

Fisherman's Peace

"The Work You Can't See"

Stale, dry, cold. There are many ways to describe a loss of passion in our service to God. There are just as many causes for that loss of passion. Maybe like the farmer, you have sown the seed but failed to see it sprout. Or, maybe someone's harsh words have left you feeling hurt, raw, and discouraged. Maybe you're just tired!

It doesn't take long for our once joyous, rewarding ministry to lose its vibrancy, and it seems much more effort is required to rediscover that passion once lost. This is especially true when we see no fruit from our labors. The parable of the seed growing in Mark 4 reminds us that the gospel is at work through our faithful service, even when we can't see it!

The farmer in that parable gets up each day to tend to the work of planting, watering, weeding and then goes to bed never seeing the effect of his work. Then, one day the seed sprouts and grows – the farmer doesn't know how. To the farmer's eyes nothing is changing while the seed grows underground. Suddenly, a crop appears!

Your faithful service in the Name of Christ is important. It may not appear so on the surface. We rarely see the work the gospel is doing in someone's heart. Sometimes we get to be there when the seed sprouts, or when leaves appear, or fruit begins to develop. Those moments will reignite great joy in us.

Those moments aren't always abundant. The psalmist says that those who sow in tears will reap with shouts of joy. There will be days of sorrowful work. Discouragement and frustration and waiting are part of farming...and gospel service. But Paul urges in Galatians 6:9, "Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary."

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Sharing His Blessings
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Sharing His Blessings



What Jesus Tells Us About The Times In Which We Live.

Floods, inflation, recession, gas prices, increased rents, cost of food, supply chain issues, climate change, pandemics. We all have experienced and heard these things in the news media and in coffee shops across our country. True or not, it makes us wonder and ask the question, "What is happening in our country and the world?"

It is true, we live in turbulent times and a time of change. Many of us grew up during the 1960's and 70's and remember times similar to this when Vietnam was still an issue, it was feared the Russians would start a nuclear war and trouble in the Middle East caused a gasoline crisis similar to the one we are experiencing now and had not been seen since World War II.

What do the troubles of the 1960's/70's and today have in common? Fear. Fear about tomorrow. Fear about what will happen to our country. Fear about how we will provide for our families. Fear.

Although the events happening in the world breed fear, Jesus told us to have a different mindset.

We, as Christ Followers know what our Lord told us in John 14, "Let not your heart be troubled." Jesus was telling His followers that He would be leaving them soon. They like us, were afraid. Afraid of being left alone. Afraid of what tomorrow might bring.

Jesus does not want us to be afraid. Instead, He encourages us by telling us, "Let not your heart be troubled." Jesus knew that "we will have trouble in this world", but that was not where He stopped. Jesus goes on to tell us that 'He has overcome the world.' (John 16:33)

No matter what trouble may surround us. No matter what obstacle stands before us, Jesus assures us that His presence is greater than any of those fears. With Him living inside us and walking along with us, we can make it through any challenge this world may offer.

Before Jesus returned to Heaven, He gave his disciples some instruction that would guide them through the turbulent times they were going to face. As with them, Jesus gives us the same road map to navigate the turbulent times in which we live, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:34-35).

Love. The only thing that can overcome fear. Love.

Over twenty years ago, Christ's Hands was started in an effort to be obedient to Jesus' command, "...love one another." Over that time, our Lord has blessed us with individuals and community partners that have the same desire, "...love one another." We at Christ's Hands have diligently sought to be obedient to this command by being "Christ's hands" to those around us. Showing Christ's love by helping those in need.

Jesus has truly blessed Christ's Hands by allowing faithful partners to join us in fulfilling our mission to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, care for the sick, house the homeless and most importantly, spread the Good News of Jesus Christ and the salvation that only comes through Him.

Without you, our faithful partners, this would not have been possible. Over these recent months we have been blessed with the opportunity to provide 18,589 meals to hungry individuals, 634 food boxes to hurting families, 65 overnight stays to homeless souls and most importantly, proclaim the Gospel to countless.

Only Jesus can calm our fears and overcome the obstacles that are before us. Although we know that "we will have trouble in this world" we are confident that our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ will be with us and guide us through these turbulent times. Take heart my brothers and sisters and do not be afraid, Jesus has "overcome the world".

-Your fellow servant, Robert

From a Fellow Servant

Romans 12:6-7 says, "We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If it is serving, then serve." Serving is what I do and how I love the people in my life. It is truly the gift our Father God has given me. I have served and still continue to serve my church in many areas but as I have grown in the Lord and branched out and made many more Kingdom connections, I realized just how true Jesus's words in Matthew 9:37 were; The laborers are few but the work is there in abundance! So, my desire to go beyond my own church and family to serve began to grow.

My time of volunteering at Christ's Hands began when our local homeschool group gathered there to help in the pantry. We all sat as Brian introduced himself and the staff and went over some of the other serving opportunities and I knew then this was the next place God would have me give my time. I was so excited and a little anxious to sign up to help cook meals for those in need. This was out of my comfort zone and I wasn't sure if my children would be able to be involved. But as we worked that day bagging flour, cornmeal, etc. for the food box giveaways I realized just how welcoming and willing this ministry was to work with children and allow them to opportunities to serve. It was exciting for me knowing that my children weren't going to be a burden and were encouraged with jobs they could do on their own. I knew they could also learn skills I'm not always able to teach at home. And of course, this is an excellent way to show children that serving our community is exactly what Jesus was doing in his time on earth and the example he wished for us to follow.

