



SUMMER 2025

# NEWSLETTER



## PETE'S PEN

**Preparing our newsletters is always a great way of sharing what the Lord is doing through the ministry of Niagara Christian Gleaners (NCG). On the production side of things, we have been blessed in so many ways. The fresh produce from our grower partners continues to come to us in abundance. Every new load of food spurs us on to stay on task – transforming fresh food into nutritious dehydrated food aid - ready for distribution all over the globe.**

Food availability looks different every year. This year, for example, we have received an extraordinary amount of high-quality cabbage from a few growers - 250,000 lbs more than last year. Our growers are always working with many variables, some within their control and many outside of their control. We become aware of this by the amount and type of surplus produce being offered up. Regular communication with our growers is key to wisely managing incoming food donations. Communication with all the Gleaner stakeholders is very important. Thankfully, everything that we do is easy to

understand, and a first-time visitor to the Gleaners is sure to walk away with an accurate picture of the purpose of our mission. In addition to new volunteers coming to check us out, we have some additional opportunities to introduce others

to the work of the Gleaners.

Corporate team building events are a great way for businesses to empower their employees to give back. Spending a morning at the Gleaners is a wonderful tool for







"clearing their heads" of their normal tasks and coming together in a unique and fun service opportunity. This time of year, we notice an increase in school class trips choosing the Gleaners as a worthy place to "learn and serve." We have welcomed young children in the primary grades right up to the senior high school classes. We tailor their visits to be age appropriate to ensure their visit will be meaningful for them.

Another effective way of raising the profile of NCG is through our annual fundraising dinner weekend, hosted each spring. Once again, over 600 guests were treated to an amazing meal while hearing the latest updates from NCG. Our guest speaker this year was Mr. Jason Martens, International Partners, Samaritan's Purse Canada. NCG has supported Samaritan's Purse in numerous countries since 2022. Over 6 million servings of NCG food aid have been distributed through this trusted organization. It's great to hear firsthand how our food is making an impact in people's lives.

We are looking forward to our students returning this summer. We love the shift in dynamics that comes with involving the additional younger aged volunteers. They naturally bring a level of energy that makes

things fun and exciting. By the end of the summer holidays, we have signed many high school volunteer hour sheets. NCG is a great place to make the best use of such a vast range of ages and abilities. It's one of the characteristics of NCG that makes serving at the Gleaners unique. Elementary school age children are welcome to join also, as long as they come with an older sibling, parent, or grandparent. If you haven't done so yet, please consider getting involved. It's easily done from our website where you can click the link: **"Join our Army."**

*"For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do." Hebrews 6:10*



## VOLUNTEER VOICES

*"Dear Gleaners,*

*I don't remember when I started out, but when my friend John Janzen asked me (to volunteer), I jumped at it. I started coming Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, but I had to stop for Wednesdays because of work. My favourite thing is the little community of people here."* - Trevor Sinke

FREE  
FAMILY  
FUN


**NIAGARA CHRISTIAN  
GLEANERS**

# Strawberry

# SOCIAL

**SATURDAY, JUNE 21**

Niagara Christian Gleaners is once again hosting a  
*Walk-Through and Strawberry Social.*

**YOU'RE INVITED TO COME VISIT OUR FACILITIES**  
 and learn more about the mission of NCG

**COMPLIMENTARY STRAWBERRIES AND  
 ICE CREAM FOR OUR GUESTS.**

**SATURDAY, 21 JUNE 2025/ 1-3 PM.**  
 6251 Spring Creek Rd, Smithville, Ontario L0R 2A0.



# BOUNTIFUL BLESSINGS

## FOOD RECIPIENT • THE LUKE COMMISSION / ESWATINI

**The Kingdom of Eswatini is a land rich in culture and resilience—but it is also a nation grappling with persistent poverty, chronic health burdens, and widespread food insecurity. Despite its beauty, over 30% of the population faces acute food shortages, and for many families, the struggle to put a meal on the table is a daily reality. For those already burdened by illness (Eswatini has the highest prevalence of HIV in the world) or unemployment (which stands at 35% or more), the lack of access to food can make recovery or stability feel out of reach.**

Since 2019, Niagara Christian Gleaners (NCG) has been partnering with The Luke Commission (TLC), a faith-based health and development institution operating from the Miracle Campus in the center of Eswatini. Over the last six years, TLC has distributed more than 20 million servings of nutritious, dehydrated food. These meals, packed with love by NCG volunteers, have found their way across the globe and into the hands of TLC's patients—many of whom arrive at TLC's doors hungry, sick, and without hope.

