

May 2016

2016 AGM

We had a full house at our AGM once again this year. After a delicious meal the annual report was delivered. Each year we continue to increase our production, with more volunteers discovering us. We thank God for a consistent and ample supply of produce from southern Alberta as well as all the financial support to maintain and grow our operation.

Copies of the Annual Report can be obtained at the Prairie Gleaners plant.

Our Board of Directors for 2016 is:

James Smith, Clarence Knodel,
Annette Simons, Art Widmer, James Lieske,
Louisa Smith, and Dan Kammerer

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to Eric Eckert, who stepped down from the Board. Eric is a founding member of the Prairie Gleaners and his service has been invaluable since our beginning.



Eric on a vegetable pick-up run

Major Shipment to Burundi

At our AGM, our Board President reported on his recent trip to Burundi. He had been invited by Christian Life Ministries, to consider helping with a feeding initiative, and was able to meet with representatives from a number of aid organizations within the country, some that had previously received soup bags from our friends at OKG and FVG. Last month, a 40 foot sea container left our facility for Bujumbura to assist CLM in partnership with Food for the Hungry. Along with the dried vegetable mix, we sent cooking instruction sheets written in the local Kirundi language. These instructions and some locally tested recipes can accompany soup bag distribution, especially when supplying to

individual families. Some of the challenges food producers and vendors face, which results in almost 50% of vegetables and fruits being lost, was witnessed firsthand. Lack of refrigeration and difficult logistics to markets are major contributors to the loss. Aware of our approach, a number of aid representatives asked - could gleaning occur in Burundi? Ideas have been speculated such as using solar dryers or connecting vendors with surplus produce, to feeding programs. We believe gleaning can occur in Burundi (or anywhere). After all, gleaning is God's idea.



Most produce is typically sold by vendors on the streets, such as this woman sorting her carrots. The small and oddly shaped carrots went into the trash. Similar waste happens with 100's of street vendors

Trees

Efforts are underway to plant approximately 300 more trees and bushes on our 7 acre property. Clarence has taken the lead to prepare the ground and set up a watering network crisscrossing the property. We expect to have an abundance of flowering bushes and fruit in the near future.

*The Prairie Gleaners accepts its mandate from **Isaiah 58:10** - If you give food to the hungry and satisfy those who are in need, then the darkness around you will turn to the brightness of noon.*

We are a charitable not-for-profit society
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