

The Christ for Humanity Newsletter

THE **CFH** CHRONICLES

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2005 GLOBAL MISSIONS TRIPS ARE AVAILABLE! DON'T IMAGINE GOING GLOBAL



2004 IN REVIEW

When Christ for Humanity closed its books on December 31st and began compiling the data necessary for retaining 501(c)(3) status, our staff was astonished to see how God used the ministry to impact lives for eternity during 2004. Christian ministry is constantly changing and never boring. Each year new areas of service emerge and grow, and sometimes established work arenas diminish in importance. 2004 was not only exciting from the stand point of meeting human needs, but the year was also fruitful in spreading the knowledge of Christ to unsaved people at home and abroad.



On the local front last year, CFH provided humanitarian aid to 49 Christian groups working within the United States. Nearly 300 individuals visited Christ for Humanity's Tulsa facility, seeking food, clothing, medical supplies, and/or household items. For many of the people we serve, reliable transportation is a major problem. In '04 the ministry blessed 3 families with donated vehicles, covering licensing and insurance fees from our benevolence fund. All ministry clients met with Dirk DeRose (Director of Local Outreach) or Pat Nauman (Administrative Assistant) to discuss how the ministry might meet very real physical needs and to learn how a relationship with Christ could make them spiritually whole. A number of those led to the Lord by our staff later joined *1st Steps*, Christ for Humanity's Monday night discipleship class. The spiritual growth evidenced in the lives of the men and women who regularly attend this Bible study was one of the year's great joys.



During 2004 the ministry expanded its monthly outreach program to include nine (9) Tulsa

Housing Authority facilities. The CFH *Adopt-a-Facility Program* expanded, as well. Currently, members of seven (7) area churches lead monthly worship services at adopted locations around Tulsa with Christ for Humanity providing food to qualified residents. Christ for Humanity's weekly Bible study for people living at the Downtown YMCA just celebrated its third anniversary.

Internationally, CFH continues to impact the world for Christ: first, through the provision of humanitarian aid to missionaries and ministries working abroad; secondly, by arranging and leading short-term mission trips, particularly to Africa.

CFH provided medical supplies, medication, clothing and food to 46 groups working in 21

countries worldwide. Due to the diligent efforts of Lena Gregg, Director of International Relief, CFH shipped 6 cargo containers of humanitarian aid to Russia and the Ukraine – two from our Tulsa office and 4 as joint-venture containers with Josh McDowell Ministries and Buckner International. Ministry funds also purchased thousands of pounds of corn as an expression of Christ’s love to hungry people in The Gambia, helped fund church building in Kalmykia, and supported pastor training in India.

2004 was a banner year for global missions at CFH – one of the new areas of ministry growth. Twenty-eight (28) individuals participated in Christ for Humanity sponsored mission trips to North and West Africa. The focus of the 2004 trips was effective evangelism in Muslim countries. Team members returned to the states with the desire to help support the persecuted church abroad and to see the billions of people living in the 10/40 Window brought into a relationship with Christ.

The outpouring of God’s riches on Christ for Humanity during 2004 manifested itself in numerous ways. Not only was the need for additional space within our building met, but Whirlpool Corporation donated a stove, dishwasher, and two microwaves for an on-site kitchen to help our staff minister to the poor more effectively. God has richly blessed CFH with a talented staff and dedicated volunteers who love serving Him at home and abroad. He has pricked the hearts men and women from a number of area congregations, who monthly pour their time and energy into ministering to “the least of these.” Our greatest desire is to see names added to the *Lamb’s Book of Life*. A review of last year’s efforts to “make His name known” at home and abroad indicates that God is accomplishing His will through this ministry.

HELP CHRIST FOR HUMANITY RECEIVE C

This spring Christ for Humanity plans to participate in the *Feinstein Challenge to Help Fight Hunger*. For the past seven years, the Feinstein Foundation in Cranston, Rhode Island has apportioned a percentage of \$1 million to participating non-profit organizations feeding hungry Americans. “*Why am I doing this? Because we were each put here on earth to do what we can to help those in need.*” (Alan Feinstein)

How does the *Feinstein Challenge* work? During the months of March and April, Christ for Humanity will collect can goods through the efforts of school programs, church groups, businesses, and caring individuals. Financial gifts specifically designated for the *Feinstein Challenge* are welcome, as well. On May 1st the total number of cans (valued at \$1 each) and any money designated to this event will be totaled and reported to the Feinstein Foundation. Foundation money will be apportioned based upon the amount of food collected during the two month food drive. Participants will receive checks in June.

CFH feeds thousands of hungry people each year. During 2004 ministry food bills at the Community Food Bank ran as high as \$900 a month. By participating in the *Feinstein Challenge*, Christ for Humanity not only collects much needed food to fill monthly food boxes, but the ministry also receives funding to help meet its very real food-dollar needs.

You can help CFH feed the “poor in body and spirit.” Ask your church and Sunday school groups to collect canned food during March and April. Challenge your fellow office workers to get involved. Make the *Feinstein Challenge* a school service project. Competition between classes is fun

and reaps huge rewards. Collect food from neighbors and friends for this event. Christ for Humanity will gladly pick-up all donations. Just contact Jim Hendrix, CFH's Warehouse Manager, to make an appointment – 836-2424 (ext. 203).

