

December 31, 2009 – Newsletter

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year All

I thought I'd take this opportunity to let you all know where we are at in this project which began as a burden from God to a few in the summer of 2007, just over two years ago. We have been blessed in so many ways this past year as we see answered prayer as the needs continuing to be supplied by stirred hearts and eager hands.

Early in 2009 our application for rezoning at our anticipated site was sent to the Agricultural Land Commission and quickly approved. Since that time the North Okanagan Regional District (NORD) has worked on new bylaws necessary for us to go into production. This part of the process takes considerable time and will not be completed for at least another 3-4 months. Our dealings with NORD have been very encouraging. They have given much support and are doing their best to have the rezoning completed as soon as possible. Please continue to pray for these issues. We have had two readings of the bylaws but have run into a "glitch" requiring clarification on RV parking. Once that issue is cleared up there will be a Public Meeting, third reading, and a final approval.

As I look back to the beginning of 2009, we were in a position of having a few bits of equipment, a forklift, tables, vegetable washer, a few members, a lot of courage, but no home. Today we have more equipment, including a truck, septic tanks, more members, a supportive landlord, a lot of courage, and a home that is by far closer to a reality than we would have expected. Our first Open House on site in late October was well attended and we are encouraged by the community support.

We as a Board continue to use what we are given to work with in a way that moves the project forward. In regards to purchase of the property, there has not been any indication, as yet that this would go forward in the near future. Donations over the fall, other than monetary, have included donations of service (invaluable), septic tanks from Letco Industries (\$3500.00), a 5 ton truck from Oliver Gleaners (\$13,000), and most recently a donation from Kalamalka Rotary for two processing tables (\$1600.00). These first few years of the NOV Gleaners are ones that need much in the way of equipment. Much of the burden of purchase has been laid on you, our members. The membership continues to grow as the word gets out through presentations and word of mouth. Our most important key to production will be the dicing machine. New or used this an expensive piece

of equipment. A new machine would cost close to \$40,000.00 and used machines in this specialized area are few and far between and still have a high used price tag. We have raised almost half of the cost for a new machine. Also, we will shortly be running the 1st drier, which has required extensive modification, and expect to be close to operational when we receive zoning approval!

Are we where we want to be, should be, have to be?

I don't think that I would even dare to try and answer that. I continue to believe that this is a work that only God can accomplish, in His time and in His way. To see God at work and join in is my greatest privilege and yours as well. So as we all prepare for 2010 and our Olympian event, "God gets gold" will be the headline.

It continues to be a privilege to serve.

Gord Huston, on behalf of the Board

NOV Gleaners