In Eswatini, TLC's model of compassionate, integrated healthcare provides more than just medicine—it delivers dignity through an organization scaled to reach 300,000 patients annually. Both at the Miracle Campus and at outreach locations around the country, TLC brings quality healthcare, spiritual encouragement, and food provided through the partnership with NCG. These efforts often reach people who have no other access to care. The gift of food from NCG shared with TLC's patients—who are all referred to as VIPs, or Very Important Patients—can restore more than strength, rekindling hope.

One patient, a mother who traveled several hours with her baby to reach the Miracle Campus, shared her joy at receiving both medical treatment and a bag of dehydrated vegetables to take home. "We came with nothing," she said, "and we are going back with life."

NCG Food Aid is an integral part of TLC's commitment to deliver both physical and spiritual sustenance. In a country where nearly 40% of the population lives below the poverty line and where HIV and tuberculosis are widespread, Food Aid becomes more than just food—it becomes part of a ministry of love.

The importance of this ministry is amplified in a time when TLC is grappling with the impact of a shift in global aid funding. For the first time in its 20-year history, the organization has been forced to significantly decrease the number of patients cared for, due to the termination of a grant from USAID, a major donor of TLC.

From the fields where our excess vegetables are gleaned, to the hearts and hands of our volunteers, to the waiting hands of families in Eswatini, this partnership embodies the truth of **1 John 3:18**: *"Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."*

While food alone won't solve all of Eswatini's challenges, every packet of food received assures someone that they are seen, that they matter, and that God has not forgotten them. Through the continued partnership between NCG and The Luke Commission, we are seeing daily proof of God's love in action.





# BOARD REPORT

As you have no doubt read already, we are focusing this newsletter on what we term Bountiful Blessings. As the spring season is winding down, we are thankful for the support we received through our fundraising dinners.

These dinners raise a substantial portion of our annual budget, and God provided once again through the generous donations made by all our supporters. We are blessed through our grower supporters, volunteers, and committee members. However, we give a special shoutout this time for our Ministry Partners who complete the circle and organize the logistics of bringing the food we provide to those in need.

The majority of our surplus food packages are spread around the globe by organizations like The Luke Commission, Samaritan's Purse, Wells of Hope, Barnabus Aid, and Global Aid Network. It is through these groups that the Lord works to bring our product out to those in need, providing an outlet for the good works we are able to participate in.

*Ephesian 2:10 – "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*

I like to think that all the effort that goes into Niagara Christian Gleaners is good works that God has prepared in advance for us to do. Thank you all so much for answering the call and participating in whatever way you do.

My call to you for this summer is to thank someone you know who helps this ministry in any capacity.

- committee members, who meet behind the scenes - thank those members
- volunteers who are front and center - thank them for their work
- supporting growers - pass on a word of thanks
- supporting organizations - share with them a word of thanks as well

God has prepared this in advance for us to do. Thanks to all who are involved, and we continue to petition your prayer support as we work together to support Niagara Christian Gleaners.

**Blessing to you all,  
Jack Smit  
NCG Board Chair**



*Farmer Frank leaving with the day's trimmings to feed his cattle.*

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800.267.8890 ext. 217 or [admin@CSSservices.ca](mailto:admin@CSSservices.ca)



## VOLUNTEER VOICES

*"I started in Nov/23 and come on Fridays.  
My favourite part is helping the needy  
ones." -C.C.*

## YOUR DONATION MAKES AN IMPACT!

As a non-profit organization, we rely on donations from people just like you.

### 3 WAYS TO GIVE:

#### DONATE ONLINE

[niagaragleaners.org/donate](https://niagaragleaners.org/donate)

#### E-TRANSFER

[givingncg@gmail.com](mailto:givingncg@gmail.com)

#### CHEQUE BY MAIL

TO: Niagara Christian Gleaners