The Feinstein Challenge to Help Fight Hunger can make a difference in Christ for Humanity's ability to function locally. Get involved and feed the poor!

EYELASHES HAVE A STORY TO TELL

By Dirk DeRose

God has placed tiny hair follicles all along the edge of your eyelids with great care. He designed the hairs to be just far enough apart, flexible and just the right weight and length without ever needing trimming. He then aimed them upward in a graceful curve, where they help make your face pleasant and attractive. Evidently, God wants to help keep dust and dirt from entering your eyes.

Why should He care about such a little things? Eyelashes tell a story of God's creative genius and His love toward you. He cares enough about you to include eyelashes in the body He has crafted. We need to give Him the praise and honor that He so richly deserves!

God is all-powerful, all-knowing, and omnipresent. He doesn't change over time. God is the source of love. He is the source of joy and of peace, of patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control. In fact, all good and perfect gifts come from Him.

Slow down and meditate on the wonderful attributes of God.

Manna from Heaven

"And He rained down manna upon them to eat, and gave them food from heaven." Psalm 78:24

Manna is associated with God's provision to His people. To the children of Israel, manna was life sustaining food in the wilderness. To "Grace Age" believers, Christ is the "Bread from Heaven," imparting eternal life.

Recently, God showered Christ for Humanity with His blessings. Christ for Humanity's manna came in the form of financial support from two ministry fundraisers. The first event was the *CFH Skate-A-Thon*, geared for area children. The second fundraiser was our annual *Christmas Ham Drive*. Both events were wonderfully successful.

During 2004 the ministry provided service opportunities for children. Groups from area churches filled food boxes, colored pictures, and participated in outreaches at low-income housing facilities. To further youth involvement, ministry staff considered sponsoring a *CFH Skate-A-Thon*,

focusing on the home school community. Bryan and Judy Lapo agreed to spearhead the event and began contacting home school leadership. The Lapo's also solicited participation from Sunday school groups. In June Audrey Cogan, a home school choir representative, contacted Christ for Humanity about that group's participation in this event. Our staff was delighted! Choir members from a number of towns in northeast Oklahoma were of diverse ages – from elementary to high school. The planning committee agreed that roller skating was an activity enjoyed by young and old alike, and a date for the event was established.

On Sunday November 7th, forty (40) young people from Tulsa and surrounding communities converged on Christ for Humanity's facility near 13th and Sheridan for a pre-skate party, including food, face painting, and prizes. Metro Christian Academy's Key Club tallied all the sponsorship forms and distributed event T-shirts. Participants then walked two blocks to *Skateland* for two hours of skating to raise support for CFH local and international projects.

The *CFH Skate-A-Thon* raised several thousand dollars. The ministry plans to use part of the money in local outreach. One thousand dollars plus money raised from other sources purchased thousands of pounds of grain to feed hungry men, women, and children in The Gambia of West Africa.

Christ for Humanity's annual *Christmas Ham Drive* at Fellowship Bible Church was an overwhelming success. The ministry needed 600 / 5 lb. boneless hams to distribute with Christmas food boxes. FBC's congregation opened its hearts and wallets to make December special for people who have very little. The money raised from this two week event not only purchased all the necessary hams but also created a benevolence fund designated for food and meat during 2005. Praise God for His abundant blessings!

“He will have compassion on the poor and needy, and the lives of the needy he will save.”

Psalm 72:13

New Year's Resolution

How to Stay Young!!! (Biblically Speaking)

1. Throw out nonessential numbers. This includes age, weight, and height. Let the doctors worry about them. This is why you pay “them.” (Matthew 2:27 – “And which of you by being anxious can add a *single* cubit to his life's span?”)
2. Keep only cheerful friends. The grouches pull you down. (Proverbs 22:24-25 – “Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered, or you may learn his ways and get yourself ensnared.”)
3. Keep learning. “An idle mind is the devil's workshop.” The devil's name is Alzheimer's. (Ecclesiastes 10:18 – “Through indolence the rafters sag, and through slackness the house leaks.”)
4. Enjoy simple things. (Psalm 8:3&4 – “When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained; what is man that Thou dost take thought of him?”)
5. Laugh often, long, and loud. (“Psalm 100: 1 – Make joyful noises to the Lord, all ye lands.”)

6. The tears happen. Endure, grieve, and move on. (Ecclesiastes 3:1& 2 – “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die . . .”)
7. Surround yourself with what you love. Your home is your refuge. (Isaiah 32:18 – “My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest.”)
8. Cherish your health. If it is good, preserve it. If it is unstable, improve it. If it is beyond what you can improve, get help. (Proverbs 3:7-8 – “Fear the Lord and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your body and refreshment to your bones.”)
9. Don’t take guilt trips. Take a trip to the mall or even to a foreign country but not to where the guilt is. (Romans 8:1 – Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus . . .”)
10. Tell the people you love that you love them at every opportunity. (John 13:34 – “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”)

And always remember: Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take but by the moments that take our breath away.

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