



## Ontario Christian Gleaners

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# News from the Gleaners

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

Autumn - September 2017

## Congo – Global Outreach Mission

A young boy named Samuel falls ill in a remote village in the Congo. As his condition worsens, his family travels a long distance to Pioneer Christian Hospital.

Little Samuel is frightened by this unfamiliar place so far from home. Fear begins to stir inside him as he experiences physical pain that he has never felt before. Hurriedly, friendly staff greet him and come to his side, and after receiving care like he had never had before, he begins to feel better. The doctors inform his mother that he needs to spend a few more days at the hospital to make sure he heals before returning to his village. As Samuel begins to feel better, he also is aware that his stomach is growling. His mother tells him she must leave him to go out into a local village to see if she can find food to make his appetite go away.



Although the hospital has some food, it does not have extra food to provide for many others who arrive on their doorstep with no resources of their own. Without a family member to help Samuel, he can suffer from malnutrition and not recover as quickly because of the lack of a reliable food source. For many patients, this problem sometimes becomes an equal danger to the original injury.

Unfortunately, this is the reality of many hospitals in the developing world, including Pioneer Christian Hospital, our 76-bed mission hospital in a remote town of the Republic of Congo. Here, Dr. Harvey and his medical staff care deeply for the physical and spiritual needs of the patients but they simply have no resources available to meet the food needs for all those that come to the hospital.



The hospital serves many vulnerable people groups including refugees, the poor, elderly, chronic leukemia and AIDS orphans and widows. Although the hospital has tried to meet the needs of food by providing a canteen, which sells low-cost meals, the reality remains that the ones who need the nourishment the most still can't afford it.

Dr. Joe Harvey dreams of establishing a feeding program, offering nourishment to all the patients. Not only would the nourishment eliminate starvation but it would improve recovery time and the overall health status of young children like Samuel. *continued*



### Important Dates:

#### Open House Tours:

@ 10:30am on  
September 21<sup>st</sup>  
October 10<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>  
November 8<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>  
(Join us for a 45 minute  
guided tour)

#### **Special Saturday Tour**

September 16, 2017  
10:00am – 5:00pm  
Join us for a guided tour  
Details in this newsletter

#### Closures:

Labour Day  
Monday September 4<sup>th</sup>  
Thanksgiving Day  
Monday October 9<sup>th</sup>

(continued from front page)

"What we need is food. It's that simple," says Dr. Harvey. "We have the facilities and the capacity to do this but what we need now is the food."

Gleaners and Global Outreach Mission have a history of partnership after the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. The partnership came together to bridge this gap in resources. We have developed a meal plan for the hospital that would offer patients nourishment at no cost to them. Leadership at the hospital is eager to get a garden underway. Not only will a garden provide an example of sustainable agriculture to the community, *but also* it would provide nourishing food to the patients at the hospital. The food donated by the Gleaners has provided that much needed support to bring us to our first season of harvest!



### Distribution Stats to date in 2017...

- Sent out
  - 4.7 million servings of vegetable mix (44,891kg)
  - 1239kg of dried apples
  - 1066kg of other dried products
- Sent to
  - 17 different countries around the world
- Sent by
  - 26 mission groups/organizations

Dennis R Campbell  
VP Development  
<https://missiongo.org>



Two years ago, we had a presentation at our church about the Gleaners. Our pastor was presenting the Biblical story of Ruth. Wayne, from the Gleaners, and his wife shared what gleaning meant, and connected it to the Ontario Christian Gleaners. They showed the congregation pictures from the Gleaners, then gave us an opportunity to ask questions. We were very impressed with the presentation, and we knew this particular ministry would interest us as it appeared to be very worthwhile and hands-on.

Our family then became interested in visiting this organization and to also volunteer. It was about a half hour drive from our place, so when our holidays started we decided to check it out. We were very impressed with our visit. The set up of the facility was impressive, a very informative tour was given by Shelley, and the volunteers appeared to be enjoying themselves as they prepared the food. The volunteers were a variety of ages and it touched our family to see people in their 90's volunteering their time to help out the less fortunate. Seeing the actual soup bag that could feed a hundred people was very eye-opening. The volunteers were actually a part of the whole process to get the food to the people that so desperately needed it. We were also touched at how friendly and helpful the volunteers and staff were.

Our young adult children also like being part of this ministry, seeing how they can directly impact the lives of other people in a positive manner. They have also enjoyed interacting with people of all ages. Having Shelley and Elaine present updates as to where the food is going, and other updates associated with this ministry, has also helped the volunteers have a better understanding of the mission of the Gleaners.

The scriptures and prayers shared also connect us to our Creator who is the One that provides us with the necessities of life, who loves and cares for each individual on this earth, and enables us to help out others who are in an unfortunate situation. Having a break with tasty treats and fellowship further binds the volunteers and makes for a very familial environment. We are very happy to be part of an organization that has a love for God and for the people He created.

- Charlene, Gord, Zachary, Rachel, and Lucas Hartley

To schedule a tour or presentation or for more info contact [gleanerspromo@gmail.com](mailto:gleanerspromo@gmail.com) or check out our website [www.OntarioGleaners.org](http://www.OntarioGleaners.org) (What's Happening)



# FOR RIDE REFUGE

## Bike or Walk For Refuge Join the Gleaners Team!

**When:** Saturday September 30, 2017

**What:** 5km walk

10km, 25km or 50km ride

Raise funds for organizations supporting the displaced, vulnerable & exploited

**Where:** Hamilton, Kitchener, Elmira, Niagara, London...  
All across the country!!

**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

*Help us create awareness and raise funds  
for the Gleaners in 2017!!*

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

**9 YEARS IN OPERATION!**

(My, how we've grown!)

Humble beginnings where we needed 12 people every day to run our operation, we now prepare for 55 -70 volunteers daily.

From our small dryer that limited us to 1,000 lbs a day, we now process and dry 4-5x that amount in a day. Initially it was anticipated that our work would be somewhat seasonal, yet we have been a year-round operation processing food even in the 'lean' months.

**Fresh Food**

Direct from the farm or packing plant, we seek to receive nutritious fruits and vegetables that we can dry well and process in large quantities. We are always in need of additional contacts as sometimes the circumstances of our donors change and we need new food sources.

Broccoli, cauliflower, beets, carrots and cabbages are currently on our wish list. The carbon footprint in growing all that food is significant. Using the food for its intended purpose maximizes the environmental impact of our work.

The concept of **gleaning** and **drying** food is better caught than taught. Please consider coming to see our operation first hand on Saturday September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 or opt for a weekday 10:30am Open House tour on various dates throughout the year.

Thank you to all our donors and volunteers for your faithfulness in supporting the most vulnerable in our world through providing a nutritious meal.

With Joy,  
*Shelley Stone*

Using Surplus Produce to Feed a Hungry World



# Saturday Tour!!

**See the Gleaners in Action**

**September 16<sup>th</sup>**

**10am - 5pm**

The Gleaners is part of  
Doors Open Waterloo Region  
and will be Open for Guided Tours!

**Invite your friends,  
neighbours and family!**

