



FALL 2023

# NEWSLETTER



## PETE'S PEN

**This month is notably significant in a number of ways. Five years ago, in September of 2018, we celebrated our ribbon cutting ceremony and the grand opening of Niagara Christian Gleaners (NCG). It marked the completion of our brand new facility and the beginning of equipment and dryer trials. In order for us to facilitate those trials we needed to acquire our first fresh produce from the growers.** With the assistance of our Produce Acquisition Team, the work of grower networking was about to begin. I recall those early days when I would visit potential growers and explain the goals of NCG and what a grower partnership could look like. Some were aware of the Gleaners from their experience with the other Ontario gleaning operations. Many, however, had never heard of

gleaning and were actually rather skeptical about the concept. Admittedly, we had a pretty humble start with the food donations, taking a few bins at a time, of whatever we thought would be suitable to dehydrate. We knew that we had work to do as we built trust relationships with the growers. It was up to us to prove that we were doing exactly what we said we would do with the food donations that they were entrusting to us. Fast forward five years and so much has changed from those early days. Our grower relations are stronger than ever and we've been so blessed by their generosity. In essence, the growers are the real givers and NCG simply transforms their food donation into stable nutritious food aid. Once dehydrated, their food can now be readily, and economically, shared nearly anywhere in the world where the need is greatest.

Since those early days of sporadic and often





smaller donations, we now manage multiple trailer loads of fresh produce in a single week. In fact, since our startup, we have received over 11 million lbs of amazing fresh fruit and vegetables. This translates into nearly 400 tractor trailer loads of produce coming from various growing regions in Southern Ontario. Last year we were also the benefactors of 9 trailer loads (500,000 lbs) of #1 PEI potatoes. With the willing and energetic hands of our amazing volunteers, we have prepared over 40 million servings of dehydrated food aid

since our plant doors opened! NCG continues to seek, and receive, the Lord's blessings on the work of the Gleaners. As we celebrate this season of thanksgiving, may we never lose sight of the Lord of the harvest and offer to Him all glory and praise. *"Our Lord, you have made your nation stronger. Because of you, its people are glad and celebrate like workers at harvest time or like soldiers dividing up what they have taken."* Isaiah 9:3 - PW



## BRING IN THE HARVEST THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

### HELP 'GLEAN' THE APPLE ORCHARD CLEAN!

Tall Post Craft Cider in Hamilton has a surplus of apples coming up in their orchards and they want them to go to Niagara Christian Gleaners. That's why we need your help. Come out and give back by helping pick the apples. Families are well for this free fun-filled event rain or shine. Help out for the day or a couple hours.

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 7, 9AM-4PM**  
**1170 HENDERSHOT RD. HAMILTON, ONTARIO**

**BEVERAGES AVAILABLE • FOOD TRUCK ON SITE**  
**CORN PIT AND ANIMALS TO SEE FOR THE KIDS**

**FOR MORE INFO CONTACT AARON POST**

**905-351-7611**

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







## DEDICATED DONORS • GROWER PROFILE

TALLPOST CRAFT CIDER

Apple-picking time is in full swing, so what better time to feature one of our newest donors, Tallpost Craft Cider. In fact, apples may be fresh on everyone's mind as a 1-day Gleaning Event will be held at the orchards of Tallpost on October 7.

Tallpost Craft Cider, founded by Aaron Post in 2019, is "a cidery nestled in the heart of farmland" near Hamilton, Ontario featuring a variety of apples and pears. Their motto for their farm simply states they are "passionate in faith, quality and craft". In the short years since opening, the farm has quickly expanded from the cider operation (starting in a 40 ft. shipping container) on 7.5 acres to now 30 acres, including renting a nearby orchard. It continues to add farm attractions featuring sip and savour cider tastings and sales, fruit stand including field crops and vegetables, pick-your-own fruits, vegetables and flowers, corn pit, a hay castle and many small animals to pet and enjoy! There are many family-friendly things to do while at the farm, at the same time educating visitors to see where their food comes from and how it gets from farm to table. For more information about the farm visit [tallpostcraftcider.ca](http://tallpostcraftcider.ca)

Aaron is very excited to follow the path of the

surplus apples that will be picked by many volunteers at the 1-Day Gleaning Event, to having them chopped, diced and dehydrated at the NCG by even more volunteers there. He then hopes to follow closely by recording where the product ends up on an international level. "It will be interesting to track the fruits of our labours," he says. He hopes to hold this event for many years to come, blessing those along the way who have given of their time and efforts to get the product out and also to those who so desperately and humbly receive it.

Thank you in advance, Aaron, for sharing with us the vision of these 1-day Gleaning Events, and all your contributions. To all involved in the day, they can say they were true "Gleaners"! May God bless this event for years to come!





# BOARD REPORT

Here in Ontario, fall season is a time of harvest. As Ontarians, we are blessed to live in a land of moderate climate, fertile soil, abundant rain and sunshine, and talented farmers and growers; all provided as gifts from the hand of our Heavenly Father. To the average North American, the word "Gleaning" has evolved to describe looking for some information from a person or a database. For the Christian, the word evokes an agricultural perspective of the underprivileged and poor, gathering the leftovers in the fields to feed themselves and their families. Another purpose of gleaning is to remind us that all produce is a gift from God and given to us, not just for our personal benefit, but also to share. At NCG, we have been privileged in 2023 with an abundance of fresh produce, joyful and energetic volunteers, financial gifts, and effective distribution partners. This has been accomplished under the Lord's provision; to provide relief and sustenance in various parts of the world.

With the approaching Thanksgiving Day, opportunity has been provided for us to participate in gathering surplus apples from the trees in a nearby orchard. This produce will be going for processing at the Niagara Christian Gleaners. It is sure to be a time of fun and fellowship with family and

friends while serving others by the gleaning of the fruit (you can find the details of this event elsewhere in the newsletter). I look forward to being there!

On another note, our building addition is progressing well, and we hope to see it completed by the end of the year. Our management and volunteers are looking forward to the time when the present disruptions will, in due time, result in greater productivity next year.

We appreciate your prayerful support, and also seek the Lord's blessing for the people on the receiving end of the aid we can provide. Praise God from whom all blessing flow....

Arthur Struyk  
Board Chairman

*"When you reap your harvest in your field, and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.*

*When you beat your olive trees, you shall not go over the boughs again; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow.*

*When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you shall not glean it afterward; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow." Deuteronomy 24:19-21*



## 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