



Fisherman's Peace

As a believer, it is important to sometimes sit still and listen. If we fail to do this, we may miss an opportunity to be led by the Holy Spirit. His spirit may give us a gentle nudge in the checkout line, urging us to pay it forward to a single mother in need. Other times it is a loud call as to opportunities to help the recent Black Jewel coal miners faced with sudden unemployment. Our lives can be hectic and with that comes the possibility of missing those calls, which results in our own loss of a blessing. God's word is plain and simple; Matthew 5:16 says, "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds glorify your Father in Heaven." And again in 2 Corinthians 9:8-11, "And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written, They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever. Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us, your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."

I am blessed to be a father of 3 wonderful daughters and I have witnessed first hand the joy of giving to them. I have also told them many times, the true blessing comes from giving. COAP is my blessing. I have the ability to use my talents and time to not only do good work but to spread the name of Jesus. I encourage everyone to use your God-given talents, your time and your money to serve others. You will learn, as I have, it is more blessed to give than receive.

With the love of Christ,
Michael King, Executive Director COAP, Inc.



CHRIST'S HANDS, INC.
112 Railroad Street
Harlan, Kentucky 40831
Office: 606-573-6030
christshandsky.org



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SUPPORT FOR CHRIST'S HANDS

Christ's Hands is blessed to continue in the ministry of serving. The assistance given to those in need has been accomplished by the dedication of our many volunteers and donors. We encourage you to consider making a contribution. We ask that you prayerfully consider Christ's Hands during your estate planning. Tax deductible gifts in the form of real estate, vehicles, stocks, bonds or other valuables are always welcome. Without your generous support, the many ministries of Christ's Hands would not be possible. Thank you for your continued support and prayers for these Kingdom building ministries.

Sharing His Blessings



From A Fellow Servant

By: Steve Miracle, Board Member

If I were speaking to you from the pulpit at your church, you would expect to hear something spiritual. But, what if the police came in and handcuffed me and took me away to jail. Someone might say they heard I was caught shop-lifting at a local store, but the real truth comes out the next day in the newspaper....I am a serial killer! Well, I go to trial and the jury finds me guilty and I am sentenced to the electric chair in two weeks. Let's say I have a good friend, Bill, who goes to the judge and tries to use his influence to "get me off." Bill then says he will offer himself in my place. The judge says, "Nothing doing, he's going to the chair. But wait a minute, you have a son don't you.... Well, I'll take him." Bill says, "My only son!" But Bill's love for me is great and he tells the judge he will offer his son as a substitute for me on my execution day. The day comes and Bill brings his son to the place of execution. Knocks on the door and the guard opens it up and Bill starts to tell his son "good-bye." The guard says, "Hold on, you don't understand. You will have to go in and strap him in the chair." With a heavy heart Bill goes in and does just that. His son looks up at him with tears dripping from his chin and says, "Father, why have you forsaken me like this." Bill then turns from his son to walk out and the guard stops him and says, "Hold on, now you have to push the button that ends the life of your son!" With that, Bill pushes the button and ends his son's life and I am instantly freed. Several days later Bill walks in to a restaurant and sees me sitting in a booth with someone. He sits down behind the booth as he sees I am talking to them. But he hears the conversation between me and the other person. "How in the world did you get out of being executed," I am asked. "Well, me and the judge are good friends, and you know, I used to help little old ladies across the street. I even tossed in a hundred dollars in the offering plate every now and then. The judge realized I was a pretty good guy." The truth is, it was Bill's son that freed me, not my good deeds.

Some day we will all stand before Christ. Please, I repeat, please, do not rely on your good works to go to Heaven. The Bible says that good works are but filthy rags. If you're a Christian, your good works are the fruit of your salvation and the result of your salvation.

The story I just told is gripping but is necessary to get the point across. At Christ's Hands there are many Christians who, as a result of salvation, realize the need here. They are literally giving of themselves and want to make a difference. Please, as you continue to give and sacrifice for Christ's Hands, it is our prayer that we can make a difference physically (through the food and services we give) as well as spiritually. Thanks for all that you do!

Appalachian Service Project

Appalachia Service Project (ASP) is a Christian ministry, open to all people, that inspires hope and service through volunteer home repair and replacement in Central Appalachia. In 1969, Rev. Glenn “Tex” Evans – a United Methodist minister – became one of the first people to connect the energy of youth with the deep needs of the poor. Since 1969, 393,643 volunteers from across the nation have repaired 17,866 homes and, in the process, Appalachian families, volunteers, and staff have been immeasurably blessed. ASP is based out of Johnson City, TN and provides home repairs in Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia. ASP envisions the eradication of substandard housing in Central Appalachia and the transformation of everyone who comes in contact with this ministry. ASP has been coming to serve the Harlan County community since 1981. We are lucky to have created strong partners in the community that allow us to return year after year.

