



Sharing His Blessings

Spring 2016

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From A Fellow Servant

by Robert R. Atkins, MD, Chairman

With Easter just around the corner, reminding us of the sacrifice and gift of Grace that our Father in Heaven bestowed upon us through Jesus His Son, I am always thankful for the people who have been a part of Christ's Hands ministry. No greater group of Christians can be found anywhere. "Christ followers that not only have Christ in their hearts but in their hands". Christ followers that are eager to serve through their gifts of time, talents and resources.

Christ's Hands was founded with the desire to serve Christ by serving those closest to us. You, the volunteers and supporters, are the means by which Christ's Hands is able to fulfill that mission.

Because of Christ's work in you, Christ's Hands has been able to continue serving hot home cooked

meals, provide monthly food boxes and provide emergency shelter during times of inclement weather and local natural disasters. The facilities have also been used by various community groups reaching out to help our neighbors with family, social and personal problems.

Saying thank you for all that you have done will never be enough. Because of you, we will be eternally grateful and continue praying that our Lord will bless you and work through you during the remainder of 2016.

May God bless you abundantly.



Addressing Hunger

Food Pantry volunteer, Barb Nolan talks about the ministry of the Harlan County Emergency Food Pantry. In 2015 the pantry distributed over 2000 food boxes.

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Unto the least of these...

Christ's Hands New Covenant Kitchen served over 18,500 meals in 2015. Kitchen manger, Sandy Sage shares what ministering at the New Covenant Kitchen means to her.

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Unto the Least of These

by Sandy Sage

The experience as the kitchen supervisor at Christ's Hands has been very humbling in my life. When I began, I was overloaded with information. I questioned myself and thought, can I really do this? I personally believe when we are called into ministry of any type we should do this with excellence. I am not saying we will not fail or have difficulties, but set our hearts to do what God has called us to do with the right attitude and the right motives. We are to do this with love, honor, and glory for the Father. Being a part of Christ's Hands feeding ministry has changed my outlook on life and has increased my faith in what God is able and willing to do for his people.

Many times I have witnessed prayers being answered at Christ's Hands. Praying for enough food to prepare a meal and the need be met either the same day or within a few days. This has increased my faith seeing the hands of Christ move in a need. The thing I realize is that it requires obedience on every heart that God moves upon to help. One of my favorite verses is Matthew 25:40, **And the King answer and says unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. When we feed, cloth, house, or even visit the least we have done this unto Jesus.** I have witnessed many people willing to do the work of the kingdom by giving their time serving those who are in need of a meal or just lend a listening ear to those in need. So when you read this verse always remember, you are doing this unto the master when you serve the least of these.

Addressing Hunger

by Barb Nolan

Christ's Hands food pantry is continually working in our community. With so many people unemployed and underemployed, with the high cost of food and utilities more and more people are seeking emergency food. Food to get them from payday to payday.

It is very challenging to have food to fill 200 plus boxes monthly. It takes hours of work and numerous volunteers to collect the food and get the boxes ready each month, and it continues to grow as the economy worsens.

To fight hunger takes volunteers and donations. We are grateful for a community that is willing to step up in this time of need. We have churches that are faithful to help in this cause, businesses that donate daily. It takes cooperation and efficiency and strong partnerships to end hunger.

NEW PARTNERSHIPS



Mid-West Food Bank

As a faith based organization it is the mission of Midwest Food Bank Food Bank to alleviate hunger and poverty by gathering and distributing food donations to not-for-profits and disaster sites without cost to the recipients.



Christian Appalachian Project

Christian Appalachian Project's mission is building hope, transforming lives, and sharing Christ's love through service in Appalachia.

NEW RESOURCES

www.christshandsky.org

The website contains vital information concerning our mission, current projects, and other helpful information.

PayPal™

You can also now make donations through PayPal via the website.



Look up "Christ's Hands" on Facebook to learn about donation days each month, Family Service nights and other updates concerning the ministries at Christ's Hands.

SWAP SUMMER OF 2015



Gutter and Roof Repairs

The SWAP group from Salem Mennonite Church repaired the gutters and replaced parts of the roof during their week at Christ's Hands.

