

Fisherman's Peace

“The One who made everything made Himself nothing. Christ made Himself small. He made Himself dependent upon lungs, a larynx, and legs. He experienced hunger and thirst. He went through all the normal stages of human development. He was taught to walk, stand wash His face, and dress Himself. His muscles grew stronger; His hair grew longer. He was genuinely human.”

-Because of Bethlehem- Max Lucado

It's amazing to think that Christ actually was physically here on this earth. That He walked, taught, and served here on this earth. And He did so to everyone that He encountered. And it's because of the love that He showed us as Christians that it is our responsibility to show that love to all we come in contact with, from serving meals, to taking a blanket or some clothes to someone in need. This year more than ever people need to see the love of Christ not just from our words but from our actions as well. It's the love of Christ that He showed us when we didn't deserve it, it's the love of Christ that brought us out of the darkness, that we need to go and show this world. This holiday season remember those who may need the love of Christ more than ever and know there is always things that we can be doing to serve. Blessings!

By: Pastor Chris Wheeler- Harlan Christian Church



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Sharing His Blessings
Fall 2020



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From A Fellow Servant

By: Mrs. Elaine Landis, Volunteer

In 1998 when I retired from teaching I knew that Christ's Hands was an organization with which I wanted to get involved as a volunteer. And I did.

For 11 years on alternate Tuesdays I was responsible for planning and cooking the evening meal. I usually had one good cook and helper, who was also a volunteer. When people came into the dinning room at 5:00 P.M., we helped to serve them too.

Years later, I began delivering meals to people around Harlan, Fairview and the high rise apartments who can't come to the dining room for various reasons- ill health, elderly, no transportation. Each Tuesday evening at 4:00 P.M. I visited these people and took them their evening meal. One lady, Mrs. Leath, 90 years old, looked forward to my coming and wanted me to sit and visit with her. She was a special Christian friend and mentor who has gone to her heavenly reward in the last year.

When Covid-19 hit Harlan last March, I stopped delivering. A young man, Andrew Slusher, from Wallins had learned my delivery route and he took over. One evening while delivering, I pulled up to Gary Brock's house in Fairview and put the car in park -or so I thought,- while I got out and took his meal to the gate, instead, I put it in reverse. Mr. Brock come to my aid. He saw my car moving backward. He jumped over his fence and was able to get in my car and stop it before any damage could be done. He was there at the right time. Praise the Lord! Occasionally I take him some pumpkin or zucchini bread or homemade cookies which he loves. I want to show him my thanks and appreciation for the time he came to my rescue.

For the last five years, I now help with the food boxes that are given out on the third Monday and Tuesday of each month. In October last month 226 boxes were given out. Tuesday and Thursday mornings find me at Christ's Hands putting food in smaller quantities for each box. For instance, 43 boxes of loose dried cranberries have come into the warehouse. They are soft and delicious. We fill a quart storage zip-lock bag ready to be put in the 226 boxes. Another morning we wrap 10 frozen beef patties in plastic baggies, (they came in a box of 150) and keep them frozen for the monthly boxes. Sometimes candy or crackers have to be bagged.

At Christ's Hands I work with fine Christian friends- people who are desiring to serve and help their fellow men to have a better life. In **Mark 10:45 we read, "Jesus came not to be served, but to serve."** I desire to do just that. I will soon celebrate my 83rd birthday. Someday I will have to give up my volunteer work at Christ's Hands. Younger people are needed who will step up and step out to volunteer in my place. You don't have to cook; you can help sort, organize and fill shelves, pack food boxes, serve food, clean up. There are many jobs to be done by you, if you have willing hands. God bless each of you as you contemplate and make a decision to open up your heart for service at Christ's Hands. You might want to give a money gift to help buy food for the monthly food boxes or for the daily evening meal.

For 22 years, 1998 to the present, I've had the joy of serving at Christ's Hands. Changes have taken place. There have been several locations. There have been additions such as the clothing store. There were some months when my husband was sick which led to his death and I could not volunteer. But I am glad that the Lord blesses me with health and strength to do what I can.

Christ's Hands Needs List

- One year's supply of latex gloves for the kitchen \$1750
- One year's supply of to-go trays to serve hot meals to our home bound clients \$1250
- One season to operate Christ's Hands Winter Shelter \$15,000
- One year's supply of 50 and 13-gallon trash bags \$1200
- One semi-truck of food acquired through Operation Blessing \$2500
- **Items for use in the Kitchen:** Pinto Beans, Green Beans, Corn, Peas, Baked Beans, Greens, Mixed Vegetables, Cream of Chicken, Sweet Potatoes, Carrots, Evaporated Milk, Dry Ranch Seasoning, Brown Gravy Mix, Pasta- Macaroni, Spaghetti, etc., Stuffing mix, Chili Powder, Taco Seasoning, BBQ Sauce, Ranch and Italian Dressing, Powered Coffee Creamer, Fold Top Sandwich Bags, Gallon Sized Bags, Plastic Forks and Spoons, Cooking Spray
- **Items for use in the Pantry:** Corn, Green Beans, Peas, Tomatoes, Pinto Beans, Pork & Beans, Soup, Macaroni & Cheese, Spaghetti, Egg Noodles, Sugar, Salt, Meal, Flour, Oatmeal, Mash Potatoes and Can Meat- Tuna, Salmon, Chicken, Beef Stew.

