



Christ Through Hands Ministry

Annual Report for 2003

Submitted by Debbie Timmers, Director

A Year of Change would be the best way to describe the Year 2003 for Christ Through Hands Ministry. The biggest change the ministry experienced during the year was the appointment of a new Director. In March, I was hired to replace Tammy Appel who had resigned from the ministry after more than eight years of service. I came aboard part-time until June when I became the full-time Director.

One of the changes I incorporated was the offering of after school/evening religion classes for students at the Minnesota State Academy for the Deaf. In the past, classes were held on Friday mornings which resulted in students having to miss important academic time. In order to meet the students' academic needs as well as spiritual needs, I worked with MSAD Superintendent Linda Mitchell and Dorm Activities Director Cameron Will to establish religion time that would not compete with academic time. As a result, religion classes at MSAD are now held on Wednesdays after school and in the evenings. CTHM provides religious instruction to 35 students at the Deaf Academy. The students are divided into four classes which each meet every other week for 1 ½ hours each. At the Minnesota State Academy for the Blind, CTHM serves 27 students divided into three classes. One class meets every other week for 20 minutes and the other two classes meet every week for half an hour each. In addition, plans are underway to establish a youth group at MSAB to reach out to the academic students who are not currently enrolled in religious instruction.

During 2003 CTHM was represented at 11 Synod Assemblies/Conferences. Many thanks go out to Edna Thayer who served as a volunteer representative at several of the conferences and board member Barb Schmidt who represented CTHM at the Minneapolis WELCA. As Director I personally attended five of the conferences. During the year the ministry also sent out three mass mailings – two newsletters and a Christmas postcard.

In an effort to expand its base of financial support, CTHM sent out a letter to each of the Faribault parishes requesting an opportunity to meet with them and share information about our ministry and how they could be of assistance. The ministry currently has one speaking engagement for later in the year in Southwestern Minnesota.

As we begin the Year 2004, CTHM has expanded its services by offering a weekly Bible Study for adults in the area who are blind. Future plans for 2004 include reaching out to Deaf and Blind individuals in the area who are homebound. If you are interested in volunteering with this project, please contact Debbie at 507-331-2276, ext. 105.

On behalf of CTHM I wish to thank everyone who has supported our ministry over the past year with your time, talents and treasure. The ministry would like to extend special thanks to Edna Thayer who has given so much over the past several years, to the CTHM Board of Directors, and to the CTHM Interim Committee who kept the ministry alive during the transition between Directors. Many thanks also to Mary Kinde who graciously gives of her time to Braille materials for our ministry.

Words alone cannot express the immense feeling of support, love and caring the ministry and I personally have received from members, especially from the staff at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Faribault. CTHM would like to extend sincere thanks to all of our supporting congregations. Each time I see one of the student's faces glow with new knowledge of the Lord, I give up thanks to all of you for your support. Together we are spreading the Good News to those who may otherwise be forgotten.

God Bless You!

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched --- this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. (I John 1:1, NIV)