FAST FACTS

6 work teams

We had the privilege of hosting SWAP groups 3 weeks this past summer, totaling 38 participants.

912 hours

SWAP volunteers contributed 8800 hours of service to the communities in Harlan County in 2015 and 912 of those hours to the ministries at Christ's Hands.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

SWAP is one of the many partners Christ's Hands works with to impact the Kingdom of God. You can learn more about their ministry at

www.mcc.org/get-involved/serve/volunteer/swap



New Generator Room

The SWAP group from Canaan Fellowship Church built a new addition to house our newly donated generator this summer among many other improvements made to the building.



Sharing With Appalachian People is a Mennonite Central Committee program.

Family Service Night

by Steve Erickson

Martin Luther King Day is also known around the country as a "National Service and Remembrance Day". The other day set aside for service is September 11th. Families and individuals around the United States take advantage of opportunities to serve others in a special way on these two days. Study of Jesus' life tells us that followers of Christ should be servant leaders:

Galatians 5:13: *You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.*

It is for this reason that 2016 MLK day seemed like a great opportunity to kick off a new program at Christ's Hands. On January 18, the first **Family Service Night** took place in the dining room at Christ's Hands. Steve and Nicole Erickson, of Mennonite Central Committee's (MCC) Sharing With Appalachian People (SWAP) program, were present to facilitate this first Family Service night. SWAP and Christ's Hands designed Family Service Night to make service opportunities available to families in Harlan County.

The families that gathered together assembled hygiene kits. Keeping clean is an important part of remaining healthy and many families often struggle to afford basic hygiene supplies. Hygiene

kits are given to those in the community to encourage healthy habits and are distributed locally through the Emergency Food Pantry at Christ's Hands. Each kit contained a toothbrush, toothpaste, a bar of soap, shampoo, a hand towel and a fingernail clipper.

In addition to assembling kits for Harlan County residents, participants also assembled kits to be distributed around the world by Mennonite Central Committee. MCC is a global, nonprofit organization that strives to share God's love and compassion for all through relief, development and peace.

More Family Service Nights are scheduled for the future, with activities ranging from assembling Emergency Food boxes for clients of Christ's Hands and assembling School Kits for local and international distribution. Look for Christ's Hands on Facebook for more information about these exciting opportunities to learn more about Jesus and his command to *love one another as we love ourselves*.

A New Look

-Murals created by Bob Howard

One of the many blessings we experience at Christ's Hands is the opportunity to work with members of the Kingdom of God. Over the years, members of God's Family have shared their time, talents and resources to enhance the work that is done through Christ's Hands. This past fall, local artist Bob Howard started a new project to help create a warm and inviting space on the porch of the building. This is an enormous benefit to welcoming volunteers and clients alike. His first project was to incorporate our new logo into a design that would be a showcase to the community as its location can be easily viewed from HWY 38 and the downtown area. As you can see in these pictures, the stairs to the main office entrance had aged over time and needed a face lift. This new feature to the entrance has been well received by the community and our volunteers. Bob's next project is to create a scene depicting the ministry done at Christ's Hands on the porch itself. We can't wait to see what unfolds this spring.



Ministry Needs

Ministry Growth:

- Office paper (8.5x11 and 8.5x14)
- Phone system
- Work groups
- Projector
- Pickup truck

Building and Maintenance:

- Dock plate
- Fire Door Panic Bars (5)

New Covenant Kitchen:

- Commercial Double Door Refrigerator
- Commercial Double Door Freezer
- Food City, Walmart or Visa gift cards



Food and Supplies:

coffee, cooking oil, dish soap, dish washer soap, laundry soap, dryer sheets, bleach, heavy stainless steel scouring pads, fold top sandwich bags, wide aluminum foil, disposable gloves, non-perishable food, canned vegetables, tomato sauce, spaghetti sauce, salt, black pepper, garlic powder, chili powder

DONATIONS

Donations can be dropped off at Christ's Hands Monday – Friday from 9am to 12pm. Monetary donations can be mailed or made through PayPal on our website.