New Distribution Center

In December of 2015 Christ's Hands received its first semi-truck load of food from Mid-West Food Bank to distribute in the community. Since then we have worked with over 20 different community pantries and churches to assist local efforts to alleviate hunger. Shipments of food are used to assist pantries in their own efforts to manage and operate food pantries. It is our desire to use this avenue to strengthen the local church's ability to do outreach in our communities. Creating relationships by meeting physical needs, we believe makes it easier to address the need for Christ in someone's life.

For the last two years, we have been looking for a new space to utilize for this particular ministry. We outgrew the warehouse area in Christ's Hands and needed the ability to handle more product. In October, GOD MOVED! Thanks to a generous agreement with Cupp-Metcalf Properties, we now have a 7000 sqft warehouse in Baxter to expand this ministry. Already being set up with a loading dock and an additional loading bay, now we can collect and distribute food to more pantries. Our local hardware store, Southern Wholesale, donated a forklift and enough racking system to fill the building. We are excited to see how God uses this new resource for His Glory.



"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."
—Hebrews 11:6

HELP CHRIST'S HANDS
SHARE THE LOVE OF
CHRIST BY

VOLUNTEERING

We need volunteers to help in ministering to our community, Christ's love needs shared now more than ever. There are numerous ways you can lend a hand. Consider these areas of service: working in the food pantry, helping prepare meals, working to sort and organize donations, drive a truck to pick up donations, present a devotion, deliver food to shut-ins or work in our warehouse distributing food.

Bring your family, Sunday School class, your friend group or come by yourself and meet some new people. Without volunteers, Christ's Hands cannot impact the community for Christ.

Reflections

"For we walk by faith not by sight." -2 Corinthians 5:7

I came to Christ's Hands in September 2017, not knowing what I'd be doing but trying to follow the leading of the Lord. I volunteered for 6 months then I was given the opportunity to manage the kitchen and volunteers. I had no idea the impact it would have on my life. I had no experience but I had faith, faith that God had brought me there for that purpose, faith He would make me able. That leap of faith that I took has been one of the greatest blessings of my life. Every person I have crossed paths with at Christ's Hands has been a part of my growth, and I'm thankful for each one. This shy girl who could barely speak to anyone now spends her day interacting with people from all walks of life. I love to tell others about that leap of faith and how God made me able.

By: Natasha Duff- Kitchen Manager and Volunteer Coordinator

2020 Ministry Update

New Covenant Kitchen: 20,000 meals provided

Food Pantry: 2,250 food boxes filled

2019 Winter Shelter: 526 night stays to 40 clients

Volunteer Hours: 3,000+ hours served

Distribution Ministry: 227 families served

For two-years Tommy has been on the streets. He stayed with his brother in Hazard until it no longer was a safe place for him to be. Living out of his truck he found his way to Harlan and Christ's Hands. This past summer he broke his ankle in 3 places and became immobile. Shortly after that his truck caught on fire, leaving him with nothing. A local pastor gave him a tent and helped him set it up, he recalls. "He's a good man, said I could call him anytime." CAA helped Tommy find housing in October. With the donations received at Christ's Hands we were able to help him 'set up house'. "Christ's Hands has always been good to me," Tommy recounts. Thanks to our community, we are able to help neighbors like Tommy.



Our Neighbor Tommy Miller
Story and photo shared with permission.

Donations were given in Memorial of the following Brothers and Sisters in 2020:

Allen Luttrell, Bernice Hensley, Betty Stanifer, Bob Blanton, Don Napier, Donnie Evans, Frank Marsili, John Erving, Johnny Carroll, Libby Balenovich, Loretta McCurry, Marrietta Day, Mary Lynn Jackson, Phillip Smith, Rody Kirk, Theda Hensley, and Willard Carmical

Donations were given in Honor of the following Brothers and Sisters in 2020:

Ginny Carmical and Vivianin Trosper

This Month's Q&A



Q: How has COVID-19 affected Christ's Hands?

In March of 2020 as COVID-19 began impacting our nation, Christ's Hands took the necessary precautions to keep our clients, volunteers and employees safe. Each of our ministries transitioned to no-contact platforms.

The dining hall began serving hot meals in to-go trays on the porch. The Food Pantry started using a drive-thru format. The Good Samaritans Room closed its doors and began meeting need by appointment only. The Hospitality Center closed until this fall and now limits mission teams to groups smaller than 10. The Education and Training program has been temporarily suspended.

We practice the Healthy at Work guidelines implemented in Kentucky. We have also limited the number of volunteers in shared spaces as much as possible.

God has been good to us. We have meet the challenge of continuing to share the Gospel during this time all while donations have decreased.

Consider partnering with us as the year comes to a close.