



Relief, development and peace in the name of Christ

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Dear Friends,

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As we navigate these challenging times together, I hope this letter finds you and your families in the Spirit of 2 Timothy 1:7 (KJV) "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

On March 19, the difficult decision was made to cancel the rest of the 2019-2020 canning season. With businesses closing and local governments enacting their own mitigation efforts, it became very difficult to see how canning could take place in such a chaotic environment. We tried to keep going with additional sanitary precautions, however when the US/Canada border closed it made an abbreviated season inevitable. When individual canning locations started cancelling because of a lack of volunteers, shutting down the mobile cannery was the only choice to be made.

While we are all disappointed with how this season ended, I can only look back with a deep appreciation for all the work we were able to accomplish. We finished the season having produced 497,998 cans of turkey, beef, pork and chicken. It is certainly less than what we planned, but it will still nourish the bodies and spirits of millions of our brothers and sisters around the world. I am also thankful for the work of this year's canning crew. As I'm sure you all witnessed, it is special to see a canning crew be so genuinely in harmony with one another. There are always challenges, and this year was certainly no different. But the excellent way this crew worked together and willingly served is the standard we strive for every year.

Gabriel Eisenbeis and Nathan Stoltzfus plan on returning for the next canning season. We have also hired Han Erb, who is from Ohio. There is still one remaining open position, and it is unclear if the current challenges will restrict an international person from entering or remaining in the U.S. So, it becomes even more important for us to shoulder tap in our communities. Please let me know if you know of anyone who may be interested.

Grace and peace to you, as we walk forward together in faith though this uncertainty. As always, thank you for all your hard work and dedication. You are an amazing example of service in the name of Christ.

Together we can.

In Christ,

John Hillegass
Mennonite Central Committee