



SUMMER 2026

# NEWSLETTER



## PETE'S PEN

**Our produce partners continue to support Niagara Christian Gleaners (NCG) in amazing ways. Many people ask how it is that we are able to receive high-quality, Ontario-grown vegetables all through the winter and spring, long after the autumn harvest. The secret lies in the expertise of our experienced farmers. They are not only exceptional at growing produce, but equally skilled at storing it. Some growers are able to keep a portion of their previous year's harvest in climate-controlled storage right up until they begin planting the current years' crop.**

Farmers typically pack to order. When a grocery chain or wholesaler places an order, the grower takes the produce out of storage and runs it through highly automated washing, grading, and packaging lines. This is where NCG becomes a benefactor of these produce donations. We receive the produce which has been "graded out" during the process. Often, it

simply misses size or cosmetic standards. The food could be slightly too small or too large for grocery shelves - yet nothing is wrong with it nutritionally. The Gleaners gladly will accept this surplus food and transform it into valuable dehydrated food aid. So far this year, we have already received nearly 680,000 kg (1.5 million lbs) of fresh produce, and the bounty keeps coming!

Processing food at our Smithville, Ontario, facility is only one part of our mission. We rely on trustworthy distribution partners to ensure our food aid has the greatest possible impact in hard-pressed countries worldwide. To guarantee accountability, we thoroughly vet these organizations. They provide regular reports, testimonies, videos, and photos showing how the food helps those in need and how the Gospel of Jesus Christ is being proclaimed.

Earlier this year, I had the unique opportunity to see this impact firsthand. Samaritan's Purse Canada graciously invited me to join their executive team on a trip to Ethiopia and Iraq. Although the Iraq portion of the trip was cancelled due to political instability, I was still able to visit some of the most desperate



regions of Northern Ethiopia. We were in areas that are constantly prone to severe drought and famine.

What I witnessed was a beautiful yet incredibly harsh environment: vast regions of dry, rocky ground lacking access to modern agricultural practices and sustainable irrigation. The situation is further exacerbated by long-standing military clashes and political unrest, which hamper the movement of food and basic necessities.

As our team traveled by Land Rover through remote, mountainous terrain, we were frequently stopped at heavily armed military checkpoints. Thankfully, a dedicated Security Specialist on our team managed our travel itinerary while in Ethiopia - giving us a modest, yet valuable sense of protection.

This trip allowed me to personally meet the people blessed by the generosity of Canadian growers and supporters of NCG. Many recipients were young mothers with infants and small children. They clearly showed signs of varying degrees of malnourishment. The

Samaritan's Purse team worked selflessly in those settings - caring for struggling people by providing life-giving food, medical aid, and support - all in the name of Christ.

The work of NCG doesn't just happen. We are reliant on literally an "army of volunteers" to lend a hand daily at the plant. With summer just around the corner, we are excited to welcome students back to NCG. Younger volunteers bring vibrant energy that makes the warehouse fun and exciting. By the end of the summer holidays, we will have signed dozens of high school volunteer hour sheets!

NCG is a unique place where people of all ages and abilities can serve together. Elementary-aged children are also welcome to join us, provided they are accompanied by an older sibling, parent, or grandparent.

If you haven't done so yet, please consider getting involved. Visit our website and click the link: **"Join our Army."**

See you at the Gleaners. As we often say, **"We've got people to feed!"**

PW



Dr. Andrew Simone

**"I'm not humanitarian, I'm a Christian. I don't ram my faith down anyone's throat, I simply live it by helping everyone who needs help."**

*-Dr Andrew Simone*



Dr. Andrew & Joan Simone



## VOLUNTEER VOICES

"I started a few months ago and I love it. Every part of the Gleaners - all stations - are very important. It's doing God's work to fill others with His love - that's my favourite part."

# BOUNTIFUL BLESSINGS

## CANADIAN FOOD FOR CHILDREN

**“Our mission is to give every person on earth the opportunity to develop their soul. To allow them the health to go to school and work to live a life of dignity, to be protected from abuse, to freely choose the faith they wish to follow. I would like to help the poorest of the poor in the world.”**

According to an article written in the Etobicoke Guardian, Thursday, December 19, 2013, “Back in the 70s, Etobicoke’s Dr. Andrew Simone seemingly had it all, a Harvard education, a thriving dermatology practice, a beautiful home in well-to-do The Kingsway, a couple of fancy cars on the driveway, and “more money than I knew what to do with.” But something was always missing. “When we became rich, we were a little disillusioned,” Simone said. “It wasn’t as good as we thought it was going to be.” Despite all his success, Simone said he and his wife Joan quickly came to realize that the trappings of wealth were mere distractions from their true purpose in life. They had a higher calling: to dedicate their lives to serving the poor.

