



Fisherman’s Peace

Weary & Scattered

“But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.” -Matthew 9:36-38

By the time we get to verse 36 in Matthew chapter 9, JESUS had healed many diseases, performed multiple miracles including raising a dead girl back to life. Jesus our Savior looked upon multitudes of people and the Bible says He was moved with compassion. This isn’t some feeble emotion that the Lord Jesus had, this was a stirring deep inside, an unrest if you will.

People today are just as wearied and scattered as they were in Jesus’ day. The progress and development of modern society has failed to address the problems and situations of the human condition. We all like sheep have went astray and wandered off from the guidance of The Good Shepherd. As we look the world over we can see clearly that people are weary & scattered. If we’re honest, even as Christians, we sometimes become tired, drained, and running on empty trying to keep up with the demands of a fast paced, full throttle world. We sometimes become so scattered, stretched, and stressed that we wander through days, weeks, months, and sometimes even years with no real direction. I believe The Good Shepherd is calling us all back to the flock this Holiday season. With a guiding voice, He’s redirecting our paths back to a place of fellowship with the Father. Like King David in the Psalms, Jesus is once again calling us to follow him beside the still waters, where goodness and mercy follows and peace prevails in a chaotic world bent on devouring our time, our devotion, and ultimately our souls. As Jesus gently nudges us back on the path of righteousness, let us show our gratitude by leading others to him. As we enjoy all the Blessings of this Holiday Season, let us not forget those around us who are also wearied & scattered, like sheep without a Shepherd. May we be the body of Christ throughout the season and into the New Year, and may we be moved with compassion for those who are lost, those who have wandered astray, or those who simply feel overwhelmed by the pressures of life.

May we be a city set on a hill that cannot be hidden. Let your light shine this season and throughout the year, so those that have lost their way, can find the road back. In the words of the Apostle Paul “let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

May the Grace of God the Father and the Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you now and forever. Amen

By: Jason Mills, pastor of Kildav Community Church



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Sharing His Blessings
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From a Fellow Servant

“Wow! What a wonderful gift!” Have you ever been surprised by a gift that was so great you could not help but think how great it was? As the Christmas season approaches, we begin to plan and purchase gifts we will give to our family and friends. Although we sometimes get wrapped up in the hectic nature and over-commercialization of Christmas, we should always remember its real purpose, God’s gift to us. Jesus, the greatest gift of all, (Emanuel, God with us). Jesus came to earth to show us God the Father and bring us into a relationship with the Father by giving Himself as a sacrifice.

Almost 30 years ago, Christ’s Hands was established to honor Jesus’ command to “love your neighbor as yourself” and show this love by giving “gifts” to anyone who asks. This year has been no different, as we continue to provide “gifts” to our community in the form of hot nutritious meals, healthy food boxes, clothing, and emergency shelter for anyone in need. We are blessed to be allowed to provide these services and we are keenly aware that these efforts would not be possible without the indispensable partnership with you, our faith community. Your support and prayers allow us to continue the mission of loving our neighbor through “gift giving”.

Because of your support and prayers, Christ’s Hands was given the opportunity to share the good news of the gospel while providing 28,642 hot nutritious meals, 16,116 healthy food boxes, hundreds of people with clothing and 527 overnight stays. Without you, our faith community, these “gifts” would not be possible.

As we look back over this year, we cannot help but be thankful for the graciousness of our Lord and your generosity. As we approach 2026, we do so with a renewed sense of excitement in what our Lord Jesus has in store for us. We hope and pray that He will continue to use Christ’s Hands as an instrument to advance His kingdom and allow us to continue presenting the greatest gift of all, Jesus, (Emanuel, God with us).

By: Robert Atkins, MD





DONATE TODAY

Question of the Month



Q: Does Christ’s Hands minister to one particular group of people, such as the homeless, the elderly, or only those within the city of Harlan?