I thoroughly enjoy spending my morning alongside my kids and the kitchen staff being the hands and feet of our Lord Jesus. It has been an honor and pleasure for me and it's wonderful watching my children grow in their service to God through this experience. I am so thankful for Christ's Hands welcoming my family into theirs. I'm especially thankful for the work that is done there.

If you have considered or have felt the draw from God to come along side this ministry of feeding the hungry and clothing those who are in need, please don't hesitate any longer. My time volunteering has brought so much more purpose and pleasure into my life and even more love and compassion into my heart. We are the hands and feet of Jesus and Christ's Hands is the perfect place to start!

By: Brittney Major, Volunteer Cook



Wednesday cook Brittney Majors and her children



After last year's successful Pack-a-thon at Christ's Hands, we had planned to host one again in June.

After some shipping delays and rescheduling, the event did take place in Elkhorn, KY. Richard Green with Elkhorn City Baptist Church lead a group in packing the 20,000 meals and made them available to Christ's Hands for distribution.



It is our hope and plan to host a Pack-a-thon at Christ's Hands this fall.

Stay tuned to our Facebook page for this upcoming event.

Community Night

Each Tuesday night all summer long



It has been the mission of Christ's Hands to present the Gospel from whatever platform God has given us access to. Our 'Community Nights' are yet another example of this. Several years ago, we developed the space on the third floor to host large groups. Over 500 youth and adult missionaries who have come into Harlan with COAP, SWAP and ASP have attended our evening programs this summer. They have come to provide a helping hand in the name of Jesus. We feed them a traditional Appalachian meal of soup beans, greens, fried potatoes and corn bread. We share about the mission of Christ's Hands and the work we engage in year-round. We talk about living on the mission field where God has placed each of us. The evening is capped-off with a community speaker who presents some aspect of our culture, heritage, challenges, traditions and so forth. What better way to empower missionaries than to: encourage them, thank them and show appreciation for the time they have invested in our communities.

A thank you letter from Grand Blanc United Methodist Church....

July 13, 2022

Greetings in Christ,
We had the honor of staying at your facility last week as we worked in Harlan County through the Appalachia Service Project. Thank you for allowing us to use your facility and thank you for all you do. On Sunday, we shared our experience with our congregation. We were so impressed with all you do in Harlan that we collected donations for Christ's Hands. Please find the enclosed donation to assist with your work in your community.

-Cathy, ASP Team Co-Leader

This Month's Q&A



I'm not physically able to do much, how can I help?

If you can go grocery shopping, then you can help with our daily pickup route.

If you have taught a Sunday school class or lead devotions you can share the Word with our clients before meal time.

If you have cleaned up after a yard sale or cleaned out your garage, you can help us sort through donations.

If you have a desire to serve, we can find a way for you to help. Contact us at 573-6030.

Christ's Hands Christian Leadership Scholarship

Kamryn Jenna Hoiska was awarded the first Christ's Hands Christian Leader Scholarship during Senior Honors Night at Harlan County High School. Christ's Hands Board of Director Scott Pace presented the \$2,500 scholarship to Hoiska. Congratulations!

You can help us invest in the future of the church and our communities by making a donation to the scholarship fund today.



On His Road 7/2022



For the last four years a group of friends from the Greater D.C. area have ridden their Harleys over the mountains into Harlan. It has been a blessing to have them partner with us while they're here serving. They focus on establishing relationships, encouraging other believers in their walk with Christ and supporting the work being done in the Kingdom of God here in Harlan. This year they rebuilt a wheelchair ramp at New Freedom Worship Center in Wallins Creek, installed new ceiling fans in the 'Community Room' and replaced a portion of the outside steps to the second floor at Christ's Hands. They worked tirelessly in the heat and humidity. Just like other missionaries who come to serve our community, they bring new energy, excitement, and the joy of the Lord. It is such an encouragement to our local volunteers and the staff at Christ's Hands to labor with other brothers and sisters in Christ.

Christ's Hands Needs Lists

Items for use in the Kitchen and the Pantry:

Pinto Beans, Green Bean, Corn, Peas, Baked Beans, Greens, Tomatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Cream of Chicken, Sweet & Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, Evaporated Milk, Dry Ranch Seasoning, Brown Gravy Mix, Pasta- Egg Noodles, Macaroni, Spaghetti, etc., Stuffing mix, Chili Powder, Taco Seasoning, BBQ Sauce, Ranch and Italian Dressing, Soups, Sugar, Salt, Meal, Flour, Oatmeal, Canned Meat, Beef Stew, Powered Coffee Creamer, Fold Top Sandwich Bags, Gallon Sized Bags, Plastic Forks and Spoons, Cooking Spray, Latex Gloves, 55 gallon garbage bags, Bleach