CFFC is an organization that was founded as a registered charity by Andrew and Joan Simone in 1985. Simone received a calling from God to help the poor. As a practicing dermatologist still today at 87 years old, he gives all his earnings away. The CFFC warehouse is based out of south Mississauga with sister groups in Chatham and Kitchener, Ontario, and in British Columbia.

After speaking with Gloria Vargas, who is a dedicated volunteer and prominent team member of CFFC and Sal Badali, who is the Assistant Executive Director we learned more about this organization. Every Monday to Friday from 8am-12pm, 12-15 volunteers and one school class (at 10am) come to pack and repack food and



goods to be loaded into a container. A 49-foot container gets shipped every day to places like Central and South America, Ecuador, Africa, as well as many other areas. Each container includes a variety of items: non-perishable food, clothes, bikes, toys, medicine, blankets, books, soap, and many other items. Pete from Niagara Christian Gleaners reached out to CFFC in 2025 to offer dry food.

We are very grateful to be able to work alongside CFFC. They also receive dry food from Southwestern Ontario Gleaners and Okanogan Gleaners in British Columbia. CFFC is overwhelmed with all the donations received, as well as specific companies that donate food to help the poor rather than dumping it in the landfill.

When asked how this mission blessed them, Sal said, “I have been blessed abundantly in my life, and I am so thankful to share it.” Gloria said, “When we send the food and goods, we are blessing them, trusting God to provide for us to continue our mission.” Doing this, Gloria sees the work God does for everyone. “God blesses the poor.” We need to learn to trust in God.

It’s truly amazing to see how God has blessed CFFC’s mission. They have seen starving children turn into beautiful young men and women. Doctor Simone still visits a number of children in El-Salvador, continuing the bond they have created together. “When asked when he’ll retire. Simone doesn’t hesitate in his response, “When I can’t stand anymore. How can I retire when everything I earn is helping the poor? It’s what I do, it’s who I am,” he added. “We have to remember the poor-that’s the bottom line.”

COUNTRY	# of Shipments	Weight (kgs)	Metric Tonnes	Pounds	Tons
Angola	41	650,897	651	1,435,228	718
Cameroon	1	14,500	15	31,973	16
El Salvador	86	1,365,803	1,366	3,011,596	1,506
Ghana	1	15,312	15	33,763	17
Honduras	11	140,882	141	310,645	155
Jamaica	8	133,264	133	293,847	147
Liberia	2	32,580	33	71,839	36
Malawi	1	14,610	15	32,215	16
Peru	6	95,981	96	211,638	106
Sierra Leone	98	1,551,215	1,551	3,420,429	1,710
Tanzania	2	13,670	14	30,142	15
Zambia	1	16,500	17	36,383	18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>4,045,214</b>	<b>4,045</b>	<b>8,919,697</b>	<b>4,460</b>



## BOARD REPORT

**Spring is once again upon us, and new life is bursting everywhere we look. What a blessing to experience the many changes that our Lord has planned in this world we live in.**

As we are thankful for the change in season – we are also so very thankful for the blessings that God has poured out on the Niagara Christian Gleaners. A shoutout to all involved in our recent fundraising dinner held this past March. This dinner is our main fundraising event, and we were blessed once again with an army of volunteers to help prepare and serve meals to our supporters over two sold out evenings. Together we raised just over \$150,000 in support of NCG and its ministry.

As mentioned in our last report, we as a board are also tackling some long range planning as we look to the future of NCG and wonder where and how God will be leading us in furthering His ministry. It is such a joy to see where He has led us, and we look forward to seeing where He will lead us from here.

Please continue to keep NCG in your prayers. Thank you to everyone for your support in the past, and we look forward to your continued support in the future.

*All glory and thanks to God,*

*Jack Smit  
NCG Board Chair*



## VOLUNTEER VOICES

*"I started a few months ago and come in once a week on Tuesdays. I like the enthusiasm of the workers."*

**CSS MAKES GIVING EASIER**

 CHRISTIAN Stewardship SERVICES

Estate, Will and Planned Giving

Niagara Christian Gleaners is partnered with Christian Stewardship Services to provide confidential advice and service without obligation or cost.

Contact CSS today:  
800.267.8890 ext. 217 or admin@CSservices.ca



## 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](http://niagaragleaners.org/donate)

**E-TRANSFER**  
[givingncc@gmail.com](mailto:givingncc@gmail.com)

**CHEQUE BY MAIL**  
TO: Niagara Christian Gleaners