A: Christ’s Hands strives to serve the disadvantaged and underserved from all of Harlan County and into neighboring counties.

Food insecurity is at the heart of the ministry of Christ’s Hands. We distribute food boxes to anyone who comes in need.

In addition to this we have ministries that focus on particular needs. There are resources available for new mothers, children of all ages, the homeless, those who need clothing, fire victims, those needing home goods and various other resources.

Christ’s Hands doesn’t ask questions when our community members seek assistance. We strive to be good stewards of what has been entrusted to us, so we can give freely to those in need.

Ministry Spotlight- Paul M Angell Foundation

We are excited to announce the Paul M. Angell Family Foundation as a new supporter of Christ’s Hands. They have joined us in our efforts of assisting families who face chronic food insecurity. Led by Sharron Angell and her desire to invest in her hometown, the PMAFF has made it possible for Christ’s Hands to continue it Rural Home Delivery Program. Working together with KCEOC and the Family and Youth Resource Centers throughout the Independent and County School systems, we plan to serve over 700 families each month. These families will receive one food box a month that will include locally sourced healthy fresh fruits, vegetables, beef and chicken. Ingredients for 5-7 meals, along with meal planning information and recipes.

One of our favorite things about this delivery model is that the local church is involved. Each of these food boxes will be delivered by a church from the families’ community. This opportunity gives the possibility for volunteers to not only help meet the physical need of hunger in these homes but also address the spiritual need by sharing the love of Christ through this act of kindness and service. Please help us pray for these 27 churches and these congregation members as they work to alleviate food insecurity in Harlan County this school year and beyond.

Ministry Needs

- **Items for use in the Kitchen:** Egg Noodles, Spaghetti, Elbow Macaroni, Stuffing Mix, Instant Potatoes, Canned: Green Beans, Corn, Peas, Carrots, Diced Tomatoes, Baked Beans, Chili Beans, Tomato Sauce, Pasta Sauce, Cream of Chicken, Cream of Mushroom, Sweet Potatoes
- **Items for use in the Pantry:** Peanut Butter, Canned Meat (tuna, chicken, etc.), Oatmeal, Flour, Cornmeal, Canned Soup, Beef Stew, Dry Pinto Beans, Hamburger Helper, Stuffing Mix, Dry Pasta, Canned Vegetables, Crackers, Beanie Weenies, Cereal, Vienna Sausages, Protein Shakes
- **Items for use at Camp:** Mini Split system (\$3,250)
- **Items for use at the warehouse:** Used 24’ Refrigerated Box Truck with a lift (approximately \$75,000)
- **Items for use at Christ’s Hands:** 33-gallon Garbage Bags, Latex Gloves, Quart and Gallon Bags, T-shirt bags, Fold-Top Sandwich Bags



Donations were given in Memorial of the following Brothers and Sisters in 2025:

Audra Buyers, Bettye Moody, Brandon Robinson, Brenda Kay, Bruce Reason, David Jones, Eugene Wacks, Fannie Grubbs, Harold Nolan, Hershell Hicks, Jerry Swim, Jim Greer, Joe Hensley, Johnnie Turner, Juanita Slusher, Kathlean Lambert, Kenneth Ray Duncum, Kenneth Fee, Kirby Fee, Lester Bailey, Libby Balenovich, Lois Nolan Alley, Luke Ediger, Madge Haynes, Margaret Whitted, Merle Chamberlain, Michael O’Bradovich, Norma Mink, Rick Lambert, Robert Bryant, Robert Howard, Roy Faulkner, Roy Sage, Ruby Fisher Carol, Rutland and Maye Joyce Melton, Spencer Horst, Susan Bagony, Sybil Forrester, Theresa Piccirillo, Treasa Baker Nadeau, Warren Ed Creech, and Waynard Hughes

Donations were given in Honor of the following Brother and Sister in 2025:

Bob Platt and Dorothy Toll

2025 Ministry Update

Thanks to the continued support from you and all of our donors, Christ’s Hands has been able to fulfill our mission of “promoting the knowledge of Jesus Christ through service to the residents of the surrounding community” in 2025.

