



## Ontario Christian Gleaners

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# News from the Gleaners

May 2021

## Burkina Faso - Kaya's Kids

Paradise Orphanage in Burkina Faso, West Africa is home for 125 very special children. In 2006 a local Bukinabe couple had a vision and a heart to care for some of the country's neediest children.

A small piece of property was purchased and with lots of prayer and no support from any umbrella organization things progressed and by 2008, 64 children ages 4-11 began living and receiving schooling in a safe and well maintained place they soon called home. When we arrived in 2008, we were welcomed with open arms and very quickly we could see the needs were great. Number one priority was to get a well drilled so the countless trips to the local well using a donkey and cart could be eliminated. Connections were made, donations received and within 6 months, water was flowing! God has been so faithful to these few servants and their tireless work is being supported now through a charity called Kaya's Kids, which was set up for the sole purpose of supporting Paradise Orphanage.

Over the last 12 years the number of children has doubled, the children have grown up, and many building projects have been taken on. A Primary school has been constructed and local children from the community are now attending and receiving a Christian education.

Gleaners vegetable mix and dried fruit has been a huge blessing! Barrels of soup have been sent yearly or as needed. Originally shipping through Air France difficulties arose with huge duty fees. We now have a contact with a Burkinabe business man in Montreal that ships containers and aside from the shipping fee there are no additional fees. It's always an exciting day when the barrels arrive!



### Important Dates:

#### Closures:

- Canada Day  
Thursday July 1<sup>st</sup>
- Civic Holiday  
Monday August 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Labour Day  
Monday September 4<sup>th</sup>

#### Volunteering:

Online signup opportunities

<https://www.ontariogleaners.org/volunteer.html>

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The vegetable mix is made into a thick stew sometimes with the addition of fish or pork and served over or mixed in with rice. This has become a staple for the children being used daily to provide a nutritious meal.

This once peaceful country has been the target for terrorism in the last few years and makes travel there impossible.

Thousands of Christian refugees poured into Kaya, the village near the Orphanage from the Sahel region of Burkina Faso. They were fleeing for their lives and many of their beloved family members were not as fortunate. Thanks to generous supporters, Kaya's Kids was able to provide safety, food and shelter to many of our desperate Burkinabe brothers and sisters. This includes a mother of six, who lost her husband one Sunday morning while leading a worship service. Unimaginable!

Life continues and we praise God for the fact that Covid-19 has not affected this small country. We are grateful for the work of all the volunteers at Gleaners. Knowing the vegetable mix is used every day and the blessing even to those refugees outside the Orphanage we can only praise God and thank Him for His many blessings.

Len and Carla Veitch

<https://www.kayaskids.org/>

## 2021 Gleaners Stats to date

- 71,468 kg of Gleaners food products
- Sent To
  - 7 different countries around the world
- Sent by
  - In 11 shipments



## Remembering Ed Gringhuis

The Ontario Christian Gleaners' family and supporters are saddened by the passing of our brother Ed Gringhuis on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Ed was associated with the work of the Gleaners since operations began in 2008. He was an enthusiastic advocate of the Gleaners' mission of providing nutritious food to the needy throughout the world. He was a willing volunteer in many capacities; driving the truck and forklift and doing several behind the scene tasks.

He visited several of the other Gleaner operations and provided advice to some of the Gleaner start-ups.

Ed served as a dedicated member of the board of directors over the last 12 years as chair and vice-chair.

Above all, Ed was a devoted follower of Jesus Christ, whom he loved and served. He will be missed greatly.

*For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:37-39*

Our sympathies and prayers for his wife Wilma and their family,

*The Gleaners Staff and Board of Directors*



**Split peas...** Much needed protein and important ingredient in our vegetable mix, purchased in bulk from the Midwest. Due to an increase in shipments, we are looking for donations to help cover the purchase costs of these. \$500/ton tote. (26 totes required). Specify split peas when making your donation.

### How you can support the work of the Gleaners...

1. e-transfers  
[etransfers@OntarioGleaners.org](mailto:etransfers@OntarioGleaners.org)
2. Credit Card  
<https://www.ontariogleaners.org/credit-card-donation.html>
3. Cash
4. Cheque payable to Ontario Christian Gleaners



### Volunteer from Home!

- We are in search of volunteers to help clean the pails we package our food in.
- Porch pickup and drop off at the Gleaners
- 60 pails ships 24,000 servings of Gleaners food
- Call 519-624-8245 or email [manager@ontariogleaners.org](mailto:manager@ontariogleaners.org)

# Using surplus produce to feed a hungry world.

*"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19*

Recently, a friend shared this quote by Albert Einstein, "There are two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle." As staff and volunteers at the Gleaners, we can see miracles happening regularly.

Here are a few recent examples:

When the most recent stay at home order came into effect, we made the difficult decision to reduce our volunteers yet again. After announcing this to our volunteers, a truck load of donated sweet potatoes arrived at our door. These sweet potatoes were the nicest sweet potatoes we have ever processed. Our limited number of people were able to keep the dryer operating every day.

After commenting about the need to start sourcing more produce, our phone rings with a donation of a truckload of cabbage – and they were supposed to be done for the season!

An email with a donation of produce from a distribution centre – enough broccoli and cauliflower to fill our truck four times.

And it's asparagus season! Our asparagus donor has been providing us with the majority of our asparagus chopped up and ready to go. This too keeps the dryer running steady.

God is certainly blessing the work of our hands here at the Gleaners. We are very thankful for the continuous donations of fresh produce. At the same time the requests for Gleaners food products are huge. Recent shipments of food donations have gone to Venezuela, Jamaica and Burkina Faso. Applications continue to be received, approved and containers loaded. By mid-June, 100,000kg (millions of servings) of Gleaners food will have left the building and our volunteer 'bubbles' continue to pack food for those waiting for shipping dates.

Each day during morning devotions, we thank the Lord for his abundant blessings here – food, donations, volunteers. We look forward to welcoming more volunteers back! Signups will be online again - <https://signup.com/go/bQXHKUF>. This link will be live on Thursday May 26<sup>th</sup> 12pm. Please note, due to limited spaces, (and lots of interest!) that volunteer spaces are limited to 1/week at this time. The COVID protocol at the Gleaners will continue to be followed.

We welcome volunteer 'bubbles' to join us for packing our food. There are two shifts per day – 8:30am – 11am and 11am – 1pm. Please contact us directly to sign up for these shifts. [manager@ontariogleaners.org](mailto:manager@ontariogleaners.org) or 519-624-8245.

Wednesdays @ 10am, we host Gleaners Zoom Virtual Coffee Break. Pour yourself a coffee and join us for 30 minutes of Gleaners updates and missions presentations. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82971309368>

Please continue to pray for the work of the Gleaners – for fresh food to continue to stock our cooler, for our volunteers as they serve here on site and the mission groups as they are serving overseas.

Standing in awe of His mercies,

*Elaine Merkus*

