



AUGUST 2018

NEWSLETTER

General Manager's Report



Pete Wierenga

Without a doubt we may be at the most exciting time at Niagara Christian Gleaners (NCG). Since our last newsletter so much has happened in regards to the ministry of NCG and the lives we hope to touch. God has been pouring blessing on our endeavors and evidence of His provision and care are too numerous to

mention. From my perspective, not a day goes by where I am not humbled and amazed by the Lord using individuals, tradespeople, suppliers, and donors to bless us. Added to that is the tireless commitment of many who have, and are coming, alongside us as we work out the myriad of details needed to get us operational this fall. NCG is being blessed by a strong committee structure made up of individuals who are dedicated and passionate about their particular role - much of it happening quietly behind the scenes.

the wonderful co-operation that happens among the management of our sister organizations. The willingness for them to share with me their experiences in all aspects of their operations will aid us in starting production in the best way possible. Personally, I dream of the day when I can be just as helpful to the next Gleaner establishment and have the opportunity to pay things forward.

As General Manager, along with the Board of Directors, we are often in prayer asking God to allow us to be wise stewards of what is being entrusted to us. Ultimately we desire to direct and redirect all glory to where it is due - our Heavenly God and Father.

I'd like you, our supporters, to consider this a personal invitation to come out to our Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting ceremony. We intend to make this event a wonderful celebration of all that God is doing, and will be doing, through Niagara Christian Gleaners.

In His service, Pete Wierenga



Since the beginning of May I have had the opportunity to connect with some incredible people involved with the other eight Canadian gleaner operations. Although each operation is unique, with varying production methods and systems, we all share the same goal of providing food for hungry bodies and gospel food for hungry souls. The time I was able to spend with many of them has proved invaluable as we strategized the most efficient plant layout, the right produce washing equipment to purchase, right down to what knives are most recommended for our volunteers to use in the cutting room. As the newest "member" on the Canadian Gleaner scene, it has been amazing to see

Fundraising Report

Dear Gleaner family!

Your Fundraising Committee is humbled and grateful for your generous gifts to the capital fund of Niagara Christian Gleaners. Our Lord has richly supplied and inclined hearts! We are nearing our goal of being able to pay all our bills upon completion. As I pen this update for our newsletter, we are pleased to report that 97% of our budget of 2.2 million dollars has been raised!!! Will you consider a donation to help us reach the final total? Any excess will be rolled over into the operating funds as we look forward to production in the coming months.

The title of Psalm 36 in my Bible is, "The Excellent Lovingkindness of God". And verse 5 states: "Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds". Your Fundraising Committee have been grateful recipients, on behalf of Niagara Christian Gleaners, of that steadfast love and His faithfulness. - Jake Sinke





Building & Grounds Report

For those who have had the opportunity to drive by our building site, or better yet, have stopped in for a visit - the significant progress is obvious. We have moved from site and grading work to the steel warehouse being erected and closed in. The offices and fellowship area have taken shape and we can all get an idea of how beautiful our new plant will be when completed.

What often goes unnoticed in any major building project is the countless attention needed for details that happen in a carefully choreographed manner. Much thought has been given to planning the rough-in plumbing, electrical, drains, floor heat, HVAC systems, sanitation systems, etc. Plant layout had to also be finalized in order to optimize production flow, warehousing areas, produce handling and storage, tray washing etc.

Part of our final site work will be finishing the final grade, parking lot grading, paving, and landscaping. To highlight the type of cooperation we have seen throughout our building project, it's appropriate to tell the story of one group of tradespeople and suppliers that have come together to bless Niagara Christian Gleaners (NCG) in an extraordinary way. Uniquely, our circle of supporters has a large number of landscapers, plant growers and landscape construction companies. This group has demonstrated what it looks like when there is a collective willingness to work together for a common goal and use their skills and resources as an offering back to the Lord. Our initial budget had a rather small amount allocated for landscaping and yet, upon final completion, it will be obvious to all, the level of generosity that was added to this one segment in our overall build project.



As a building team we're thankful for the project coming together as it has. We've been blessed by God's protective hand over all of our tradespeople and volunteers who have been helping us out. We're confident that this beautiful building will serve the mission of NCG for many years to come, and thereby be a blessing to many.

Equipment Report

A critical component to any successful gleaner operation is how the production plant is equipped to meet the goal of producing food for the needy in our world. Although we are heavily dependent on volunteers generously helping out with our daily processes, it is vital that we provide them with the proper tools to do their work safely and efficiently. The experience, help, and recommendations that we've received from the other gleaner operations has allowed us to zero in on best production practices and equipment. Some critical pieces of equipment have come to us at little or no cost from generous suppliers who heard what we are doing and were compelled to help us out in significant ways. Our produce washing line is currently being manufactured by a Canadian firm with experience with other gleaner operations. When it came time to consider our tray washing needs and equipment we were blessed to make a valuable connection with a supplier in Mississauga. This firm provided us with a used commercial washer that would have been outside of our budget if it had not been for their generosity.



Our commercial food dehydrator has arrived from Nyle Systems. This company, located in Brewer, Maine has been working with us since the initial inquiries were made. It's exciting to see this important component coming together in our plant.

Additional equipment needs that are getting attention include material handling, storage, forklift and pallet jacks, barrels for food storage, packaging and supplies, wash-down and sanitizing equipment, etc. A single large ticket item on the horizon is a truck, properly spec'd, to meet our produce pick-up needs. At the moment, as a short term solution, we may be renting or leasing a truck until we analyze exactly what our truck needs will be going forward.

The Equipment Team continues to be humbled by what is transpiring - especially with the input and generosity coming from others who are experts in their fields.