God has given us opportunities to serve our community in a variety of ways always with the focus of food insecurity. Numbers don’t do justice to the untold stories behind them, stories of how God is changing people’s circumstances through previously unmet physicals needs. However, for perspective here are some numbers which represent the work from the last twelve months:



- The soup kitchen has served 28,642 meals.
- Christ’s Hands delivered to the door step of homes in Bell, Harlan, and Letcher counties 8,916 food boxes, containing 142,656 meals.
- Christ’s Hands gave out 7,200 food boxes, containing 115,200 meals during our monthly food pantry distribution at Christ’s Hands.
- January through October Christ’s Hands total meal count was 286,498 meals
- This food was managed at our warehouse where 33 trucks brought in 487,072 pounds of donations that were processed and distributed.
- Christ’s Hands assisted 24 other agencies and church pantries with donations they distribute in their local community.
- Christ’s Hands provided 527 night stays to those in need within our community through the winter warming center.
- Christ’s Hands housed 815 mission team members, who provided home repair and other services to the community.
- Christ’s Hands provided 7,990 services collectively related to showers, clothing, hygiene items, diapers and other essential needs.
- Christ’s Hands has given household furniture, appliances and related items to approximately 280 families.
- This work was largely accomplished by volunteers who provided over 6000 hours of volunteer time.

Again, numbers do not represent the true work we are called to do, which is sharing the love of Christ. As much as possible we want to build relationship with others. From these relationships we hope to build trust, from that trust comes the chance to speak the Gospel of Jesus into people’s lives. We are grateful for the opportunities we have been given and excited about the work God has accomplished. Again, it is because of donors like you and countless volunteers from our communities that make this possible. Please consider continuing your support of Christ’s Hands.



Camp Tabor

We have been coming to Harlan County since 1997 wanting to be God’s hands and feet. We bring groups down from Indianapolis twice a year for trailer loads of donations throughout the year. We started serving with Becky and Bobby Simpson at Cranks Creek Survival Center until they both passed. We had fallen in love with Harlan, the people, and had many close relationships. We knew that’s where God wanted us to continue serving, but with the loss of the Simpsons, we needed a place to stay. We had seen Christ’s Hands building (that is hard to miss when traveling thru Harlan) and knew they had been serving the area as long as we had been coming down. How blessed we were when we met Bryan Toll director of Christ’s Hands and learned they were going to be taking over the former Forestry Camp on top of Little Shepherd Trail.



Our prayers were answered!!! We were honored to be the first group to stay there in the summer of 2023. We have loved being connected with Christ’s Hands and seeing what they are doing. They specialize in food insecurity and are always working to do more for those just trying to get by. How amazing, they are bringing food to some people’s doorsteps! We have appreciated how they network with other organizations like COAP and United for Jesus in Cumberland. I had mentioned that we bring loads down and it’s wonderful to know that the furniture, clothes, appliances and household goods we bring are distributed right away and go to churches and other organizations. To know that the donations we bring down help Hope Center, ROAR, Street Ministry, United for Jesus and Cawood is so fulfilling! God is so good! We love that they work together to meet the needs of the community. They are motivated to show the people Jesus and they are not in competition with one another. We have been able to work alongside Christ’s Hands by being part of their food giveaway, put together food boxes and supplying them with donations. They are also serving God and the community with daily meals at the center, outreach to the homeless and a clothes pantry. Twenty-eight years of trips, following Gods leading have showed us how important it is to serve and make relationships in the process. We have been honored all these years to meet some amazing families when we are in their homes doing repairs and also to know that there are many in community that are dedicated to God and serving the people, God has taught us that if we have a willing heart He will use us in ways we can never imagine.

By: Vicki Nelson and Marie VanHorn -Hearts for Harlan