



Fond Farewells To Bethany And Jazzy Bethany Waits



Bethany officially joined **Gleanings'** staff in April 2017. While her main role at **Gleanings** was peach plant manager for three summers in a row, Bethany also served as an assistant in the soup plant, a Discipleship Training School staff member, and helped with housekeeping and reception. "I've learned how to ask," Bethany said. "For money, for help. How to be bold but not arrogant. Not assuming that God's going to always answer my prayers but to have room to be thankful, to be in awe, to be surprised. He always answers my prayers in a different way, and it's never in the way I think it's going to be. Being obedient, bold, and honest with people—living in community, that's so important."

Bethany's favorite things about **Gleanings** are the variety, the different seasons, switching job positions, learning new tools, and the different ages of people who come. "You meet older people who have wisdom, and you meet younger people—you get to pour into them. I'm going to miss living in community," Bethany said.

Bethany will always be a part of the **Gleanings** family. "Thank you to all the parents who were my mom and dad while I was here," Bethany said. "I appreciate the openness from everybody. How they value a good balance of opening their homes and also valuing their own space." We are going to miss Bethany's steadiness, loyalty, and harmony. We pray God's blessings for Bethany in the coming chapters of her life.

Jazzy Ayala

We are going to miss Jazzy. Her fun, kind spirit and big smile made a huge impact on our community. But we know we will see her often; she is staying in the Dinuba area.

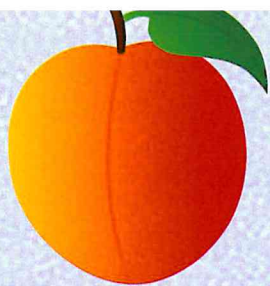


After completing a Discipleship Training School at **Gleanings**, Jazzy served on base from 2018-2019 in the house-keeping department and in the kitchen. Besides learning to fold sheets and make a perfect bed, Jazzy grew spiritually during her time here. She is bearing the fruit of the Spirit: self-control. She used to get mad at people who yelled at her or challenged her. Now she is able to serve with humility and not get so mad at people. "In the past, I would have exploded," Jazzy said. "But now I find myself expressing my needs and saying 'please.'"

The balance between being people-focused and being task-focused—that is another thing Jazzy learned while she served. "I learned that some things are flexible, and some things are not. **Gleanings** leans more on the people side. I like that, because it's important to ask people how they are doing and listen to the answer," Jazzy said. "We can get the work done too. **Gleanings** is not a time-in and time-out job. Sometimes fellowship is more important than the job." More than anything, Jazzy will miss the staff, volunteers, and events we have as a family.

Jazzy is a child of God; she is a mother, a sister, and a friend to all. We pray many blessings for Jazzy and her family as she moves on to her next adventure.

The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. Psalm 121:8



Summer Peaches

5,322	BINS of fresh fruit were loaded into the plant
2,412	STACKS of fruit created to dry in the field
320,493	POUNDS of dried peaches packed

Love Feast Highlites

Every Friday night during the summer, we host a volunteer appreciation dinner, Love Feast, followed by a special guest speaker. One of our speakers shared her amazing testimony of God's love and power. Growing up in Tijuana, Karina knew that she had three choices for her future: poverty, prostitution, or the drug cartel. She was convinced that the only choice for her was the drug cartel. She got into the cartel and made enough money to match her high heels to her cars. However, with the money came death threats and demands for ransom money. One night, she was kidnapped, shot in the head, and thrown off a cliff for refusing to pay ransom money for her own life. The bullet went into her head and out the side. She survived the gun shot and the fall, and she walked eight hours to the closest town. The miracle of a second chance at life did not immediately mean that she was out of the drug business. She went back to work as soon as she could, and was later arrested in the U.S. with 14 kilos of heroin in her car. She got five years in prison for the 1 kilo in her purse.

While she was in prison, strangers came to share the love of God with her. She said, "Thank you but no thank you." After a while, she began reading her Bible late at night so no one would know that she was seeking God. The visitors from the local church kept coming to pray with her, and soon Karina accepted Christ into her heart. It didn't happen right away, but the desires of her heart began to change. Then, suddenly, she urgently wanted to get out of jail just so she could tell her children about Jesus. With a determination to trust in God and his timing, she prayed for God to allow her to see her children and tell them about Jesus. That very night, she felt a tap on her shoulder, and she was released from prison with just her prison clothes and a slip of paper with an address of where she had to be in one hour for her parole. A stranger helped her get to the parole office on time.

"God restored my life," Karina said. "God restored my family." Now, Karina is working as a translator in court and attending church regularly with her family. All of her children have accepted Jesus in their hearts. "Before I met God, I had money, but I was drowning in my own loneliness," Karina said. "God will show you how life can be full of colors." Right now, Karina's favorite verse is Isaiah 7:9. "If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all."



Time of prayer



Love Feast speaker Karina

Director's Corner



At our last Love Feast of the summer we looked at Mark 6 and the story of the five loaves and two fish. The speaker challenged us with the question, "Do we live in the land of not having enough or do we live in the land of giving the Lord what little we do have?" I can just imagine when Wally, our founder, had the call to feed the hungry of the nations and was looking for a product to ship out. He met with some of the farmers who offered him cull fruit. Starting a ministry with some fruit that is not marketable doesn't sound like it would feed the world; but God! Here we are 37 years later and another 300,000+ pounds of dried fruit are going out to some of the remotest places that have incredible needs.

Thank you, Jesus, for taking the little we have and doing great things through us.
Blessings,

Fritz Meier