 21<sup>st</sup> @ the  
Waterloo Region Police  
Association. Reservation  
info coming soon!



(continued from front page...)

One of the orphanages to which we have supplied soup mix to, has 3,000 orphans in various locations across Zambia. I have met the director, who is very credible and have visited some of the orphanage locations and met some of the children. I do not take for granted the hours of labour or cost that it takes to make this soup mix and I want to ensure that it is given to those in dire need, and not sold or wasted. Food security is always on the mind of those in charge of the orphanages that receive the soup mix.

In addition to the several orphanages that we have supplied, soup mix is also given to hospitals in the rural areas where the family of the patient must supply the meals. When the family has no food, neither do the sick and injured. Healing is then slow. Gleaners have supplied much needed food for these patients.



In times of need, people often turn to Pastors and churches. Pastors have been given this soup mix to disperse to people in need or to cook it and serve it to those affected by the drought.

In Canada, food is taken for granted. The soup mix from Gleaners always gets a THANK YOU when handed out in Zambia. Over and over, the gratefulness and thankfulness is shown and expressed and now, I pass this message along to Gleaners – THANK YOU!

- Clair Ziolkowski  
Beautiful Feet Ministries,  
Saskatoon, SK



Gleaners food in Liberia with  
Alongside Team Program



Volunteering Highlights...

We are Robert and Brigitte Sell and we are celebrating our one year anniversary with the Gleaners. We started with one morning a week and now we are up to 4 mornings a week.

We first heard about the Gleaners in 2013 when a speaker came to our community to do a presentation. At the time our life was pretty hectic and we had no spare time to take on another project. The second time they came to our community we were looking for a new volunteer project and so we asked questions and took a real interest. I spoke to the gentleman doing the presentation about my disability and he advised that I could sit and put labels on bags. Over the past year of volunteering we have helped in the kitchen, sent out newsletters and have even cleaned beans and apples in addition to trimming vegetables and packing soup. There is always something to be done.

When you come to Gleaners for the first time you can take a tour. You will see volunteers cleaning, washing, dicing and drying vegetables. They are then dried and put into 3 pound bags and shipped all over the world.

We are so happy and proud to be part of this wonderful Christian organization. We try to spread the word about the Gleaners wherever we go. We love the work and the fellowship has been amazing. Most of all, we love what the Gleaners do to alleviate hunger in the world, with volunteers doing the work and all the donations we receive from so many people.

We are truly Blessed to have the Gleaners as part of our lives.



Brigitte & Robert Sell

## Moving Forward – Upgrading the Truck

(Yes, we are at that stage)

Hauling more available food has been an apparent need that we have considered addressing over the last year or so. Our 5 tonne truck that suited the scale of our operation for the first several years, now restricts our weight carrying capacity for the donated food available. This means it has empty space on it, even though we are at maximum weight, particularly with root vegetables which tend to be heavy. A truck is an expensive piece of equipment so we have compensated by doing multiple trips or limiting what we receive to accommodate a safe hauling weight.



Recently, a donor committed to give half the cost of a truck to help Ontario Christian Gleaners move forward. This is the boost that persuaded the board of directors to take this BIG STEP of faith to upgrade the truck.

We trust that as we move forward to fulfill God's vision, we will see God's provision.

Should you wish to contribute towards the truck purchase please

- Specify this on memo line on your cheque
- Make a note on your donation card (available at the Gleaners building)
- Make a credit card donation online @ <http://ontariogleaners.org/1290> or by phone @ 519-624-8245

Thank you to all our donors for standing with us through the last decade. We need to keep our general operating funds coming in so we can continue to do the work that God has called us to do.

Exciting things are happening here. Large quantities of food have recently gone out the door to hurricane-ravaged Haiti, Nicaragua, and The Philippines, with upcoming shipments to South Africa, Zambia, Liberia.

### Using Surplus Produce to Feed a Hungry World.

- With Joy

*Shelley Stone*

#### 2016 Gleaners Stats (to date)

- 961,697 pounds of fresh and dried products trucked to our building (plus 50,710 pounds of dried split peas from the midwest)
- 5.93 million servings of soup
- 3788 bags of dried soup
- 7629 pails washed, packed with soup & sent overseas
- Soup sent to 22 different countries



*Loading a container with over 900,000 servings of food for the people of Haiti. Gleaners food in Malawi & the Philippines*





Upgrading our Truck – see inside this newsletter for more info

300 lbs bean mix (2000lbs needed) \$50



## Gleaners Wish List

These items will help us in our daily work of processing surplus vegetables and fruit to make nutritious soup mixes and fruit snacks for distribution to needy people in countries around the world.

5 lbs Dried Onions (2000lbs needed) \$10



New table configuration for our Packaging Line \$1000

Please consider making a donation on behalf of a loved one that will go directly towards purchasing one of these items.

Gift cards specifying your donated item are available upon request.

\*\* Donations may cover a portion of the value of the item.

Donations may be made by cash, cheque or credit card. All donations of \$20 or more will receive a tax receipt. We thank you for your support.



Plastic Barrels for shipping soup (120 needed) \$15



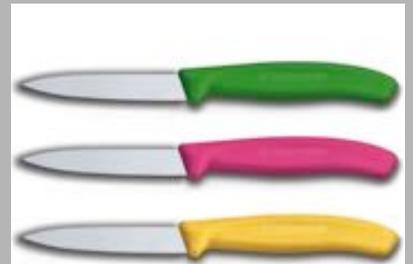
Special Coffee Break Day for 60 volunteers \$60

By Mail or at our building:  
Ontario Christian Gleaners  
1550 Morrison Rd.  
Cambridge, ON N1R 5S2

By Credit Card:  
Gleaners Office: 519.624.8245  
Online: [www.OntarioGleaners.org/1290](http://www.OntarioGleaners.org/1290)



Aprons (30 needed) \$15



Small Knives (30 needed) \$10



Safety Rubber Boots - for use by our volunteers in the warehouse \$60



Display Table in Welcome Area – for tours and new volunteers \$500



25 lbs Lentils (2000lbs needed) \$15