Over the past couple of years, ASP's facility needs in Harlan County started to outgrow what previous facilities could offer. ASP was lucky to build great relationships with Christ's Hands and others in the community that transpired into being able to stay at Christ's Hands this past summer. 23 different volunteer groups, consisting of 570 people, from 12 different states, came to stay at Christ's Hands this summer. 143 projects, across 14 homes, were completed, to help 40 people. The most common projects that ASP completed were floor repair, wall repair, and safe exits/entrances into homes. ASP was also able to complete a few roofs consisting of entire repairs and/or patches, door and window replacements, underpinning and drainage ditches. All of this work would not have been possible without the partnership and community of Christ's Hands.

By: Kristina Rowles, ASP Regional Coordinator



The Ministries of Christ's Hands

Christ's Hands is open weekdays to assist anyone in need to the extent of our capabilities. Donations are received weekdays between 9am and 12pm and again between 4pm and 6pm. Our services include:

- The New Covenant Kitchen: Meals are served Monday through Friday at 5pm and the last Sunday of each month. All are welcome to fellowship over this meal.
- The Harlan County Emergency Food Pantry: Foods boxes are distributed on Mondays and Tuesdays of the third full week of each month. A valid ID and proof of residency in Harlan County is required. Food boxes are available daily as needed but all clients are advised to come to the scheduled distribution days.
- The Good Samaritan Room: this ministry is open Mondays 10am to 2pm, Tuesdays and Thursday 4:30pm to 5:30pm, Wednesdays and Fridays 11am to 12pm. Clothing, household items, furniture, hygiene products, and more are distributed free of charge that have been donated and are available to those in need. (Days and hours are subject to change due to volunteer availability).
- The Winter Emergency Shelter: The shelter is scheduled to open December 1st and closes on February 28th. If temperatures drop below 32° operations could begin before and extend later. A valid ID is required of clients.
- The Hospitality Center: Mission groups large and small can stay year round in this facility. This space includes family rooms, group rooms, a kitchen and dining area, and male and female bath and shower facilities.

Reflections



My experience working on the Tiny House Project at Christ's Hands has been moving, to say the very least. The privilege of joining God where He is at work is a humbling and heart-gratifying feeling. As I painted my part of the house, I prayed for the person(s) that would be moving in one day. Our group looks forward to coming to Harlan every year because the people of Harlan are so special and we have come to love them. We look forward to seeing how God is moving Christ's Hands to do His work in the community and where we can join together with them. Thank you for the opportunity to serve our God!

By: Suzanne Foust, summer volunteer

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

The Great Commission given to us by Jesus Christ is not one to be taken lightly. It was his last directive to the disciples, and remains just as important for us today, as followers, as it was then. When the opportunity to present Jesus Christ to anyone is available, we must seize it because that is what He has commanded us to do.

When afforded the opportunity to meet with the cadets from the Challenge Academy, I was a little hesitant at first. As a pastor, husband, father of two boys, and a fulltime employee, my time is somewhat limited. I selfishly, at first thought about turning it down, but what a blessing I received.

During my time with these young men, we were able to cover the questions they had about the Bible and establish the need that we all have for Jesus. As a result of sharing the gospel, we had 9 confessions of Faith in Jesus Christ and baptized 8. I praise the Lord for the opportunity to spread His message of Hope.

By: Pastor Frank Shope, Christ's Hands Volunteer-Discipleship Mentor for Appalachian Challenge Academy

This Month's Q&A



Q: How do the people of Harlan county know what services are available at Christ's Hands?

Advertising has its obstacles. Harlan county is large and spread out, including several cities and many different communities up and down the mountains.

Christ's Hands has been working to provide food security and other necessities for over 20 years, our services are known within the community. We also work with several organizations who offer similar assistance and they readily share information about our services.

When it comes to the neighbor down the street who needs help, or a friend of a friend in need, we depend on the local churches, individuals and folks like you, to share our mission and our programming with others.

Relationship is the difference maker both here and now and for eternity. Our community is tightly knit, caring and sincere in its compassion for its members. Help us share Christ's love by sharing our mission with others.